

Mandra Lions Club

Site Visit Report

Visitor : Jatin Chawla, Foster City.

Visit date 21 November 2022

The site visit was done on the 21 November 2022. I visited 2 After School center accompanied by Somnath Singha Roy, Project Supervisor (Kartick Mahato) and Student Coordinators (Sunil Mahato)

Sushnidih After School and Ushuldungro After School

After School program is Special classes of Mandra Lions Club to gain the class appropriate qualities of the class III, IV Students of the Government primary School after School hours to prevent drop out in the secondary stage. Mostly the students are Santali speaking so these after school programs help by teaching the kids in local language (convert Bengali/English into local Santali language) using local staff. They use flash cards for languages. Numbers are introduced via Beads as well as striped sticks (check the picture). via different blocks, small-big, long-short and other concepts are introduced.

During the visit I met Kids age range from 6 – 8 years. (Kindergarten to Grade 2).

Observations

- Overall, I saw the need for the program in that community and benefits it can / and is providing to the children through his program. This is an extremely backward community where running such programs is a significant challenge. There the efforts of Mandra Lions Club to improve the education in the remotest area is appreciable.
- Kids have basic understanding (age appropriate) for their grade. Some kids were able to read and talk by saying their name.
- Classes had good attendance (10—15) kids per class and 2 teachers for each class.
- I was also handed over the list of latest report and summary of student's performance from all centers. I have attached that report in the Appendix for reference.
- Student coordinators do site visits to the houses in case students are absent / not attending to encourage parents to continue to send their kids to the after-school program.
- Kids and parents when asked if the program is helping, all acknowledged that this is helpful.

Recommendations

- I suggested to Mr. Somnath Roy to show-case success stories. Bring the students from the community who have gone through this program in the past to eventually graduate

from the schooling system, to talk to the students of today and their parents will be a great motivator.

- Also recommend to diversify teaching staff and involve some teachers who can focus on English skills will be good as well. While I understand the need to translate to local Santali language however kids should be taught English and Maths to make sure whatever skills they learn can be leveraged. Some kids were able to say their names and talk a bit in English. We should encourage that and do more of it. Some of the activities of student coordinators can be reduced (for example do home site visits only once every 2 weeks or have 1 coordinator for all centers etc.) to route funds to the teaching staff.

