

## **NJSS Visit Report (Asha for Education) – 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2017**

**(By Dr Padmanava Sen, AfE Bangalore volunteer and AfE fellowship coordinator – [padmanava.sen@gmail.com](mailto:padmanava.sen@gmail.com) –November 2017)**

### **Summary of visit:**

- The main visit to NJSS school (Asha Samajik Vidyalaya, Nagepur) was done on 13<sup>th</sup> November. I also visited Harsos remedial center.
- On 12<sup>th</sup> November, I spent time in the girls program (awareness and cultural) at Benipur village. The adolescent girls who get trainings from NJSS were taking part in these programs with trainers and self-help-group leaders.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> November, following a small awareness walk, the childrens' day program started. Students from Nagepur School and Harsos remedial center joined in a 3 hr cultural program. Local MLA also attended towards the end and talked about the need of girls' education.

### **Useful links**

Asha for Education page: <http://ashanet.org/project/?pid=124>

[The previous site visit report \(September 2016\)](#)

[Pictures from November 2017 visit](#)

### **Detailed School Visit Report:**

I will go through the school visit on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 first. I was greeted by Mr Panchamukhi as I reached the campus around 9-15 am with Nandlal Master. Before visiting the classes, I met Rambachan-ji who was with Harsos School. He recently took a "Nirantan" training to tackle gender bias and mentioned his plans to work with youth groups. Later I visited the Library with Panchamukhi. The library timing is usually 10 am to 1 pm on Sunday. The monthly fee is 10 Rs and one time registration fee is 20 Rs. I checked the register filled with pictures and details of students. There are more books for higher classes, competitive exams and colleges. As those books are costly and students lend them frequently from library rather than buying them. I also checked the computer lab. Class 5 students were using it. Later I went from class to class and spent some time with the students. I sat with the teachers during the Tiffin hours and then finished with the remaining classes around 1 pm.



**Library on the first floor**



**The computer Lab**

Snapshot of my observations –

- Class 5
  - They were learning via a computer program, pre-installed using the Azim Premji Foundation CDs.
  - The Hindi, English and Math sections I checked and it was very interesting. The students were enjoying it.
  - There was a teacher (Vidya-ji) present and she was helping as needed apart from keeping the class in order.
  - The computer lab is used during their regular class hours once or twice a week for each subject (like Hindi, English). So the use of computer programs was there in addition to the regular class.
  - The students were sitting around 4 computers. I checked with random students and they could operate it.

- Class 4
  - Hindi – Some of them can read well but **some have difficulty in Hindi reading which is a major issue for a Class 4 student.**
  - English – 2-3 students have good vocabulary. **However, no one can read English.**
  - Math – They know tables 2-10 except 2-3 students. Some know upto 20 & 25. They can do multiplication by single digit (xx by x). I checked the sense of operations and it seems quite acceptable.
- Class 3
  - English – They have very limited vocabulary. One of the students from Government school Class 5 joined this class. She was below par in the class. When asked the teachers later, they mentioned multiple such students from Government school, who even do not know how to read and it will take some time to get them up to speed.
- Lower classes, I just interacted with students and took photos. Some of the kids were practicing for the Children's day program the next day.



**Class 5 students in computer Lab**



**Class 4 students**





**Class 3 students**



**Class 1 & 2 students**



**Preparatory students (below Class 1)**



**Class 5 students in their class**



**Me (Padmanava) posing with Class 5 students**

I met the teachers and other staffs present. The staff present –

- Mr Rambachan – He has a goal of covering 8 villages (six started) for his awareness work with youth. The target is to give education guidance/mentoring, encouragements for social work and spread awareness for gender equality. The Nirantar training he received is about raising awareness against sexual harassment and abuse.
- Ms Madhubala – She is running the sewing center at the top floor of this school. She is working with 15-25 girls 18+ years old, mostly dropouts from schools/colleges.
- Ms Amita – working with 30 self-help groups. She explained the functioning of the self help groups. She mentioned Ms Soni and Ms Sarita working in SHG covering Bhatpara and Ashwahi,
- Teachers of the Navjyoti school
  - Mr Shyam Sundar – Since 2002
  - Mr Amit – Since 2005
  - Ms Vidya – Since 2005
  - Mr Vijay – Since 2009
  - Ms Shama Banu – Since 2013
  - Mr Amit ( Harsos NFE) – since 1997
- I discussed the use of computer lab and how the language skills can be made better. The teacher requested for increment of the honorarium.



**Me (Padmanava) with the teachers**





**The school building at Nagepur**

I visited Harsos remedial center in the afternoon around 4-30 pm. En route I visited the new sewing center open after closing the full-fledged school at Harsos. It is run by one of the former Harsos School teachers. I spent around 30 minutes with the students at Harsos center. From my observations, the kids in this center are slightly ahead compared to the Navjyoti center. I mentioned this to Mr Nandlal Master. We could think of two reasons – the Harsos gets students from all backgrounds and they get more time in schools + center.



**The training center at Harsos**



**Nandlal Master with the kids from Harsos remedial education center**



**Me (Padmanava) with the kids from Harsos remedial education center**

### **Benipur Program (November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017)**

I attended this program to raise awareness for 3-4 hours. First there was a walk around the villages raising slogans against dowry or gender based discrimination. After that, the girls from different centers in this village presented a program. Two more guests attended from Varanasi (including someone visiting from Hongkong). I was shocked to know that a village like Benipur has a population of 20000.





## Programs and Walks at Benipur

### Children's Day Celebration in Nagepur (14<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

I spent almost all day at Nagepur center before leaving for Kolkata. The structure of program was similar to Benipur program. But students from Navjyoti School at Nagepur and Harsos center joined. There are many dance programs too. There were different guests like local MLA and a bank manager, transferring from that village. It ended around 4 pm starting around 10 am.







**Smiles faces**



**Selfie with the kids**



**The smiles stay in the memories for ever.....**