

Name of the Project: *'Apna Skool'* (Educational Project for the Children of Migrant Workers)

Submitted to: Asha for Education – Silicon Valley Chapter

Name of the Organisation: Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti

Mailing Address: Dr. Pranab Mohapatra
Department of Civil Engineering,
I.I.T. Kanpur
Pin: 208 016 (U.P.)
INDIA

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Objectives of the Project:

To provide education to the unprivileged children of migrant workers.

To provide nutrition to the children.

To provide an interesting and educative environment to the children.

To protect children from child-labour.

To provide health and hygiene awareness to the children and the parents.

To provide primary health care to the mother and child.

Goal of the Project:

This project attempts to reach to the underprivileged children of migrant labourers with education, intellectual and artistic entertainment and awareness of health, hygiene and social issues. Another endeavor is to provide nutrition to the children and to protect them from child labour.

Implemented Activities

Jagriti has been running about 15-20 Apna Skools every year. The number varies according to the season. The number of schools is maximum in the period of

November to June as the brick kiln centres also function. With the advent of monsoon brick kilns closes down and hence the apna skools running there.

There were 19 Apna Skools running as on 31st March 2007.

S.N.	Place	Type	No. of Children
1.	Kalra Brick field, Tatiyaganj	Brick Kiln	28
2.	Pandey B/F, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	25
3.	Nahar Kothi, Tatiyaganj	Brick Kiln	64
4.	Saran, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	22
5.	Mera, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	26
6.	Ankit, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	28
7.	New Jagriti, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	15
8.	Avon, Chaubeypur	Brick Kiln	42
9.	Badhavan, Tikara	Brick Kiln	28
10.	Murari, Tikara	Brick Kiln	23
11.	Deep, Bhauti	Brick Kiln	28
12.	RK B/F, Kasgawaon	Brick Kiln	28
13.	CBF B/F, Kasgawaon	Brick Kiln	22
14.	DBM B/F, Maharajpur	Brick Kiln	28
15.	Lodhar B/F, Lodhar	Brick Kiln	25
16.	Dhamikheda, Kalyanpur	Construction Workers Colony	80
17.	Panki, Kalyanpur	Construction Workers Colony	26
18.	Rawatpur	Construction Site	24
19.	Keshavpuram, Kalyanpur	Construction Workers Colony	17
Total			579

Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti is recognized and accredited with NIOS. About 40 students who are in class III and V in various Apna Skool will be giving examinations in April for level A and B respectively. Other students will also appear in their class examination and will be given respective certificates.

Two Apna Skools at Bidokhar and Banki villages of Hamirpur District: The two *Apna Skools* at Bidhokhar and Banki villages of Hamirpur district were started on 1st July 2006. These schools were opened with an aim to



continue the education of some of the brick kiln children who were studying in *Apna Skools* during their stay in Kanpur. Not only the children of brick kiln workers studied in these two schools, other children from the said villages who otherwise were not going to school or were just enrolled in the schools for the namesake, also joined the school and got benefited. There were 26 children studying in Bidokhar *Apna Skool* out of which 12 were the children of brick kiln workers. At Banki *Apna Skool*, 10 children out of total 24 children were the children of brick kiln workers. Both these schools have now been closed from 1st October 2006 as the workers are migrating to the brick kilns after Dussehra (Durga Puja).

Participation of IIT students: Some Students and research scholars from IIT are daily coming to Dhamikheda Apna Skool and teaching class I children. This activity started in June 2006 and is continuing uninterruptedly. This is proving to be quite helpful for the students as well as for the teachers at the centre. They are learning some new methods to deal with the mathematical problems of the students. Also children enjoy very much the company of the IIT students.

Admission to regular schools: Six students from Dhamikheda Apna Skool were admitted to a regular school in class VI. Also a student, Vishal of Zarauli Apna Skool has been admitted in class II. Jagriti is supporting these students by providing all kinds of educational expenses. Apart from these students, Jagriti is supporting 12 other students towards their studies.



Incentives: Children are provided with the education materials like books, slates, registers, pencils, etc. along with the educational toys which help efficiently in learning basic calculations and Hindi language (the local language). They are also provided with the sports materials like football, flying disk, ring, skipping ropes, balls, etc. All the children are provided with adequate nutrition every day. Nutrition includes Laiya, channa (both baked and sprouted), sattu, fruits and rusk in summer, while in winter in the place of sattu, molasses and groundnuts are given.

Annual Day Programme: Children of Apna Skools organised the Annual Day programmes on 9th April 2006. Like the previous year, it was organized at Dhamikheda Apna Skool in a park. Children did all the arrangements from themselves. It was inaugurated by a lady migrant worker by lightening the lamp. The



programme started with a prayer of Goddess Saraswati. Then plays, songs, dances and Qawwali were presented by the children in an attractive manner. There were more than 200 spectators which included a sizable number from the neighbouring areas. Candles were lighted by the spectators at the end of programme singing the ever-inspiring song “Hum Honge Kamyab...”

Training Workshop: We have teachers’ training workshops on the first Saturday of each month. Matters ranging from the teaching methodology, use of supporting materials and educational toys, problems faced by the teachers at *Apna Skool* are discussed. Research Fellows from IIT Kanpur have been participating in the workshop as resource persons especially for Mathematics and Science. In October we organised a 3-days teachers’ training workshop especially for the new teachers at brick kilns. All the teachers who participated in the workshop were



greatly enriched with the knowledge about technique and course content that they have to implement at the Apna Skools.



Uniforms and Woolen Sweaters: All the children of all Apna Skools were provided with uniforms and woolen sweaters. At

two apna skools at Naubasta, sweaters were provided through Ram Krishna Mission, Kanpur.

Independence Day and Republic Day

Celebrations: All the Apna Skools celebrated Independence Day and Republic Day at their centres with great enthusiasm. They unfledged Tricolour on the occasion and presented some extra-curricular activities. They also relished sweets on the occasion. Workers also participated in the programme at every Apna Skools.



Library: Every Apna Skool has a set of story books. Children enjoy to read or listen stories from these books. These are mostly pictorial books having stories from Panchatantra, Mulla Nasiruddin, Jatak kathayen, etc. Every set has some educational books also relevant for the children.

Video Show: Interesting and educational movies for children are being shown with the help of projector to the children and workers at Apna Skools as a regular activity at Apna Skools. One of the objectives of Apna Skools is to provide the migrant



children few hours where they can have fun along with education. Video show is a medium to this end. All the children and workers enjoy the movies or documentary very much as it is shown on the big screen. During the video show we also keep on talking with them over the subject matters of the video or about their

own problems which is being addressed through the video. We have found that it is an effective medium of communication with the workers who are illiterate. Also their routine is so tough that we can not think of discussing the issue with them in a boring or monotonous way.

Zoo Visit: Children of Apna Skools visited Zoo in Kanpur the day before Holi. Most of these children were in the Zoo for the first time. It was really an enjoyable trip to the children. Besides seeing and knowing about various wild



creatures, they also got an opportunity to see various kinds of fish in the fish aquarium. Also they saw some of the animals who go for the prey in night only.

Health related activities: Several children from Apna Skools who were suffering from various diseases were shown to the specialized doctors. Some of Children were shown to eye specialist Dr. Bansal whereas most of the children were checked by the renowned child specialist Dr. O.P. Bhatt.

One Health worker Mr. Ram Kumar has been working since November 2006. He is responsible for arranging immunization camps with the help of nearby primary health centre at brick kiln centres. So far seven such immunization camps have been organized. Besides it, children of Apna Skool are being given doses of vitamin B and C and anti-worm tablets regularly as per the advice of doctor. We have also been in touch with the Chief Medical Officer of Kanpur Dr. Vijay Shankar Ji for the proper implementation of immunisation camps at the brick kilns.



Interaction with workers/parents: Before the closure of the brick kilns in June, we had an extensive meeting with the workers at all the brick kilns where Apna Skools were running. Our main idea was to awaken them

towards the importance of education and how they could continue the education of their children in their villages. Also we persuaded them to come to the same brick kilns in Kanpur so that education of their children should continue. We distributed postcards to the children so that when they start going to school they can inform us. We are happy to inform that children in two villages in Bihar were going to school.

Protest Demonstration by Migrant Workers and their Children on 5th December

2006: A protest demonstration was organized by the migrant workers and their children from various brick kilns and construction sites at Shikshak Park in Kanpur demanding for providing education and health facilities to them.



Children, their parents, teachers and many social workers had gathered there for a Peace March from Shikshak Park to DM office, but police and administration did not allow them to move. Ms. Vijaya Ramachandran, Dr. Sandeep Pandey, Ms. Manwati Arya, and many other eminent social activists and children tried to convince the police to allow them to move peacefully at least to some distance, but all the voices



poured into deaf ears. So we decided to demonstrate at the Shikshak Park itself. The City Magistrate came on behalf of the District Magistrate at 1.00 pm to receive the memorandum.

The right of the childhood to get proper food, education and health care are no where in the dreams of migrant workers' children. There have been number of schemes for the education and health care of these children but nothing was done for these children. We have been constantly talking with the education and labour departments to implement DPEP or Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the brick kiln and construction workers' children, but



they give no ear to it. To awaken the government from deep slumber and drowsiness, we finally decided to come out on road. This was the main objective of the demonstration and peace march.

Because of adamant behaviour of the district administration and police, we staged the demonstration and organised meeting at the Park itself. Sandeep Ji addressed to the children and their parents stressing the need for education. He emphasized that we will have to fight. After the demonstration a press conference was organized at the Press Club of Kanpur. Sandeep Ji, Vijaya Didi, Manwati Arya Ji, Dayawati Ji (a woman worker) and Mahesh (son of a brick kiln worker) addressed to the press reporters.



Children and Teachers at Kanpur Zoo