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Site Visit May 21, 2022

Attendance: Ramya, Anjali Srini, Apeksha. Partial: Jen and Abhyuday

The project partner and a lot of students and teachers joined. Estimated about 20 people across 3 project sites.

Meeting run by project partner to provide translation, Ramya and Apeksha.

Nupur Sanyal introduced herself.

Saboni Mandal

Mukund - Shanti Niketan

Karuna Chakravarthy from Barasat

Shika from Barasat

Arti, from Kiddirpur

Saboni from Lekhapura,

Mansi, Arpita and Lekha from BARasat.

SF team: Apeksha - New project steward, Abhyuday - older project steward

Srini, Anjali, Ramya and Jennifer

Conducted in English, Hindi and Bengali

Summary of current projects and status: Several open questions to follow up after meeting

Lapeksha/Chella: 70 student in Chella project (kids come to center); additional 50-60 students in tribal/village area. 2nd group of teachers go to those students to teach in about 4 separate centers. There are 4 centers outside and 1 main center.

Estimated 2 teachers per teaching site total of 5 teaching sites.

There is also a site around the railway with 75 kids. Total about 300

Major issue is early marriage/drop outs; There is some success in reversing this trend with the teachers. They meet with the parents to avoid early marriages. They are now graduate, post graduates.

Kidderpore: information provided by prior ISW graduate who has been there x1 year

- Almost 40-50 Juniors and seniors; They attend Different schools but come to this center for coaching/teaching
- School has lots of diversity; age 7-15 years ol
- 3 teachers at center. Separate by age. Aarti teaches kids 7-11 in all subjects except math, About 40 kids Saboni is handling (She is the partner teaches older kids (11-15) and math to younger kids)

- Salma teaches nursery to class 6
- Do the students everyday: Yes from 12-4.
- One site only. No outside options

Barasat/Shanti Niketan:

Devenik showed the picture of the center in Shanti Niketan.

Currently there are 66 kids. Total there are 75 students.

Mothers are mostly domestic servants and fathers are vegetable vendors and casual vendors.

Kids are Ages 10-15. Earlier there were 6-9 years, but now they stopped during covid.

All subjects are taught. These are not actual schools, we are assisting them and coaching them. Stop early marriage, prepare for school admission, be comfortable at school level and lessons. Parents are working and are not able to focus on education.

Goal of center is to get the kids admitted to school and help them move forward/avoid drop out

There are different timings after covid as schools are not open at the normal times. Kids who go to school come at 12 or 1 after school. Adults go to school at 11 and they come at 4 after school. Barasat center is opened until 7 PM for the class 8+ kids. They are trying their best to avoid dropout.

Barasat, there is a nursery section, 5 year - 8 year but not active,

Currently About 62 students, 3 teachers. No lunch after pandemic. Come at 11 and leave at 4:30.

Arpita showed the nursery section.

Manasi showed the pictures of the outside area. One more school is closed due to the storm.

Barasat also has a main center and other centers for adults.

Q1: Anjali: Directed towards Teachers: Please tell us how things are going.

Students are going to school but guardians are not able to help.

Try to have monthly meetings in the main center between the sites to help coordinate.

Q2: Apeksha: How many meals?

Only one meal.

Mostly bread, bananas, sometimes boiled eggs, different types of cakes, occasionally sweets. Sometimes Salma cooks and gives it to the kids.

Try to give food the students would not otherwise get

Q3: Anjali: Can we hear from any of the student's families?

One of the parents said that the help from the teachers guiding the kids is helpful since they cannot follow their school otherwise. Nutrition is also great since they cannot afford those. She is very happy. Around 50 kids in that center.

Q4: How many students graduate and go to higher studies : Around 60%.

How much success for stopping early marriage: around 60%. In Barasat, they are more conscious compared to Chella which is very remote. We try our best to motivate, especially the mothers. They took help of police and political organizations. Any success in the remote areas? They try to listen, they do not oppose, it will take time. If we stay longer with them, we can try to be successful.

Graduation rate per center: about 50%. Please find that out and share it afterwards. It is very difficult to guide, students in class 5 or 6 cannot read properly.

Q5: How many teachers are there per center: Barasat: 6 Chella: 6 Lekhapura: 3 Kiddirpore: 3
The other centers, they go directly from home. They meet weekly or fortnightly in the center.
2 teachers in the smaller centers.

Student Increases from the last few years? 5% increase

Q6: Reflections on how COVID has made it harder?

We were closed for sometime. The teachers went to the student's home and collected from them. That was hard because they did not have mobiles. They did not have money to recharge the phone. They gave homework at home and collected it from them.

Now things are normal at their center, even though schools are not fully open. We do cleaning the rooms and areas. Weekly twice full cleaning, doing sanitization and other measures.
There is an increased interest in attendance

The kids are detached from schools, and lose interest so the guardians want to send them kids here. Barasat and Shanti Niketan were affected badly before but are getting better now.

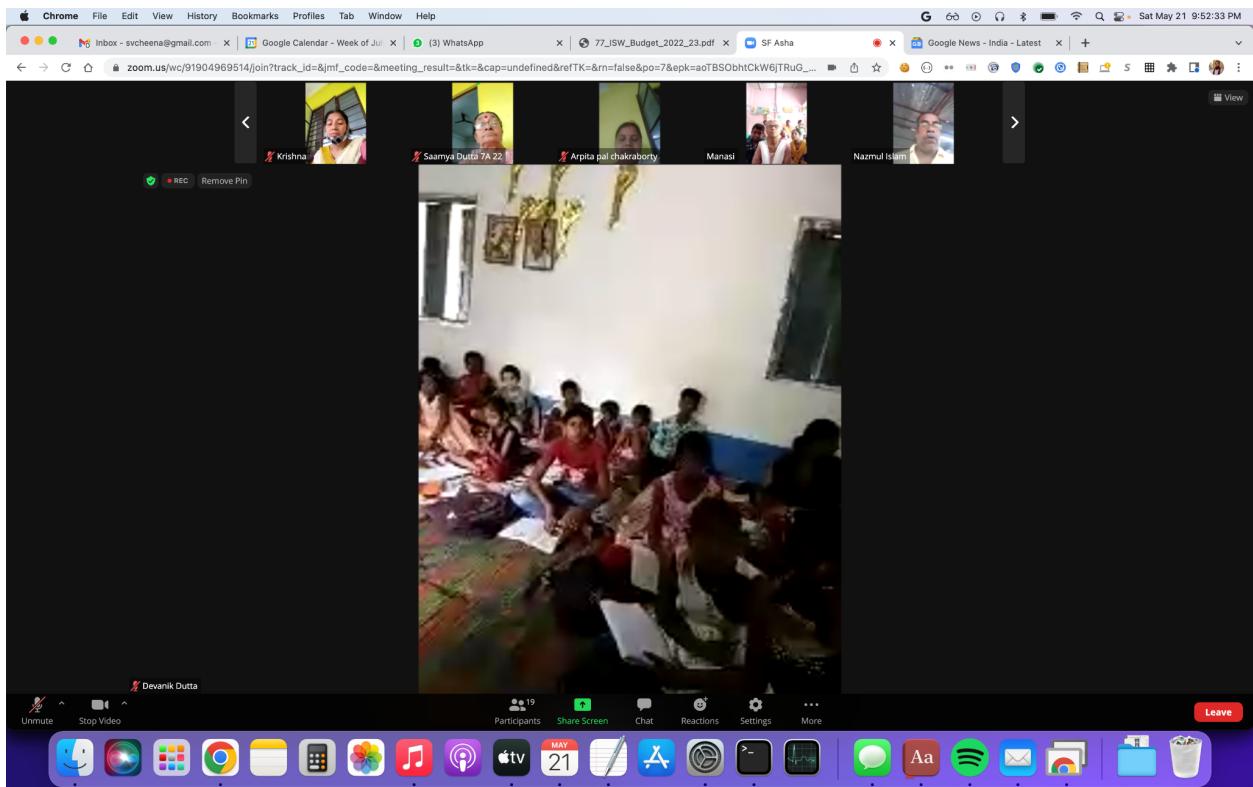
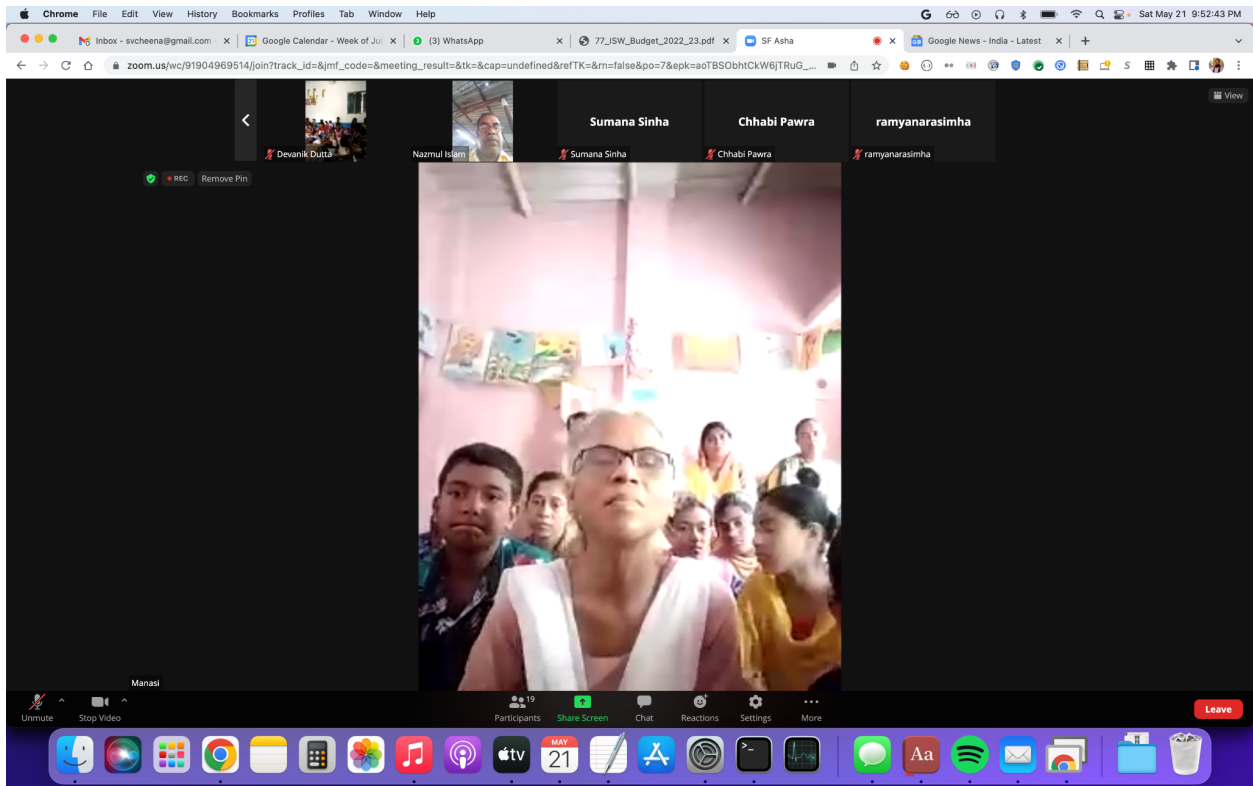
Q7: Any questions for us?

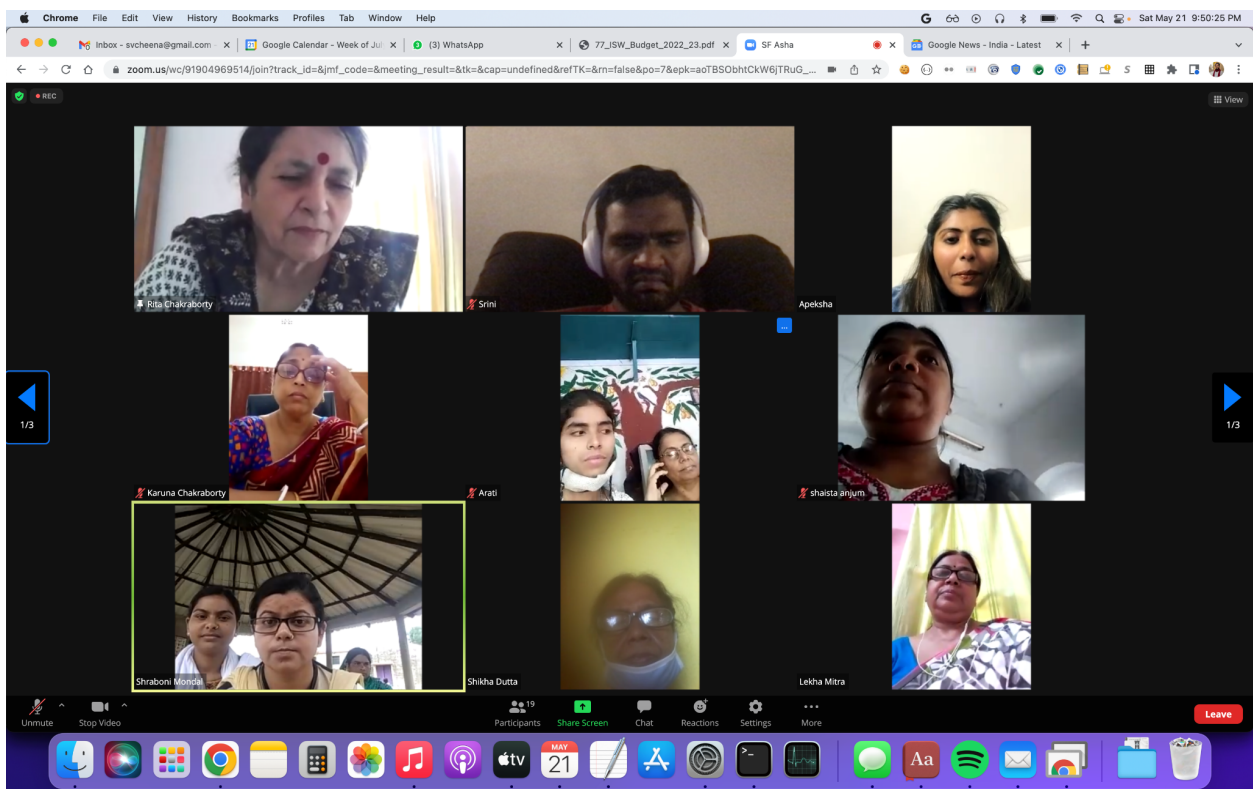
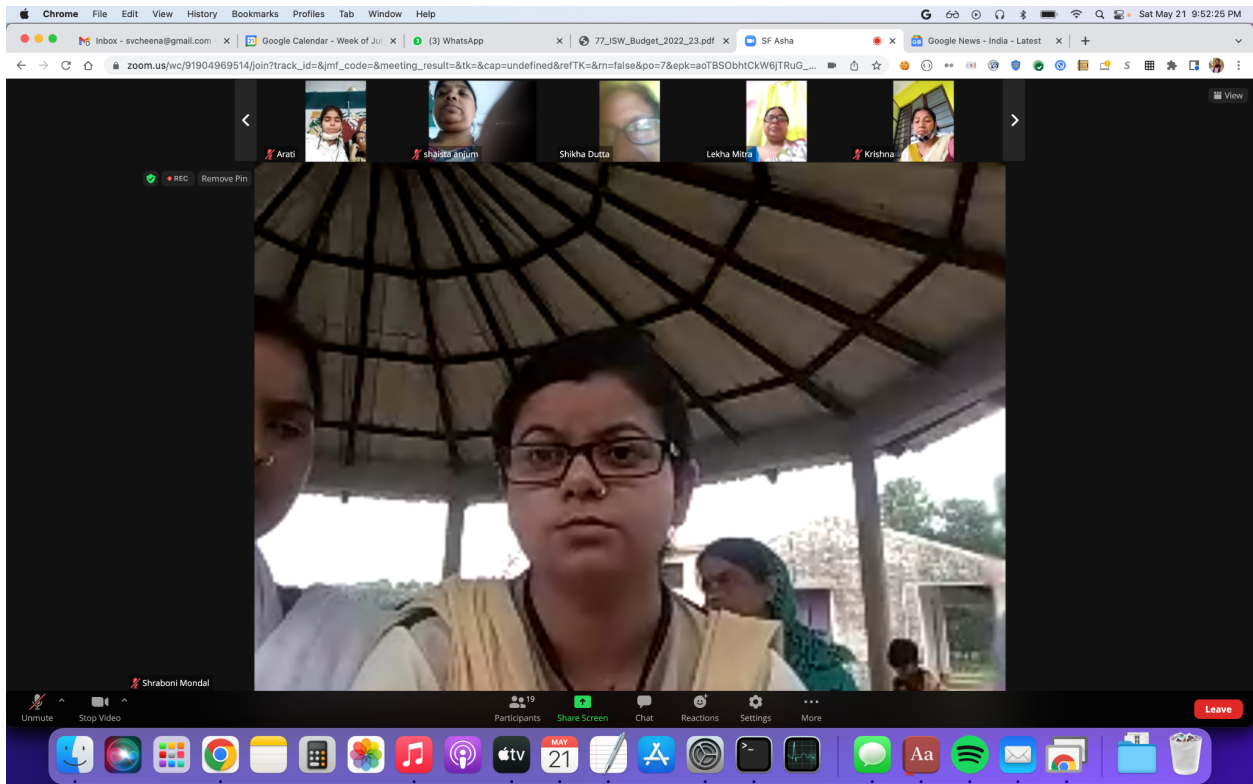
Nupur: We always instill in students about how Asha is raising money and they make sure that the kids work hard.

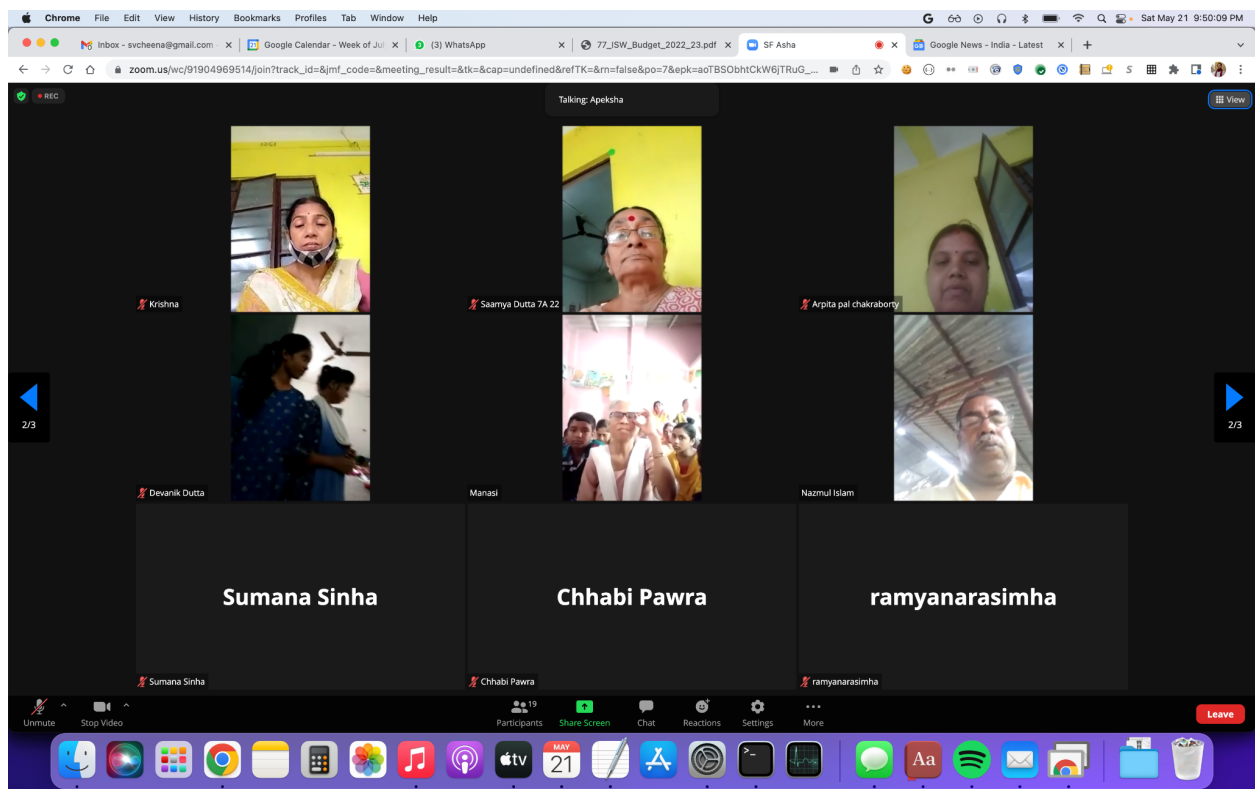
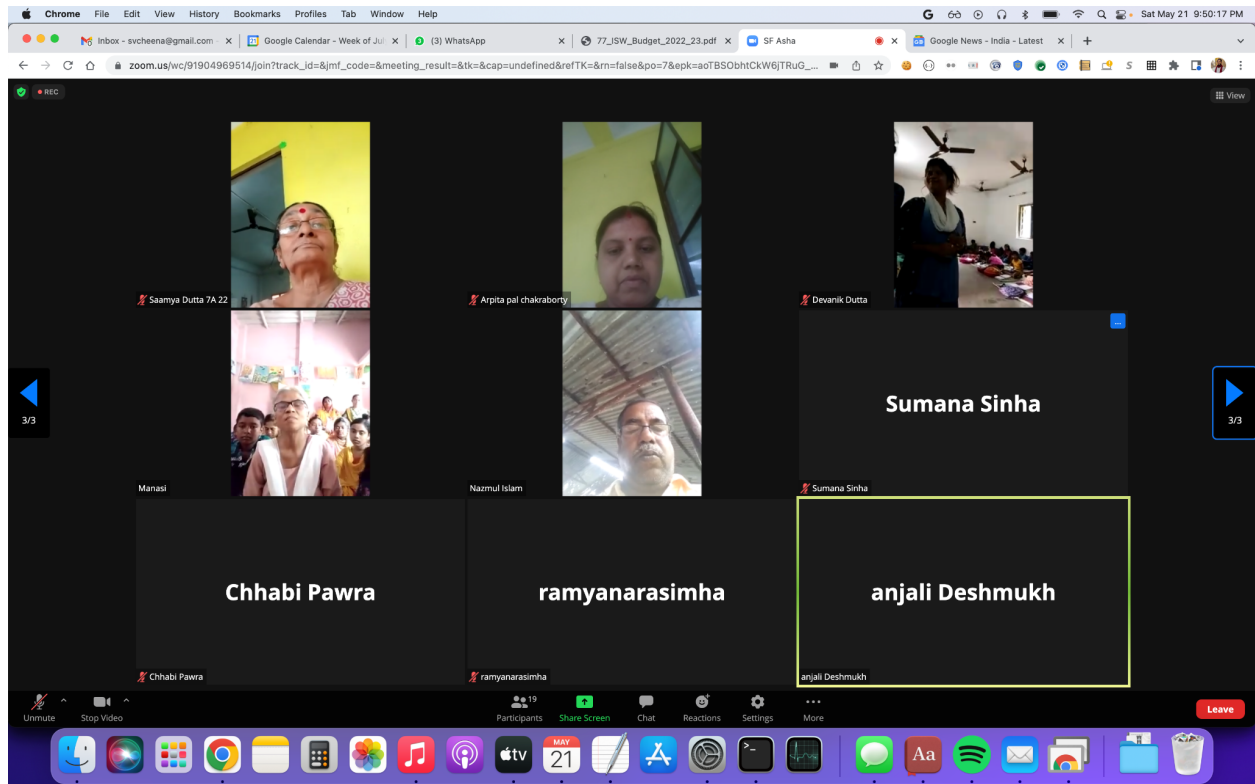
Q8: Anjali: Is there anything the teachers want to do differently?

One math teacher says that one work is going well, but we need materials like science chart etc so the kids can understand visually.

Photos







Follow up Items:

Apeksha to request a breakdown of the different centers and the students across all of them.
How many students graduate and go to higher studies