

Site Visit Report for Mandra Lions Club

Visit Date: 25th August 2012

Visitor: Pankti Jog, AID Saathi, Aid volunteer

Report written by: Aparna Khare, Asha Stanford

Note: The final site visit report will be uploaded once the visitor sends it over

Summary of the site visit as given by Pankti on the phone

The site visit was done on the 25th of August 2012. Pankti visited 3 Alok Kendras. She had a very positive impression of the project, the following were the key points she noted:

1. The NGO follows a community based approach and are very transparent with the community. The community knows the NGO's limitations, and that they have limited funds, and are aware of the fact that it is the government's responsibility to facilitate education in the area.
2. The instructors in the Alok Kendras were local, they were teaching in Santhali and the learning material in the schools was in the Alchiki script. The instructors were really good.
3. The kids were very happy in the school. They could count in Santhali and translate it in Bengali, so the NGO is achieving its goal to teach the kids Bengali so that they can study in primary schools.
4. After talking to the parents and the community, Pankti noticed that the Alok Kendras are definitely very helpful in enrolling the kids in primary schools. They help with finding schools and getting the actual enrollment done.
5. The primary schools nearby are up to the 4th standard and about 1.5 to 2 km away.
6. The schools beyond 4th standard are far away, many kids go there using a cycle. The parents are very willing to send their kids to school, but it is very hard for them to travel long distances every day. Both the mothers and fathers are willing to send the kids to schools.
7. The kids face problems in 1st and 2nd standards when the subjects are taught to them in Bengali, if they don't understand it properly, they tend to drop out. This is the highest reason of drop outs in the area. Pankti suggested that an after school program to help the kids in primary school will be very helpful.
8. The buildings in the area, including the schools were mud houses.
9. The food was just jaggery and chana, which may not be very nutritious.

Pictures from the site visit









