

## Site Inspection Report

Project - A step to stop school dropouts and child marriage

Village: Chella, Block: Ilambazar, District: Birbhum,

State: West Bengal, Country: India

Visit Date: 26.09.2019 (It was a planned visit)

The village Chella is located around 10km from the nearest city and railway station 'Bolepur-Shantiniketan'. The condition of the un-metalled road approaching to the school area was not good, and a few hours of shower made it even worse.



*The school premises starts here*

The premises consists of around half acres of land with three small separate establishments in it (video 1).

There are two types of program running currently at Chella. One is a children education centre for pre-primary & primary students. The combined students strength is 80, mostly are girls (F:M=70:10). Despite of a rainy day, around 50 were present. The school caters 5/6 nearby villages. We found the students enthusiast, but having difficulties with simple reading (video 2).



*Children inside the classroom*

There is also a coaching centre for elderly girls. They come for tuitions/computer classes, beside their school/college hours. We met 13 of them, many of them are undergrad students. They are very enthusiast, but uncertain about continuing their studies. Recent fee hikes in colleges had already compelled some of their friends to discontinue. They also complain about their lack of access to reference books needed for their studies. In computer classes, they share two computers among themselves; so having a new computer would certainly make their life easier. They also feel that, starting of a job oriented training programs, crafting, gardening, etc, along with tailoring courses would be very helpful to them (video 3).



*Interaction with the elderly students*

Currently there are five teachers involved with this program. Most of them are part time teacher. We met Amrita Mandal (MSc in Geography, BEd final year), who is associated with ISW for the last six years. She comes to the school three days per week. She is currently getting Rs 2000 per month. A hike in the salary would encourage her to devote more time in ISW program.

Overall our impression is satisfactory. Though there is a similar kind of NGO exists around, but they mostly work with tribal population, where as ISW has no such limitations. The local community is in need and ISW is putting a good effort to meet them with a very limited and insufficient resources. A regular and stable funding would help them a lot to continue the services they are currently providing.

Asha volunteers conducting the visit:

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