**Savidya Upasamiti [Ravi]**

**Question**


**Responses**

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**Highlights**

- Started by Dr. Bist in 2004
- Established a scholarship for 5 students with his own money
- Located in Champawat district.
- Collaboration with Asha by adoption of primary school in Kulethi
- A total of 8 schools now.
- Showed graph of school adoption over the years from 2005, going from 1 in the beginning to 8 now
- Approx 25-50 students per teacher

**Key activities**

- These are all govt. schools

Q: The idea is to add teachers to govt. schools to improve quality. What is govt. side of this? Why don't they add teachers?

A: Govt. need only have 2 teachers per primary school upto 100 students. Of these one is the principal and he/she is also looking after mid-day meal scheme etc. so essentially there is only 1 teacher often.

- This is minimum requirement but usually the case here
- Goal is to improve student/teacher ratio
- Training students to enter Navodya schools - everything is free in these schools. 2 students from one of our schools got into Navodya school this year
- Annual teacher training program
- Rotating library and science center in Kulethi school
- Provision for games and participation in local level sports competitions
- Cultural events on Independence day, Republic day etc.

Kulethi school
- Started with 2 classrooms
- Grown further with science center, now there is a middle / primary school also (independent of Asha funding)
- Science center was constructed by the govt.
- Equipment has been obtained from IITK professor

Site visit (July 2010)

Q: What is our involvement?
A: Salaries of teachers, sports equipment etc. No infrastructure.

- Drove from Haldwani for 6 hours. No train or official transport. Very beautiful drive. On clear days can see Himalayas.
- Couldn't evaluate much outside since it was raining
- Spectacular scenery, very green and nice. Borders Nepal and Tibet. Suggested visiting even just as vacation

- Dungra Sethi and Khark Kharkee principals are very involved in the schools.
- All principals are employed by govt.
- Showed photographs of site visit
- 6th grade student was able to enlist all factors of a number.
- Students were willing to respond and participate and seemed happy and bold.

Q: Doesn't govt. have to provide furniture?
A: Apparently not. We did provide some sometime back

- Went to middle school (7th std).
- They had a short skit about Siddharth and the swan performed impromptu on suggestion by the teacher. They were just reading this story in class when this happened.
- There was a computer lab in Dungra Sethi, and students were doing some things there. Seemed enthusiastic about learning.
- Everywhere kids were very interactive and enthusiastic

- Lunch time in Kulethi - kids were sitting outside eating and being quite orderly in eating and washing etc.
- Play time in the afternoon.

Q: In Kulethi school, did we provide any of sports equipment?
A: All schools have sports equipment now, both indoor and outdoor things. Most of all of this was provided by SV
- In the science center, there was a volunteer who was teaching in the center. He was there temporarily.
- For 10 days Navodya Vidyalaya Principal had sent his teachers to help prepare the students for the exams on Dr. Bist's request
- Teachers had some feedback
  - Uniforms are very useful - gives kids confidence
  - Kids are from very poor families - even things like notebooks are helpful
  - Sports equipment is broken in some schools
  - Cultural programs are very useful: Kulethi school participates in Zilla level
  - Teachers get paid very little - 2K-3K and they requested for more

- On the way back to Haldwani, stopped to see 2 govt. schools randomly picked
  - One was shut down
  - The other had 1 teacher teaching, handling 4 different classes. Other teacher was pregnant. Actually teacher seemed quite enthusiastic

Other misc info:
- We provide uniforms and some medical aid
- They had World Env Day on May 6th 2010: Organized by Sid Jagran Seva

- Showed results of annual exam
- Paper is the same for all schools, but principal has the grading prorogative and may differ from one to the other
- Of 2 govt. schools listed in the sheet not supported by govt, seemed like 1 govt. schools had much worse performance but other was doing well.
- Dungra Sethi and Khark Kharkee are actually doing the best and grading is more balanced
- Latoli and Tyarkura are the 2 govt. schools referred to above
- Educational kits distributed by a UK donor (M M Pant)

Summary: Impression on Ravi
- Given opportunity children will do well
- Kids were not shy, were inquisitive and willing to participate.

Q: What is the drop out rate?
A: Almost none. Only if parents leave then they drop out.

- Teachers were quite committed, willing to give feedback and were involved with kids' education

Gaps:
- Still need to get all of govt. teachers for Kulethi
- Still need to push for 1 clasroom/class

Q: < about teacher qualification and retention >
- All teachers have B.Ed or B.A/B.Sc.
- If they get better opportunity, they will go away
Govt. school salary is much higher

Q: How does recruitment of teachers happen?
A: They put an ad, and then look at credentials (need basic qual). Asha does the interviewing. Only look at local people, because they will be more devoted to teaching children.

Q: Do we know if teachers moving to govt. school, do they perform as well in govt. school as they did in Savidya?
A: < not clearly answered > But the essence seemed to be that there is not way to measure such a thing.

Q: What is the progress if any in increasing/promoting community participation in improving quality of govt schools -- similarly progress in working with gram sabha and other govt organizations for improving quality
A: There has been talks and participation while nothing much has changed as such

Q: Discussed using things from other project like EQUIP etc. (like the science kits). Any progress?
A: No progress.

Q: Uttarakhand recently announced their implementation of RTE. Are we trying to educate our teachers about this, about the bill itself and the effect on the schools etc.?
A: No, not sure.

AI: Ravi will find out, and try to get teachers educated on this etc.
AI: Ravi will also send note about the involvement of local community and the collaboration of Savidya with MCF.

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