

# **Site Visit Report**

## **Vivekananda Resurgence Foundation**

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The project is operational as Manav Vikas Kendra in Satsang Colony, one of the slums in the Wazirpur Industrial Area of Delhi

The school operates from 10AM till 1230PM daily. We planned to visit the school during the work hours. As per the appointment with Mr. J.D. Choudhary, we reached his residence, at 10:30 AM. His residence address is also the registered office address of VRF. It was astonishing to meet Mr. Choudhary, the founder member of VRF, and a man with young spirits at the age of 81.

Mr. Choudhary apprised us about the painstaking efforts put forth by the founder members and the hurdles that came on the way of establishing VRF. He also updated us about the recent initiative from Canara Bank to provide school uniforms for the kids.

Satsang Colony, in Wazirpur industrial area, is mainly inhabited by factory workers. With both the parents working for bread, kids are often neglected. We were told that the area had always remained in neglected state. It was an uphill task for us to reach the school, which made us think of the problems faced to get teachers.

The school has two sections running in two rooms. On reaching the school, we met Dr. N. Bhattacharya, the president of VRF. He informed us about their regular initiatives to get some of the kids admitted to the nearby primary school governed by municipality of Delhi, which is only around 1 Km away from here. However, this MCD school is often reluctant to admit kids from Satsang colony due to the presence of a railway line on the route to school, which could endanger kids' lives. Also, there was an impression that the teachers also avoided taking these kids in, since they are not always neat and tidy. Some kids were admitted, but only after the school teachers were told that the one of the persons accompanying kids knew the Education officers in Govt. and worked for Electronic Media.

We also met Mr. Dasgupta, the treasurer for VRF. He also looked quite enthusiastic about the initiatives. He explained us that due to a possibility of food adulteration and cost, they provide the kids only with the packed biscuits and one fruit everyday. They also have provision for clean drinking water for the kids in school. We also met two more enthusiastic VRF functionaries.

We met the two teachers who also belong to the slum areas. They have graduated from Delhi University but it is not easy for them to find any other job. Since we were sitting with the kids, they recited a prayer, many poems for us. They were trying to learn numbers when we arrived.

We asked lots of kids what they wanted to become when they grow up. Their sometime enthusiastic, sometime shy replies - doctor, police, teacher or just cook at home, were equally interesting. We also met a student's mother, who accompanies her daughter to school every day. She told us, she was very impressed with the teachers who handled sometimes sleeping, sometimes not interested kids also very well and told us she would try to get her daughter educated.

VRP also conducts periodic health check-ups, with contribution from Mr. Choudhary's son who also works with charitable medical dispensary. Mr Dasgupta queried if there are similar projects running in and around Delhi. He insisted that coordinating among such projects would help in better administration of school, food, health check-ups etc. We assured him to provide the list of similar projects funded by Asha chapters.

We spent around two hours with the kids and the VRP functionaries. All in all, the visit was encouraging and inspiring.

**PICTURES:**

**The two teachers at MVK**



**Kids with books**



Poem recital



## Reciting Prayer



Counting



**Clean water at the school:**



**Food at school**

