

A report on Dobhi School Visit

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People's first is an NGO based out of Bodhgaya in Bihar. They run several schools and computer and vocational training centers across Bihar and Jharkhand. One of the schools, which Asha-Stanford has supported in the past year, is located in the village of Dobhi, 15 minutes away from the main office in Bodhgaya. The school has 3 teachers and about 133 students (enrolled) and is run out of a rented house in Dobhi.



Children enthusiastically showing what they have learnt.



Mr. Kumar teaching a poem to the elder age group at the school.

The school had to be moved from one locality to another a couple of months ago because of the problems attached with availability of rented houses. The problem is not much of paying the rents but more of availability of proper structures to house the school in. It should be kept in mind that these are villages with small means and do not have readily available structures for rent. The group of children enrolled in the school at the earlier location did not all continue coming to the present location, but some of them do come even now. The distance between the two locations is not so small that everyone would have continued. A number of children got enrolled in the school at the new location and have continued coming. But the lack of a committed place for school appears to be a big problem for these people.



Outside view of the building where the school is run.



One of the two classrooms inside the house.

The syllabus being taught at the school is the one prescribed by Bihar board. These schools are not affiliated to the board themselves. Therefore, the children who have to appear for the board exams are enrolled in the Government schools from where they can appear for the exam. This entails enrolling the child for the year of the exam in the govt. school and paying his/her fees+ the exam fees. Recently, in the Bihar board system, exams conducted by the board have been instated at the 5th and 8th standard levels too besides the 10th standard level. This is again becoming a burden for the school authorities and the teachers and they are considering moving to the CBSE board syllabus.

There are three teachers at this particular school and others in similar numbers at more schools under People's First. Many of these teachers from close by schools meet once a week at the main office to discuss issues and undergo training at frequent intervals with respect to the syllabus, what works better for teaching children for the age group they deal with and so on.

Two students who passed out of such a school in Jharkhand have come back to become a part of People's first and are now teachers at one of the schools in Jharkhand. Such absorption of educated young fellows will be very beneficial for the organization. A culture like such should be highly encouraged.

The main office also houses a computer training and a vocational training center. The training given here is free of cost and looked like had a good number of young people availing these facilities.



The third classroom is space on the outside of the building.

- Parul Nisha, AID-Pittsburgh