

Site Visit Report, BGUS

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1 Introduction

Date of visit: 2nd January, 2013.

Itinerary -

- BGUS Headquarters at Balia village
- Pre-primary school at Kashipur
- Pre-primary school at Narayanpur
- Pre-primary school at Dullya
- Pre-primary school at Bahirkhand
- Pre-primary school at Ichapur
- Staff meeting at BGUS headquarter
- Pre-primary school at Balia
- Pre-primary school at Jigra

We managed to visit all the schools, which are all located in Bahirkhand district, within a 10-mile radius of Balia. It was the first day of school in the new year, and almost all the kids were there, along with many parents who had turned up to speak to us. For each school, we talked to the kids, asking them general questions as a group, and also talking to a couple of them individually. Then we talked to the teachers, and finally to the parents and local people who were gathered. The kids were shy at first, but they are bright and responded very smartly to our questions. In all schools, the kids welcomed us with flowers, and treated us to some kind of performance, (song/dance/poetry) group or solo. In some schools, we observed teaching in action. The teachers are attached to their schools and take personal pride in

the kids. The parents were also very happy about the education their kids are receiving.

However, almost every school had some serious infrastructure issues. The buildings at Kashipur and Ichhapur are all but gone, and almost every school lacks sanitation and drinking water. In what follows, we have listed down observations from each school visit.

2 BGUS Headquarter

The BGUS headquarters has the book bank and the library. Important observations are -

- The reading room looks in good shape.
- Due to recent change in syllabus, many older books have gone out of use. Book bank needs books on new syllabus.
- There is a need to refurbish cupboards for the library. Many of the older cupboards are broken and need to be repaired.

3 Pre-primary school at Kashipur

- The roofs are collapsing, won't survive another rainy season. The parents are scared to send their children, in fear of accident.
- Boundary wall is broken, and there is a pond very close to the school, which is a reason for concern
- The tube well in the school premises doesn't work anymore. To prepare the mid-day meal, the teachers and parents of the students have to go to the pond to bring water. The situation is far from ideal.
- The toilet is broken beyond use.

4 Pre-primary school at Narayanpur

- The building is new, built from WAH 2009-10 funds. The building condition is quite good.
- The building is very close to a pond. The pond needs a boundary wall of some kind, to prevent accidents
- No drinking water supply. Needs a new tube well
- The toilet is broken beyond use.

5 Pre-primary school at Dullya

- The roof is broken, problem during rain
- The room does not have a window. It is a big room and cannot be used for classes, because of the infrastructural issues. Right now they are having classes out on the small courtyard.
- Needs a railing for the building, boundary wall is broken.
- Tubewell is not working, so there is a problem of drinking water
- The toilet is in a good condition, but does not have a door

6 Pre-primary school at Bahirkhand

- Roof needs fixing
- One of the rooms have become unusable, because the roof has sagged in
- The school has a grain bank, which is unused at the moment. Putting windows in the grain bank, and some renovation will make them usable as school room.

7 Pre-primary school at Ichapur

- The roof tiles are falling apart and the roof is sagging
- The floor base is falling apart

- One of the rooms have become completely unusable
- There are huge cracks on the room walls.
- The school area has a general downward slope toward a open pond, steep at places. This is extremely risky, as kids running out from the school can drown. Need to fill up the slope.
- The condition of the school building has become an issue of great concern. Parents are afraid of sending their children to school in fear of accidents and also the condition of the school indicates that it won't be possible to keep the school open during the next season, or if there is heavy rainfall.

8 Pre-primary school at Balia

- The condition of the school is good
- Needs a gate for the boundary wall
- There is a very big class room. If temporary partition can be put in the room, the one room can be used for three classrooms

9 Pre-primary school at Jigra

- The condition of the school is very good. The building has been renovated recently. (WAH 2009-10 funds)
- The tube well is not working. The school needs a provision for drinking water.

10 Staff meeting at BGUS headquarter

The staff meeting was attended by all the teachers from the Pre - primary schools and BGUS office-holders. Some of the points raised in the meeting by the teachers have been itemized below, in order of priority.

- Immediate renovation for the schools in Kashipur and Ichapur.

- Increase in budget for nutrition. Due to the present price hike, it is becoming difficult to provide food within the present budget. An increase of budget from INR 3.50 to INR 5.00 per day per meal per student
- A provision for school dress for the students
- Health check up for all the students. Presently it is done for 50 students out of the total 300 students
- An increase in the salary for the teachers
- Exposure trips for students and teachers
- Budget for token prize for all the students participating in the annual sports and cultural programs

11 Recommendation

These are the final recommendations from us, as gathered from the visits and the staff meeting, in order of priority.

- Immediate renovation for the schools in Ichapur and Kashipur. This really can't wait. These schools will have to closed pretty soon unless we can get this done, and that will mean an entire region will be bereft of schools.
- Toilets and drinking water for the schools that lack those. Apart from health and hygiene issues, sanitation is one of the basic aspects of education for these kids.
- Increase in the nutrition budget for the students
- Patch-up renovation for the schools at Dullya and Bahirkhand.
- A provision for school dress for the students
- Budget for increase in teachers' salary