

Trip to ISDGEI: end of the year evaluation
 ORGANIZATION: **ISDGEI**, Rajendranagar, Kolhapur
 Project: Creche Unit and Primary School run by ISDGEI
 Type of Visit Report: Year- end review and discussions (announced visit)
 Visit Date: 22 July 2005, Saturday
 Visit & Report by: Pawan Agarwal and Srihari Suthamally
 Contact information: Srihari (sriharisn@yahoo.com)
 Pawan Agarwal (pawan9ua@yahoo.com)
 ISDGEI

ISDGEI has been funded by Asha-Seattle and Asha-MSU. The funding was provided under the [MoU](#) agreed upon in 2003. Guru and Srihari (from Asha-Pune) visited the project in 2004. This visit was to assess the progress made by ISDGEI over the last year, and especially to review activities carried out using Asha funding. Asha funding for the last year was used for the crèche and for the primary school (part funding –details in [MoU](#)). This was an announced site visit.

Visit Objectives:

- Visit school, meet/talk to teachers and children
- Visit creche
- Talk with ISDGEI trustees, especially Sonia and Mrs. Shreedhar
- Take a look at their accounts for last year

Report:

We took an overnight bus from Pune to Kolhapur. Reached Kolhapur around 4:30 a.m., went to Sonia and

Mrs. Sridhar's place. (It would be ideal to reach Kolhapur the previous night, and spend the night there). After having a nap and breakfast we first went to the crèche at about 8:30am. The crèche is located in the school building, in a room on the ground floor. Last year the classes were held in two separated buildings, which were around 500 mts away, this time both the buildings are next to each other. Crèche is presently accommodating 37 Girls and 23 boys and the space is insufficient for 60 children. (All the rooms in the building are almost of the same size and can accommodate 50 Children max)

Generally on Saturdays they have a Physical Training (PT) class, but since the area had received considerable rainfall, they did not have the PT class. As noticed last year, students seemed to be very happy, bubbly and motivated.

Below is a listing of class wise strength :-

Std	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	Total in Each Class
Class I	21	33	54
Class II	-	46	46
Class III	2	48	50
Class IV	1	41	42
Class V	-	33	33
Class VI	-	32	32
Class VII	-	32	32
Total	24	265	289

Total No of Teacher = 7

Creche Unit	23	37	60
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Total No of Teacher = 2

Total Students	47	302	349
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Sonia briefed that, they have stopped giving notebooks to the students. They have also stopped giving uniforms to the students. According to Sonia, these are some of the steps they have taken for cost cutting as well as to get the parents involved in ISGDEI's activities. A passed out student has joined as a creche teacher.

Some of the questions that we had before we went there and answers from Sonia listed down

Is there a significant drop in the number of girls enrolling in the school?

No, Mrs Sreedhar is preparing a document that will list out the number of students who have passed out in the last 10 years or so, and will list out how many have gone on to finish 10th, 12th and college.

Is there any alternative way the community could participate besides pure monetary participation?

No, not right now. Have taken baby steps by stopping giving uniform and notebooks.

Is it possible that the community realizes the values that ISGDEI brings, but for whatever the reason, they don't want to recognize it?

Yes, they do value it but due to fear that management will ask for money or any such thing, they do not recognize it.

Are the parents willing to send their daughters to other municipality schools?

No, since schools are far away and education standards are low in the municipal schools.

Are there any teachers from Rajendranagar community?

Yes, one, who passed out from ISGDEI.

Do the teachers interact with the parents?

Yes, they do on a monthly basis. They share an understanding relationship with the parents. But parents think that the teachers are helping the students, because they like to help.

Good thing about the project is Dr Karnavat, one of the board members. He is helping the project acquire land for the new building. They are almost done with acquiring a land, which is around 10kms from Rajendranagar. The main problem with this land is that it is quite far from Rajendranagar. And the other problem is that project will incur recurring expenses transporting the students from the slum to the school. And also the parents may not send their students that far.

They are also planning to acquire a land, which is around 500 mts from the school. The total ground area is around 6000 sq ft. Dr Karnavat plans to buy first 3000 sq ft and build the basic structure there. The total project cost to buy the 3000 sq ft land, and build 10 rooms comes to around 21 lakhs. They plan to use the corpus for now to build the building. Then use this building to attract more funds. The problem about this land is that it is located in a housing society, and as per the societies rule, they cannot build a school there. But flouting the norms, there is one shopping complex in the society; ISGDEI plan's to use this building to get the school building approved by the society. They need to sort this problem, before they can take up the land.

Summary

Classes are held in two close by buildings

After bringing in socio-economic changes in the locality, ISGDEI is now string towards making children self-sufficient

Dr Karnavat and Sonia are working on finalizing the land deal.

Things to do by ISGDEI

Mrs Shreedar to send the list of students passed out from ISGDEI, and what they are currently doing.

Sonia to send last year's financial documents.

Sonia to arrange to send students' art works, drawings, essays, etc, which can be put up on the Asha web site.

ISGDEI to come up with a brochure, which would help them to get donations in and around Kolhapur.

Recommendations

ISGDEI has come a long way in bringing socio-economic change by educating the girl child. As recommended last year, they need to come up with a better definition of their long-term plans. Now that Dr Karnavat is actively involved in the project, ISGDEI should finalize the land deal and start planning on the new building and ways to get more funds.



Students out during their break



Class 4 – held in the kitchen



Staff along with Sonia (2nd from Right)



Plot near Rajendra Nagar



Creche student.