Asha for Education – Silicon Valley

Savidya Upasamiti – Site Visit Report

May 13, 2013

This site visit was conducted by Mr. Anshu Sachdeva, fellow, Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership, Churu, Rajasthan. (anshusachdeva24@gmail.com)

My visit to Champawat, Uttarakhand

Project – ASHA for education by HIMVATS

For the first time in hills of deodar and cheed trees I reached Champawat on May 1, 2013. I was new to the place but people from this organisation are so humble I did not feel uncomfortable and unknown to the place. My accommodation and food were all managed by this organisation.

I got to know about this project through internet and I liked the idea of this project and also I wanted to see how this project helping and supporting these government schools there. My visits were decided by the people there after taking my views over it. My schedule for the week was –

May 1, 2013 – Arrival

May 2, 2013 – Primary and Junior Govt School, Kulethi

May 3, 2013 – Primary and Junior School, Khark karki

May 4, 2013 – Primary and Junior Govt. School, Durga Sethi

May 5, 2013 – Sight Visit

May 6, 2013 – Primary Govt. School, Dhakna and Primary Govt. School Dhakna Badola

May 7, 2013 – Meeting with Navodaya School’s Principal and District Collector of Champawat

This project is really doing a great work and its results can be seen clearly in students’ performances and teachers’ responses. I also met community people in the school. First day at Kulethi school I found how this organisation started and realized Prof. Bisht ji is whole heartedly working to support the kids. I could see every volunteer teacher is doing their work greatly. I met the Mr. Govind Vallabh. He told me about the project and efforts of Prof. Bisht. I met with the govt. teachers in both the schools they all are satisfied with Organisation work. I met community people in the school and they were all going to meet DM to appoint govt. teachers in the school. I spent some time with kids in the school. Second day at Khark karki School, I met govt teachers in the school. This school did not have any govt. Teacher in the school but the Organisation and Mr. Bisht motivated people and the School got a teacher in the school. Junior School teachers were really motivated and the Principal Rekha Joshi is doing a great work and encourages students. She told me that she has asked for computer and music teacher from the Organisation. My visit to Durgasethi was really good. I met
Asha SV: Savidya Upasamiti Project  
Site Visit Report

Ms. Shasti pandey and she was awarded with President award. She truly deserves this honour. She told with the help of these volunteer teachers 12 students till now have been selected in Navodaya Vidyalaya. In junior School I was impressed to see that Teachers there use art to teach and give projects to students. On Sunday I visited some beautiful places in Champawat and next day I went to both primary schools Dhakna and Dhakna Badola, Both schools are doing really good. Last day I met the Principal of Navodaya School Champawat and the DM of the district. I could see that how these people were convinced about the Organisation work and are ready to support them in any way. Science resource centre is also a good initiative as the teachers get practical knowledge of science.

After talking to teachers and other people I realized they are unhappy with some of the govt. Rules and regulations but are thankful to the organisation.

What I liked

1. Volunteer Teachers are doing great work. They put extra effort for the kids to get selected in Navodaya Vidyalayas. Thus Govt teachers are also doing good.
2. Attendance rate of students is good. Volunteer teachers visit in the community when he get absent for a long time.
3. By providing Music and Computer Teachers in these school is itself is a great thing. Students seemed to be very computer friendly in all schools.
4. Time to time workshops like by Ajim Premji Foundation for skill enhancement of Volunteer Teachers is a very nice initiative
5. Other infrastructural help has made the school environment a learning environment.
6. Students in school are showing good results academically and in other activities.

Some Suggestions

1. Volunteer teachers must be encouraged to develop their ways of teaching ahead. I could see that they are confined to this only. I could see a kind of satisfaction for this job and they all do not look for other options and get dependent on it.
2. Govt. Teachers and community people are also dependent on the organisation and ask for teachers from the organisation and have lost hope from govt by saying “sarkaar to kuch nhi karti , sanstha kar de to acha hai hi hai” so there must be a plan to deal with this dependency especially at infrastructural level.
3. I found some of the volunteer teachers are working from past five years which shows their expectations from the organisation. My suggestion is to take them for a year only.
4. Volunteer teachers must also be encouraged to write case studies