

## **Virtual Site Visit Report via WhatsApp VC**

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Organization: Balia Gram Unnayan Samity

Date: Sep 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 9:30 PM CST, 1 hour.

Meeting recording is not available since the meeting was on WhatsApp VC.

Objective:

1. To interact with the students, teachers and BGUS team and understand their experiences.
2. To assess the overall state of the pre-primary schools, the coaching programs, the library, and the associated book bank program.
3. To understand the current state of activities and their field work in the COVID-19 pandemic

### **1. Overview**

Balia Gram Unnayan Samity is a grass root level nonsectarian, democratic voluntary organization conducting developmental work in the field of Health, Nutrition, Sanitation, ECCD, Education along with different income generation programs. In the year 2006, BGUS started working with ASHA UIUC. to implement three important programs: A) Pre-Primary Education B) Book Bank and C) Coaching Program to ensure quality and meaningful education in and around the village of Balia, West Bengal. There are around 290 high school students benefiting from book bank program. 180 students between 6 to 11 years are enrolled in the coaching program and 360 students aged between 3 and 6 years are enrolled in pre-primary education program in the 7-pre-primary located in 7 villages funded by the program.

S. C. Pal, Secretary, BGUS kicked off the meeting with an overview of ASHA for Education, BGUS project in the pandemic year.

### **2. Pandemic and home-teaching**

Balia and its neighboring villages have been hit hard by two unfortunate calamities: 1) the COVID-19 crisis and ensuing Government lockdown and 2) cyclone Amphan - one of the strongest cyclones to hit the subcontinent in recent times. The impact of this cyclone has been amplified due to the COVID-19 lockdown, with many families unable to evacuate in advance and crucial relief efforts delayed. In the wake of the COVID pandemic, the West Bengal government has announced that all educational institutes in the states will remain closed till September 20.

The pre-primary and the coaching program had to remain closed due to this lockdown for several months. The lack of real interaction among themselves and teachers was causing the kids a lot of harm such as lack of basic education and social skills. This led the BGUS committee members and the teachers to take the decision of continuing with home-schooling. The school has been able to go for this unique arrangement with the consent of both parents and teachers. For, the children this is a refreshing break because they can be with other children. The home coaching and schooling programs were being implemented carefully by the 22 teachers after maintaining all norms to ensure protection against covid-19. The children were divided in small groups (3 to 4 children per group), as desired by the parents of the children. The Book Bank and the Coaching Program were also implemented maintaining all covid-19 norms. Coaching was be provided to the students by the instructors in groups of 3 to 5 students.

With the absence of the in person teaching there was no option of moving the content to online learning as most homes money to get internet or other technologies like phones/laptops. The teachers covered all

Sl #	Name of the Committee Member	Designation	Remarks
1	Panchu Gopal Chatterjee	President	Introduction and overview of the activity
2	Subhas Chandra Pal	Secretary	Details discussion regarding in the various activity, activity during COVID-19 Pandemic situation during Lockdown period
3	Narayan Chandra Chakraborty	Community Well Wisher	Conducting the total site visit on behalf of Balia Gram Unnayan Samity.

the 360 children through group level home learning.

### 3. Challenges and experiences

- The teachers were being trained to provide effective home-schooling after maintaining all covid-19 precautions.
- Instead of food being served at school, dry and nutritious food items were being distributed at children's homes.
- The teachers were conducting monthly growth Monitoring and health check-up of students in their respective homes.
- Practical demonstration and training for parents were organized to provide proper nutrition and covid-19 safety to the children.
- Sanitizer and mask etc. were being distributed through the seven pre-primary School to all staff and students.
- Textbooks and reference materials were distributed through the book-bank program to high school students.
- 180 primary and secondary school students were provided with teaching and learning materials to help prepare for their final examinations.
- Maintaining covid-19 safety precautions the annual sports events and cultural celebrations were organized.

### 4. Future Goals

- More staff training, since most the staff need in depth training on early childhood care, development & education provision of quality education, nutritional coaching, relationship development with the community of parents. Besides in the face of the pandemic, proper communication with student's household, record keeping, and reporting needs more attention. A scheduled training by professional supervisor is planned for the next academic year.
- Keep a steady supply of sanitization supplies for regular cleaning of seven pre-primary schools, staff-members and students-such as purchase of sanitizer, soap, and masks.
- Get a stable internet connection in the main BGUS office for efficient communication through V.C with ASHA, UIUC members.
- For small group learning restrictions need additional learning materials such as books, pencils, colors, art supplies, chalk, and boards etc. for pre-primary students.
- Extend book and reference materials to 20 needy students at high schools who belong from the poorest families of the seven villages, especially girls students who are more prone to dropout after high school

### 5. Meeting attendees and remarks

The students and teachers took turns in expressing their gratitude and feedback towards ASHA for education program and staff. Here are some snippets:

#### 5.1. BGUS Committee Members

Priyasmita Ghosh, Shreya Gargya, Aniket

#### 5.2. Pre-School teachers (Total Teachers Present at the Online Site Visit =20)

Sl#	Name of the teacher	Name of Pre-School	Activity
1	Kalpana Samanta	Balia Madhyam Para	During the meeting the teachers divided the children in 4 groups each group having 4 students. The first group performed action song with teachers. The second group presented their art and paintings. The third group recited poems and the fourth group showed their alphabets and learning.
2	Swapna Samanta	Balia Madhyam Para	
3	Jhuma Pakhira	Balia Madhyam Para	
4	Sanchyita Manki	Balia Madhyam Para	
5	Nasima Khatun	Jigra Pre-Primary School	NA
6	Sarbani Bhattacharya	Jigra Pre-Primary School	
7	Tapati dey	Ichapur Pre-Primary School	NA
8	Rita Bag	Kashipur Pre-Primary School	NA
9	Paromita Maity	Kashipur Pre-Primary School	
10	Krishna Maity	Kashipur Pre-Primary School	
11	Manjushree Bhattacharya	Bahirkhand Pre-Primary School	NA
12	Mita Pal	Bahirkhand Pre-Primary School	
13	Mangala Das	Bahirkhand Pre-Primary School	
14	Santana Patra	Dullya Pre-Primary School	NA
15	Soukotara Bibi	Dullya Pre-Primary School	
16	Madhumita Duttaa	Dullya Pre-Primary School	
17	Madhumita Bag	Narayanpur Pre-Primary School	NA
18	Narayanpur Pre-Primary School	Narayanpur Pre-Primary School	
19	Moushumi Majhi	Narayanpur Pre-Primary School	
20	Popy Banerjee	Do	

### 5.3. Students

Sl#	Name of the students	Class	Remarks	School
1	Dhrubo Pul	KG	Presented his painting	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
2	Anuskha Shaw	II	Recited a bengali poem and spoke about classes in lockdown	Balia Madhampara Coaching Class.
3	Sayanti Mondal	III	Presented her painting and spoke about general well-being	Balia Madhampara Coaching Center
4	Rajkumar Mondal	Pre-Primary School Student	Showed his indoor game skills	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
5	Anik Mondal	Pre-Primary School Student	Showed his indoor game skills	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
6	Atri Ghosh	Pre-Primary School Student	Showed his indoor game skills	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
7	Debjit Ghosh	Pre-Primary School Student	Showed his indoor game skills	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
8	Ananya Mondal	Pre-Primary School Student	Group singing and dancing	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
9	Adrija Bagui	Pre-Primary School Student	Group singing and dancing	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
10	Arko Mondal	Pre-Primary School Student	Group singing and dancing	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
11	Anuska Manki	Pre-Primary School Student	Spoke about less interaction due to covid	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
12	Soumi Malik	Pre-Primary School Student	Spoke about group home classes	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School
13	Abhay Samanta	Pre-Primary School Student	Spoke about school covid precautions	Balia Madhampara Pre-Primary School

#### 5.4. Parents

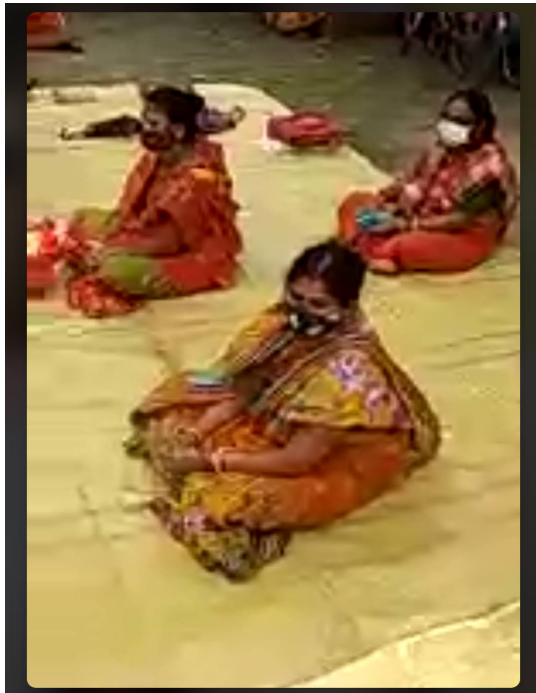
Sl#	Name of the mother	Remarks
1	Mousumi Mondal	Spoke about well-being of her child
2	Soupriya Pal	
3	Santoshi Ghosh	Spoke about well-being of her child
4	Kakoli Mondal	
5	Jhuma Mondal	
6	Krishna Mondal	
7	Indrani Ghosh	
8	Jhumpa Malick	
9	Samparna Ghosh	
10	Nipu Dey	
11	Sibani Bagui	
12	Devi Soren	
13	Jhuma Pandit	

#### 6. Priorities for the next year

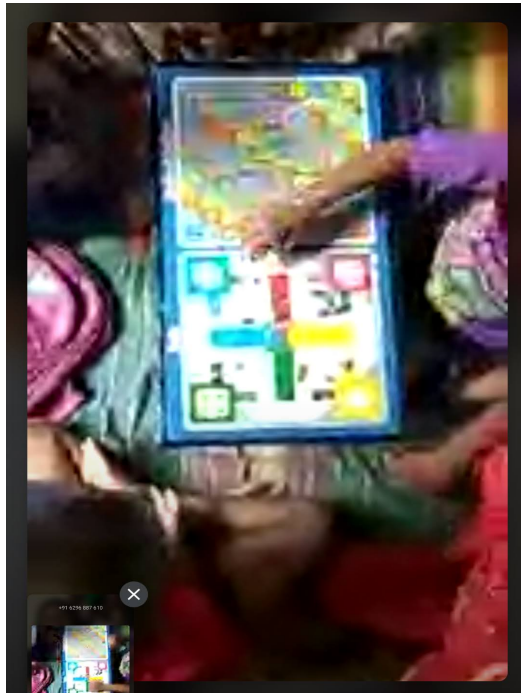
1. Pre-Primary Schooling back in the school campus with full student strength soon as possible after sanitizing of all campus
2. Regular sanitization of school campuses
3. Provide nutritious cooked food in the preprimary school campus
4. Ensure quality education with increase interaction and collaboration among teachers and students
5. Organize outdoor games activities and cultural activities
6. Increase the numbers of books in the Book Bank and extend the library activities. Plan to start Mobile Library to provide books door to door.
7. Increase the local fund collection to provide more support towards sustainability of the activities.
8. Add grade-I to the pre-primary to provide opportunity to students who could not transfer to other primary schools
9. Renovate and clean to create child friendly environment in all the school campus
10. Fill up vacancies for teaching.
11. Introduce Dance and drawing Classes at least once in a week.

**End of document**

**Supplementary Photos**



1. Parents participating in the video call



2. Students playing indoor games



3. Pre-primary student interacting during the call



4. Teachers in conversation with ASHA, UIUC



5. Parent interacting with ASHA, UIUC members



6. Pre-primary kid interacting with ASHA, UIUC