

Site Visit Report

About this report

Visit by	V. Premnath, Sanjay Jaiswal, Sandeep Mukhopadhyay (all of Asha-Pune)
Date & time	9 Oct 2007; 10 am – 12 noon
Purpose	Door Step Schools has written a proposal for Asha-SV for setting up new Non-Formal Education (NFE) schools at new construction sites around Pune. This site visit aimed to look at a few representative sites and record observations.
Contact info	Premnathv_at_gmail_dot_com
Organization	Door Step Schools, Pune
Project sites	1) Mont Vert 2, Suz Road, Pune 2) Riverine Greens, Suz Road 3) Rane Builders, Suz Road
DSS Coordinator	Ms Sheetal (She is in-charge of around 10 schools in this area)
DSS Supervisors for schools visited	Ms Anuradha (supervises 5 locations) Ms Sunita (supervises 5 locations)

Site 1: Mont Vert 2, Suz Road

Information

Kids in this location were mainly from Chattisgarh, UP and a few Lamani tribals. They are all from families of migrant laborers. The builder has constructed a small shed for the classes within his labor camp. The shed has brick walls (not plastered) and a partition in between to accommodate two simultaneous classes.

Balwadi and creche	NFE	Study class	Reference library	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balwadi is basically a playschool for kids under 5. Some very small kids also come (typically, younger siblings of students in NFE) 9.30 am – 4.30 pm Balwadi kids get some snacks during the day. This is primarily to keep them from leaving midway between classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-formal education with the goal of helping these kids join the main stream schools at some suitable point. DSS tries to get these kids into regular 9.30 am – 4.30 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These kids go to formal schools but come here for additional help especially because of differences in mother tongue etc 2 batches in a day (Morning and Afternoon). Kids attend depending upon their formal school timings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library of books, guides and study material to help kids in formal schools to cope up with schooling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit of kids to laboratory run by Quest to do simple science experiments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 kids registered (saw 13 present that day) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 kids registered. 6 on rolls right now due to movement of labor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 kids in the morning 10 kids in the afternoon (mainly girls) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected kids from study classes are sent to Quest.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Naga h kshmi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Sunita Bhonsle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Sunita Bhonsle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Sunita Bhonsle 	

Pictures

Mont Vert 2 labour camp. Another builder's (Kumar Builder's) construction site is visible in the backdrop.






Entrance to the DSS school (Also see in the picture: Sandeep in jeans, Sanjay in red shirt)



Balwadi class in progress. Teacher is Nagalakshmi. Children sit on mats.



<p>Black board on the wall of the NFE classroom.</p>	
<p>Mrs Bhosle teaching her NFE students. The kids were putting together words with small bits of paper having individual alphabets.</p>	
<p>Glimpse of teacher made teaching aids.</p>	

Site 2: Riverine Greens, Suz Road



Information

Kids in this location were mainly from the Hindi speaking belt and some from Andhra Pradesh. They are all from families of migrant laborers. This is a relatively small site. Builder has provided a shed but had to be pushed into building the side walls.

Balwadi and creche	NFE	Study class	Reference library	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balwadi is basically a playschool for kids under 5. Some very small kids also come (typically, younger siblings of students in NFE) 9.30 am – 4.30 pm Balwadi kids get some snacks during the day. This is primarily to keep them from leaving mid way between classes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-formal education with the goal of helping these kids join the main stream schools at some suitable point. 9.30 am – 4.30 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These kids go to formal schools but come here for additional help especially because of differences in mother tongue etc 2 batches in a day (Morning and Afternoon). Kids attend depending upon their formal school timings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not at this site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 kids registered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 kids registered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 kids in the afternoon session 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Chaya Godbole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Chaya Godbole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher: Chaya Godbole 		

Pictures

<p>Little Ramesh running into his class excitedly telling his class mates that we were going to take their photographs.</p> <p>Picture from outside the classroom. In the backdrop is the construction work in progress. The site is a relatively smaller site.</p> <p>Also seen in this picture are Sheetal (Coordinator) and (in saree) Sunita (Supervisor)</p>	
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<p>A view from inside the classroom. This class was extremely vibrant and enthusiastic – a real pleasure to see.</p>	
<p>Kids reciting rhymes with the teacher. The boy is orange and blue is from AP. He is learning quickly. His mother (who is very happy to see him study and is encouraging) came over to see him read words for his.</p>	



Site 3: Rane Builders, Suz Road

Information

Kids in this location were all from families of migrant laborers. Site is 1.5 years old. The builder has set up a nice, classroom for the kids with paneled partitions. The school is decorated and painted well. The floor is smooth and easy to keep clean. It is clear that the builder has been relatively generous and forward looking here.

Balwadi and creche	NFE	Study class	Reference library	Others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Balwadi is basically a playschool for kids under 5. Some very small kids also come (typically, younger siblings of students in NFE) 9.30 am – 4.30 pm All kids get idli/chatni/ snacks twice a day from the builder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-formal education with the goal of helping these kids join the main stream schools at some suitable point. 9.30 am – 4.30 pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These kids go to formal schools but come here for additional help especially because of differences in mother tongue etc 2 batches in a day (Morning and Afternoon). Kids attend depending upon their formal school timings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None at this location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Around 10 kids seen Teacher 1 (forgot name) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 kids registered. Teacher 2: Gauri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 kids Teacher 2: Gauri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 kids 	

Pictures

<p>The best DSS schools we have see so far. The builder has taken efforts to build a nice little classroom and decorate it. The building has not yet come up at this site but another builder's site is visible in the backdrop. (some kids from that site also come to school here)</p>	
<p>Another view of the school</p>	

<p>NFE and study class teacher taking classes for the kids. The kids with bags go to local municipal schools and come only for the study class.</p>	
<p>The balwadi teacher and her class. The children are wearing bead necklaces made by them in the class as a craft activity.</p>	

Overall Observations

- *Premnath:*
 - *(Site: Mont Vert 2) All the staff members we met were motivated and articulate. We were happy to learn from about the school and the issues surrounding them. The kids looked interested and happy to learn. The kids were clearly learning at this school. The emphasis was on language skills. I also found the school very well organized with clear teaching plans.*
 - *(Site: Riverine Greens) This was a very lively and enthusiastic class. They were clearly enjoying themselves. All the kids were trying their best. Some knew more than the others but that is bound to happen given the high levels of mobility of these laborers. DSS has managed to get the builder to raise the wall height and make the classroom little more safer and less distracting.*
 - *(Site: Rane Builder) This school was a pleasure to see. Kudos to the builder. This was the first place in urban slums that I have seen a well-painted, neat and clean classroom with smooth floors. In general I also felt the kids looked healthier.*
- *Sanjay Jaiswal: This visit indeed inspired me a lot. I noticed that although the schools have had very limited resources, they still managed to give a praiseworthy output. We met the coordinators and teachers of the schools. They looked very positive and motivated about the work they are doing. They have developed simple teaching aids and games to make learning truly interesting for the students. The facilities provided by M/s. Rande Associates (Builders) for one of the schools are commendable.*
- *Sandeep Mukhopadhyay:*
 - *One point which I would like to add is the network of doorstep schools. There are about 50 schools in Pune and they are trying to cover many more*

construction sites in Pune. So even if the parents have to shift base to work in a different construction site, the education of their child will probably not be hampered because of the presence of another door step school. These schools have cards in place which tells the new school of the progress made by the student. Hence the student can continue from where he left at the previous school.

- *Another point that comes to my mind is the effectiveness of the teachers. I remember there was a child from Andhra Pradesh who could understand neither Hindi nor Marathi. Still the teachers managed to teach him some basic literary skills. This was a commendable effort by the teachers.*
- *Something could also be said about the transition of students from these schools to mainstream schools. The schools train them for 3 tests (marathi, hindi and env science) so that the students can then join std 3 class in mainstream schools by clearing an entrance test.*