Site Visit Development Report
Voluntary Association for Rural Upliftment and Networking (VARUN)
Naugarh-Chandauli

*Site visit has been conducted by Smt.Gunjan Singh ji during the month of June 2011. She runs a school herself in remote area of Sonbhadra, UP. Name of the school is Astitva, a school for Angels. She has a blog: http://astitva-gunjan.blogspot.com
After the site visit her hard-drive crashed and all the photographs were lost and the notes she provided was something she noted down in her notebook.

Conversation minutes with Dr. SP Singh over the phone have been added in latter part of this document.

1. In Dobahi’s Shiksha Kendra there are 12 girls and 11 boys are enrolled who attend classes 1 to 5.
2. In Hathini Kendra 14 girls and 10 boys attend classes 1 to 5. Shri Ramesh Kumar is the teacher.
3. In Sukhdeopur, 14 girls and 16 boys attend classes 1 to 5. Smt.Rita Devi is the teacher.
4. Every center has satisfactory progress.
5. 14 children are in class 5 and 25 children are in class 8. These kids have been enrolled in Shahpur, Naugarh, Khaliyari, Vaini, Kesar, Kasturba Gandhi boarding school, etc.
6. In Shiksha Kendra of Jharia, once teachers have been appointed, VARUN withdrew its presence and in its place VARUN decided to run a school in Danavgarh. According to survey, there are about 40 children who want to attend school.
7. In every shiksha Kendra school, children are given study material.
8. In Dobahi Kendra and in Sukhdeopur Kendra, with the help of villagers there is a structure built where classes are taken. In Hathini, the school is run in Shri. Banarasi Yadav’s house.
9. Annual, monthly and 6-month exams are held according to students’ standards.
10. There have been 5 RTE training sessions in which 186 members have participated.
11. In the year 2010-11 teacher development campaign has been held in 15 villages. In this 740 children have participated.
12. Teacher development training programme has been conducted once during the year.
13. From 26th May to 11th June, 2011, there was a wall writing awareness program in 57 villages. Under this slogans related to education, health, RTI, MNREGA, Panchayat, Women empowerment were written.
14. From 14th to 20th June, 6 students and 1 teacher have taken part in summer camp. This camp has been done in Asha office of Kaithi Varanasi.
15. Stitching training is on in Shahpur and Parsia with 22 and 20 teachers respectively. Shahjahan Begum is giving instruction at dwelling places of Master Shri.Dayaram Gupta at Shahpur Kendra and Smt. Amaravati Devi at Shahpur Kendra. For girls of stitching tutorials, one there is an employment opportunity being given. In future, all the children will be given amenities so that the facility can run in a proper way and for this there is fund-raising going on.

16. Children’s Day celebration has been used as a medium to spread awareness and seeing the examples shown by the children in the villages, more and more parents and guardians have decided to give attention towards educating their children in which overall physical and mental development will be emphasized for which money is being raised.

17. In health program, there was a camp held keeping in view children’s health and medicines are distributed and under this not only children but even adults also take the benefits of the program. For medicines and camp, money will be needed.

18. All the kendras of villages are being restored with the help of villagers and the organization is working with them. Money will be needed for this work.

19. Money is needed for sports equipment for children.

20. Organization celebrates and organizes events related to health awareness, MNREGA, women and child rights, RTE, health, women empowerment, pulse polio campaign, gender oriented like labor day, world environmental day, women health day, Gandhi jayanti, children’s day, teacher’s day, etc.

Conversation minutes with Dr. S P Singh over the phone (end of August 2011)
-Neehar

- A few volunteers are teaching girls and boys who have enrolled in classes 9 and beyond on request from villagers.
- Dr. Singh was busy in visiting children in Sukhdevpur and Hathini because new borns and infants were getting sick and were on the verge of dying.
- They are trying to build a bathroom and install a hand pump using local funds they could raise.
- Hand pump was not installed on time during summer because they were short of Rs.10000.
- People are motivated enough to work during mid-summer for this.
- They want to stress more also on health apart from education. (Need to talk on priorities).
- Have again emphasized on finding someone who can help Dr.Singh as he is driving most of the projects.