VARUN Virtual Site Visit [August 11, 2021]

Attendees: Abhinav Tyagi, Suhas Satheesh, Vishal Kathuria, Krishna Pagadala, Hemant Vora, Harshi Desai, Kritika Upreti, Dr. S P Singh [from VARUN]

- Remote location in UP Bihar border
- 10 centers, ~350-368 students
- Covid impacted number of visits by Dr. Singh to education centers, number of staff meetings and attendance
- Work on awareness and parents meetings
  - They help villagers in getting ration cards, aayushman cards, jandhan account, vaccinations etc
- They have applied for the FCRA renewal
- Couldn’t make much progress on water purification project due to covid
- Q. What is an approximate breakdown on cost of education vs other community programs?
  - We primarily fund education and BNS initiatives, their educational budget is around 20-22 lakhs
- Q. Second level of leadership needs to be built? Any update on how the long-term sustainability looks?
  - Previously there was another main leader before Dr. Singh who passed away
  - Right now there are two possible second line of leadership options
    - One person who is good at administrative tasks but lacks Dr. Singh’s vision
  - Concern about Dr. Singh losing his eyesight
  - Increased salaries some years back to reduce attrition
- Q. Need for girl’s hostel in the nearest town for secondary education since no schools in the village
  - Western digital fundraiser approved for USD 5K
  - Overall proposal is 60lakh, at least needs 30 lakh to get started
  - For land, a VARUN staff can provide some agricultural land for this at nominal cost
  - External donor has shown interest, and may be able to fund 20 lakhs

Link to renewal voting - 05.26.2021 VARUN renewal%2C charity music event proposal%2C Asha Darshan renewal
Link to site visit recording -
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cVkVVeffven3teZPVfPaflO5yxQqrW/view?usp=sharing
Pictures from the project: