Important Facts:

- All the teaching centers are located in dense forests which are considered very sensitive by the government.
- There are no government run elementary schools in the area.
- There is no way to go to Dhobahi village.
- People in the region make their living by working as laborers. They live in pathetic conditions.
- Employment Guarantee Scheme is not available to anyone in the area.
- The starvation can be reduced if irrigation facilities are provided.
- Health care facilities at the village level are badly needed.

Positive Points:

- Teacher work very hard and to the best of their abilities. Their contributions cannot be compared to what they earn.
- Teacher co-coordinators routinely visit every teaching center. They have to walk and/or bicycle for 30 kilometers to visit these centers.
- All the education centers were good in terms of teaching material, cleanliness and the way children are taught.
- The library has become really popular among the kids. The kids’ really love the story books and other interesting books. These are being taught routinely.
- Varun is a popular organization in the villages and the villagers understand and the aim and working style of Varun.

Recommendation for Asha:

After talking to the teachers, guardians and the co-coordinator, I thought that Asha is not giving enough support to meet the financial needs of the teacher and the co-coordinator and is also not paying them according to the hard work that they are doing. It is also necessary to increase the support amount on humanitarian grounds.

Site visit report for Amritpur between 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. on 4th January, 2007

No of Children: 14

- This center is located in plains and was started about a year back.
- The children have good grasp but the teachers need to work more with them.
- Children are lagging behind in language and writing skills.
- The teachers need more training but there is no doubt about their dedication to the cause.
- I found the center’s facilities to be clean and children were dressed neatly.
- The educational material such as notebooks and pencils, blackboard, chart, map etc. was available to children.

Site visit report for Dhobahi between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon on 15th January, 2007

No of Children: 9

- This turned out to be the most amazing and the best site visit of my life.
- I traveled 2 kilometers in a boat, then walked 6 kms through narrow streets and then traveled through the high forests for about an hour and found this village of 15 houses,
surrounded from three sides by water ways and from one side by high mountains, spreading the light of education.

- I found the children engrossed in their studies in the school. No one noticed me till I reached there and I had to tell them that I was there. I found a great deal of enthusiasm in the children here.
- I believe that the effort to take education to this place is not only praise-worthy but also in line with the requirements here.

**Site visit report for Leraha between 10:00 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 3rd January, 2007**

No of Children: 12

- I watched the children sing traditional songs and play traditional games which was very interesting and encouraging.
- The school is situated in deep jungles about 11 kms from Nawgarh. The teacher Ramkeshji is hard working and dedicated to his work.
- People in the village appreciate and co-operate with the education initiative taken by Varun.
- The co-coordinator went there with me and visits the school regularly.
- The educational material was available to kids.

**Site visit report for Patharpur between 12:25 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. on 4th January, 2007**

No of Children: 10

- The no of children in the school was less because there was a chickenpox attack in the village. But the children who were there in the school were good.
- The women here are aware about the education of their children.
- This area is passing through a economic misery and people are constantly moving out of this place.
- The teacher comes here from another village after crossing the 3 km high mountain which is a huge everyday challenge for him.
- The children here need to be educated in language.

**Site visit report for Shahpur between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon on 4th January, 2007**

No of Children: 22

- The village was neat and clean.
- There is a permanent school building which was clean. Children were well dressed. The children here have very good manners.
- Some kids asked for the education related stuff such as play chart, chairs etc.
- The children have good grasp but their language is weak. The teacher in the school was asked to concentrate on their language skills.
- The teacher was doing his work with full dedication.
- The village Shahpur is about 26 kms from Nawgarh and I had to go through deep forests to reach there.