

Mukti Virtual Site Visit Report

Date: June 6th 2025

Attendees:

Asha NYCNJ: Manali Singhal, Girish Ramaswamy, Dipti Parmar, Gargi Rade

Mukti: Ananya Chatterjee, Srijita Sarkar

The call with Mukti was to get an overview of the status of the Mukti support schools (MSS). Ananya who is the senior program manager of MSS explained where Mukti is as an organization with the support schools and expansion over the past year. Specifically, Mukti was running 73 support schools across 6 districts in 2024. But with the successful implementation of the program across these schools, Mukti was able to expand and is currently running 90+ schools across 8 districts.

Through the effort of 1500 educational volunteers, Ananya shared that they have seen a dramatic decrease in drop-out rate and an increase in involvement from girl students. She also shared that a key component of their success is attributed to parents feeling that MSS is safe to send their kids. MSS has structured assessments, several mock tests and 3 specific tests. They have successfully implemented science and math camps, biodiversity camps, environment day celebrations, value-based education and a yoga day. Instead of adding these as merely supplementary education, they have included these as part of the MSS curriculum.

MSS has established a "training of trainers model" where educators from one district visit educators in other districts to discuss issues and concepts and bring back to the class to teach kids. This is part of value education within Mukti's curriculum.

For each school, MSS has a 5 teacher model – one each with a background in English, mathematics and science and the rest 2 teachers teach Bengali, Geography and history. All of the support schools have classes V to X with ~100 students and 5 teachers i.e. a 20:1 student-teacher ratio in each school. There is one teacher-in-charge per school.

Overall, the 90+ schools are divided into different clusters based on the block where the schools are located. They have 11 Field coordinators who report to 4 project coordinators.

Campaigning for the school's new admissions starts after October for the following year. Every school's teachers are consistently in touch with students on their performance, conduct parent-teacher meetings occur regularly and at the admissions times.

Finally, Mukti team also has developed Mukti Academy which is an online platform with videos to support the in-person teaching. Videos are set up in a format of a professional teacher teaching in a classroom. Videos are available in all subjects for classes V to X.

Overall, the call with Ananya and Srijita helped our chapter get a detailed update on the status and progress of Mukti support schools. In addition to the project update call, our chapter was

also able to see a MSS in action over a video call. One of the educational volunteers went to a school and showed us the classrooms with students and teachers. We were also able to hear from a 10th grade student who has been attending Mukti since 5th grade and noted that MSS has helped him improve in all subjects and made him more confident at school.

Pictures from the zoom call to observe a Mukti Support School



Girish Ramaswamy
Project Coordinator
Asha NYCNJ Chapter