

Mahesh Pandey Virtual Site Visit April 4th 2021 (By Robin Gupta – robingupta91@gmail.com)

Attendees: Chitra, Vishal, Krishna, Abhinav, Robin, Kritika, Siddharth

Link to Virtual Site Visit: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qmkQjou8nvFbpV7RZQnsNjavdpOZsvsO/view>

[Link to Meeting Minutes](#)

This is a short summary of the virtual site visit report where we found all the ideas well in line with all the previous reports and didn't find anything different, or alarming which needs to be brought to attention.

Summary of the visit:

We were given a tour of the facility (Apna Ghar) which is a residential school facility which has total capacity of 48 kids. Currently there are 40 kids staying in Apna Ghar. The kids mainly belong to workers from Musahar community who come to Kanpur to work in Brick Kilns. Currently there are 280 Brick Kilns operating in Kanpur.

Along with each kid being given specialized coaching for studies, they are given knowledge about organic farming, gardening, and other holistic growth skills. We were given a tour of the garden maintained by the kids and members of Apna Ghar and everyone at SV chapter was enthusiastic to see the great work that Mahesh ji and kids have done.

We were walked through a lot of success stories of kids who have passed out of Apna Ghar and become government officers and engineers. One such story is of Gyan Kumar who is currently studying in Polytechnic College who used to work in Brick Kilns before coming to Apna Ghar.

Along with working full time at Apna Ghar, Mahesh ji was heavily involved with COVID-19 relief work over last one year. Another focus area for Mahesh ji is Right to Education 2009 and Right to Information 2005 Act implementation. They assist kids to get enrolled in the schools under RTE act as well educate people about RTI act by conducting virtual trainings and guidance programs. Due to COVID-19, the process of RTI filing was moved online which made things more easier.

It was discussed with Mahesh ji that why do currently only boys stay at Apna Ghar and girls don't. Mahesh ji threw light on logistical and administrative challenges of implementing the same which in future has possibility to be adopted.

Overall Conclusion:

Mahesh Pandey has been doing very quality work in the area, and the results of their efforts can be easily seen in various domains. We should continue to support them going forward.