

Mallarpur Uthnau Virtual Site Visit

Asha For Education - Sep 2022

Kunal Deb/Vish Viswanathan

Virtual Site visit summary (9/5/22)

Asha participants: Geetha, Madan, Sridhar, Nimish, Sailaja

There are three initiatives by Uthnau. 1) Pre-primary school 2) Primary program 3) After School program

We saw two locations, one a house in Garia, Birbhum, where 22 students come after their school for additional instructions. Teacher's name is Shadi (sp?). She teaches Bengali, Math and reading.

The other location we saw was in Mallarpur where there are 9 students with 2 instructors, Mohan and Rocky.

Quality of education is not high - some of the senior children know how to read in English, but it is not clear if they understand well enough. Questions had to be translated back in Bengali for them to respond (such as Math questions).

Difficult to get and retain good teachers in the villages. Network is poor in Garia which inhibits online education.

Kunal Da will provide a plan for the school in September/October. He thinks it will take 3 months to open the school, targeting December for the reopening. He needs to get some better quality teachers else the children will not learn.

Ruby Hembron, editor of Adibani, a local magazine/newspaper supports Uthnau.

Madan asked a good question - why is Uthnau being targeted by local hooligans? No clear answer other than they perceive it to be a threat.