

Site Visit Report for Viklang Vidyalaya

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I visited the Viklang Vidyalaya on Sunday, 19th Feb, 2012. This project is located in Sitamarhi in Bihar. It is about 150 Kms from Patna but took about 6 hours due to the highway construction project which is currently underway. This school is located in a fairly remote area and specifically caters to the children who are physically challenged. Sitamarhi is ravaged by floods every year and has a very high incidence of migration to the metro cities for earning livelihood.

It has been observed that in some instances, these kids are not very well treated even by the family. This school aims to instil confidence and self-dignity in these kids by educating and providing them a loving and caring environment as it is fully residential. It further wants to provide them with vocational training to help them stand on their own feet. These kids are provided with basic education and those who want to continue can go for higher education in the mainstream schools.



A picture of the residential building (left) and the gate (right)

This school is a modest place with about four rooms with earthen tiled roof. One room is an office and the other two rooms are for kids. They have a kitchen where they cook for the 40 residential students along with two resident volunteers. Two new rooms have recently been constructed.



A photograph of the kids' room (left) and kitchen (right)

The secretary and the founder of this organization stay with the kids. The secretary, Mr. Ram Pukar Thakur, is also physically challenged but runs the entire organization with full zeal. The founder member of this organization is Smt. Prabhavati Deviji. She is very active for the cause and has sacrificed her entire life for this cause. Local and national media has also commended her efforts.



A newspaper report about Prabhavati ji (left) and the secretary Ram Pukar Thakur and Prabhavati ji with the kids (right)

I met one very extraordinary kid, Ajay, who is learning to sketch and paint. He has polio and has difficulty in walking but is an amazing artist. The photographs of his paintings speak for themselves. He is being trained by a professional painter and the fees have been arranged by the school. Another kid has is currently a bachelors student in a local college. I remember meeting him in 2006 when he was a kid. He still remembered me because he played football with me then on his crutches when I last visited this school.



Sketches by Ajay

I was impressed to see happy kids all around they came and talked to me. There were only 16 kids others had left homes because of the weekend and Shivartri holidays. I was very impressed with the school which with their limited resources have made an impact by helping these kids who otherwise would have been marginalised by their families and society.



The kids in the school yard (left) and seeing me off at their gate (right)