Apna Skool, Migrant Labour Project

Jagrati Bal Vikas Samiti, Kanpur U. P

Report: May -August 2010

Jagrati Bal Vikas Samiti is an NGO in Kanpur, started by faculty, students and others associated with IIT-Kanpur approximately 20 years ago. Apna Skool, Migrant Labour Project (MLP) is a network of schools for children of migrant labourers at construction sites and brick kilns in and around Kanpur, U.P. There are currently 610 students in 20 Apna Skool centres. (It must be noted that the number of students keeps varying due the very nature of their parents’ work).

Apart from education, Apna Skool activities include:
- Nutrition: Wholesome meals at every centre
- Health –Related Activities
  - School uniforms for all and sweaters in winter every year
  - Excursion trip every year
  - Regular Teachers meeting every month and teachers training workshop twice a year
  - Periodic interaction with the parents of Apna Skool students
- Vocational –Training
  - The Apna Skool library has around 1000 books (Story books, painting books) which are circulated in every centre to encourage the joy of reading among the students
  - Short films (entertaining and educative) are shown at all the centres periodically

The months from May to September is usually the time when some of the current Apna Skool centres have depleted attendance as students go back to their respective villages in U.P and Bihar along with their parents. They come back and enrol in Apna Skool centres again in October. During this period, in order to ensure continuity in their education we make special efforts to facilitate the process of admitting these students at their local village schools or start additional temporary Apna Skool centres and appoint a teacher for the same.

Apna Skool also has an ongoing policy of admitting as many children as possible into mainstream schools. We however continue to evaluate their progress (academic and otherwise), arrange for their transportation from their homes to school, and take care of their fees and other related expenditure.

Some Highlights of Apna Skool during May-Aug 2010

1. During the month of May, Annual function held at each Apna Skool centre by students in front of their parents and other invitees including the brick kiln owners. Progress report of each student was also given on this occasion.
2. Vocational training at various centres.
3. Teachers training workshop for Apna Skool teachers conducted in association with Eklavya, Hoshangbad in June.
4. Many senior students (including one who is pursuing B.A.) admitted to regular local schools in Kanpur in July.
5. Apna Skool coordinators Shukla Ji and Sharma ji visited Bihar and Hamirpur, UP respectively in the last week of July, to supervise the admission of Apna Skool students at local schools in that area and also to start temporary Apna Skool centres.
6. Two new Adult education centers and two libraries were also started which will be operative till October.
7. In August, students of Apna Skool participated enthusiastically in Independence day celebrations.
8. Some students from Apna Skool participated in a district level competition on Science based experiments.

May 2010
1. Assessment tests in all Apna Skool centers were conducted from 5th May 2010 to 10th May 2010. 450 students appeared for these tests.

2. Results were declared on 20th May at a special function conducted at each centre. Students and their parents were invited at each centre and the students along with a Progress report card, were given a simple educational kit. Parents across all Apna Skool centers were very happy, proud and inspired to see their child getting an opportunity to study and resolved to continue their children’s education.

3. This was also followed by short performances by students at each Apna Skool Centre.

4. Annual Day Function at Lodhar Bhattha. Click on this link to view http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCIEgMqdsX0

5. Invitation to this Annual Function at each Apna Skool centre was also extended to the Brick Kiln owners and some faculty and students of IIT Kanpur.

6. Teaching aids include use of laptops and tape-recorders to show short films, stories and poems. The Apna Skool library is active, with students showing keen interest to use it regularly.

7. Vocational training during this month included tiles Painting and tailoring.


9. Distribution of Progress Report

Tailoring Class in progress Tiles Painting

June 20

1. Closure of most of the Apna Skool centres as most children left for their respective villages.

2. Coordinators and teachers of Apna Skool held meetings with the parents of the children and prepared an activity-based schedule for the Apna Skool students to follow while they are away from Kanpur.

3. Annual day function at two remaining brick kilns, Rama and Vishnu Brick kiln, was held on 28th June 2010. During this time, the annual progress report of each student was also distributed.

4. Teachers’ training workshop for all the Apna Skool teachers was held from 27th to 29th June 2010. Two qualified members of Eklavya, Hoshngabad, Shobha ji and Nidesh ji were invited to conduct the workshop. Specific focus was given on the various methods of teaching Hindi and Mathematics at the primary level. Queries from teachers were also dealt with.


Teacher’s Training in association with Eklavya

July 2010

Apna Skool has an ongoing policy of admitting as many children as possible into mainstream schools. This is possible in the case of the students whose parents are permanently staying in Kanpur (going back to their villages occasionally) and do not go back to their villages during the lean season but who nevertheless are migrant workers employed in brick kilns and construction sites. Although admitted in these schools we however continue to evaluate their progress (considering the poor standards in Govt. schools in our country, more specifically in Kanpur) arrange for their transportation from their homes to school, and take care of their fees and other related expenditure.

1. During the month of July, 44 children (previously part of Apna Skool centres) ranging from classes 3 to 8, were admitted to Swami Vivekanand Vidyalaya, Lodhar, Kanpur.
2. Five students of higher classes 9 and 10 were admitted to different schools in Kanpur.
3. One student has progressed to BA. III year at DAV College, Kanpur.
   • Apna School coordinators, Shukla ji and Shrama ji visited Bihar (26th July to 2nd Aug 2010) and Hamirpur UP (23rd July 2010), respectively to supervise the admission of Apna Skool students at local schools in that area. Wherever this was not possible, a temporary Apna Skool centre was set up, appointing a teacher for about three months for the benefit of Apna Skool students who went from Kanpur back to their villages. Since this operation is for a brief period of time, it is possible to monitor the progress of the students studying in these centers.
1. Three students (studying in Apna Skool, Kanpur) were admitted in a school at Pali and 15 students from Kalra Brick Kiln, Kanpur were admitted to a Govt. school in Simsaria.
2. 14 students studying previously at Apna Skool, Ankit, Kanpur were admitted to a govt. school in Kachna, Navada dist., Bihar.
3. A temporary Apna Skool centre was started for 28 children at Dhanol village, Shekhpura, Bihar. These students were studying in Apna Skool, Avone brick field, Kanpur.

Updates on Apna Skool Centers (includes Part Time centers opened during the month of July)
1. Jagvapurava Centre for Adult Education for women: 30 students
2. Amiliha Centre for Adult Education: 16 students
3. Amiliha Library catering to 70 children is open for one hour in the evenings.
4. Vishnupur Library for 60 children

August 2010

Updates on Apna Skool Centers operating during the month of August

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Centre Name</th>
<th>No. of Students</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dhamikheda</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dhamikheda ( Supplementary centre for students admitted to mainstream schools)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Panki</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jagvapurva (Adult Education)</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Amiliha (Adult Education)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I.I.T Centre</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Gol Chauraha</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vishnupur Library</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Amiliha Library</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other activities during this month include:
1. 6 students from Dhamikheda centre participated in a district level competition on Science based experiments.
2. “Prabhat Pheri” is a unique feature of Apna Skool. The children take out processions on 26th January and 15th August every year, at 7:00am with placards spreading the message of Right to Education. They visit nearby villages hoisting the Tricolour. The parents of some children also participate. This year also witnessed the participation of children in large numbers on 15th August 2010.
3. Prabhat Pheri was taken out by the students and teachers of Panki, Panki Padav, Amiliha, Dhamikheda, Jagvapurva.
4. Flag hoisting at all Apna School centres on 15th Aug. was followed by poetry recitation, songs and plays enacted by students.
5. A unique feature of all Apna Skool centers is the Bal Sabha, which is a children’s forum by and for the students.
6. Understanding scientific concepts through simple experiments is an activity that is held every Saturday at all Apna Skool Centers.
Demonstration of Water Fountain made by a student from Apna Skool, Dhamikheda Prabhat Pheri through Villages and 15th Aug. Celebration at an Apna Skool Centre Report compiled with assistance from Apna Skool coordinators: Laxmikant Shukla, B.N. Sharma, Sangeeta Verma, Manoj Shukla and Mahesh For further queries or comments please contact:

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