

Mallarpur Uthnau

Physical Site Visit March 2024

Debjit/Vish Viswanathan

Mallarpur Uthnau Site Visit March 28, 2024

- Visit conducted by Debjit, Kolkata based friend of Subhadeep Basu (Asha Silicon Valley).
- Debjit visited all the three facilities. Risky journey due to monsoon and bad roads
- Youtube channel – he watched the team work on a new assembled computer, a monitor, an internet connection. The content created with the help of a local celebrity. PC is about 30K
- He met with Sona Muni (Garia school) – she came across as a veteran. She supports a creche, and was holding classes.
- In Habra Pahari, he met with Shaadi – children were guiding other children (parents were laborers). Food was not very edible in the smaller schools. Mallarpur was much better, being a town.
- Overall, all schools were functioning as shared by Kunal, who is more of an advisor to the schools. Tough environment, though. Lot of politics in the area impacting Uthnau.

Site visit pictures



Virtual Site Visit Sep 18th, 2025

- Attendees: Madan, Vyom, Hemant, Sridhar, Vish from Asha. Kunal, Sona Muni, Shaadi and support from Uthnau team. Subhoday Mukherjee (Vish's friend from Microsoft).
- Uthnau team is still litigating access to their old school in court. They are hoping for a favorable conclusion.
- We spoke to children in all three locations (Garia, HabraPahari and Mallarpur).
- The children learn in both Santali and Bengali. Learning Bengali is key since government and upper education is all in Bengali.
- Provide food, children stay for 3-4 hours
- The children read books in Bengali primarily, but did not really understand or comprehend what they were reading. We saw this in two cases of the Garia school. Shows that the quality of the teaching in both schools needs improvement. Madan emphasized the importance of comprehension. This will be a focus area for me to work on next year.
- Mallarpur school with older kids seems a lot better. One of the senior children was good with trigonometry, and demonstrated his knowledge.
- 4 students have graduated so far from Mallarpur and are off to college or the job market.
- They showed us a YouTube video that they have created to teach English. There is focus on creating more videos for YouTube as that will broaden the student base.
- What motivates the children? Motivation is to learn to survive. There is a lot of migration out of Bengal to other cities to find job. So learning English and Hindi helps.
- Sridhar wants to teach one hour a week, just conversational English. He will start this week with the senior kids from Mallarpur. We will track how this improves the children's abilities.