Site visit date: 15-January 2025

Project: Sangharsh Sahyog (Chehak trust) – 3 sites visited

I visited for the first time, Sahyog's new expanded site! The previous room was rental and in poor condition.

 My first stop was in Asalpha village in Ghatkopar. On the entrance level is a small well-maintained office area. Inside on same level were the younger children playing educational interactive games in a group (left). I also saw a physiotherapy session. Almost all children had disability and a few were accompanied by their parents who joined the children in activity.

Children come to the center every day for 2.5 hours.





Upstairs were the older children who also had disabilities. They were able to interact with me. I also saw Ganesh again, the same instructor from the last 5 years and was glad to see continuity.



The room was much larger than what I had seen in the older rental place. It is well lit, clean and has a clean bathroom.

The students bring their own lunch boxes. Additionally, they get an extra treat some days.

These students are aged 14 to 25 years. After receiving pre-vocational training here, they are enrolled in formal vocational training programs or placed as apprentices in nearby enterprises. Some enroll in college.

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2. Roshan home library:



This was my 2nd stop in **Jari-Mari, Kurla West**. I followed Neha upstairs to the attic which houses a small kitchen & 1 cot. 20+ children come twice a week to read books & interact in a non-formal environment. I interviewed them & saw a spark and enthusiasm. Video available on request. Seen below is Bilguis (left), who opens her home (which is the attic) for this learning. She has a team of 4 other mothers. One of them travelled a great distance from part time college to see me! Below (right) is the lady who offered her room in 2012 to start Chehak. Today it spanned 3 generations! Seen on far right in white dress is Bilquis' daughter- an enthusiastic young elementary schooler who also lovingly performed a dance for me! I could see that they were all excited for my visit. To note: Four high schoolers in NJ organized a step challenge to help fund digital tools in 17 such home libraries.





3.Bail Bazaar training centre – was my 3rd stop. This is the second multi-purpose centre of Sahyog. It has two levels. The ground level consists of one large hall. It is used variously as a training centre for the home-librarians and other staff as well as for hosting vocational training courses organized for the women of the community. It is also a satellite center for the disability program and 10 children aged 0-6 years come here daily for remedial education. On the second level, there are structured office cabins which are used by the administrative staff, Sahyog Roshan team for their desk-work and meetings as well as the young women who receive scholarships/mentorship from Sahyog.

Steward: Chitra Telang-Lobo