

**Asha - Site Visited: Baraki Village/Sevapuri Block, District: Varanasi, UP, India
School run by MSEMVS - Manav Sansadhan Evam Mahila Vikas Sansthan**

Site Location: A village near Varanasi, UP.

Site Visit Date: October 25, 2010

Personnel Talked with on this visit:

- 1) Mr. Bhanuja Sharan Lal, MSEMVS Director
- 2) Dr. Chandrashekhar, Block Co-ordinator,
- 3) Mr. Santosh Pandey, Block Co-ordinator,
- 4) Mr. Rajendra, Community Worker,
- 5) Mr. Motilal, Community Worker,
- 6) Mr. Muresh, Teacher,
- 7) Ms. Mamta, Teacher,
- 8) Mr. Guddu, Teacher,
- 9) Mr. Rajkumar, Volunteer,
- 10) Smt. Alti Devi, Volunteer.
- 11) Village Community Residents

Mr. Bhanuja Lal picked us (myself and my two sisters) up Monday (Oct 25) morning at 9:00 AM from the Ashram we were staying at In Varanasi. It took the driver around two hours to make through the Varanasi traffic and reach the Baraki village, which is outside of Varanasi. We arrived at the school when the classes were going on and the students were busy. I talked to some of the students and asked to read some words and paragraphs. The students were well behaved and motivated by the conversations I had with them. We asked couple of students to sing and readily obliged. The school pictures are shown below:



(Baraki school: myself talking with a student: Mr. Bhanuja next to me)



(a teacher busy teaching a lesson)

After spending a couple of hours here, we proceeded to visit the next community about half an hour drive away. This was a different setting, economically more disadvantaged

than the first one. We had a sort of town hall meeting under a shaded tree. Many women folks were present who voiced their strong opinions on their economic condition and aspirations for their children. Hope for continued Asha support. The community is quite resourceful with their own projects to improve their financial condition. I even suggested a village project based on water hyacinth which grows profusely on a large pond located in the village. They seemed to show interest and are in touch with me.



(a under-the-tree town hall meeting with villagers)

Site Visit Summary:

- Site visit was pleasant with excellent arrangements made to talk with teachers, students, and community residents.
- The students were disciplined and motivated to study. Couple of students sang some songs for us - quite bold.
- The teachers seemed interested in motivating and teaching the students, based on some conversation I had with them.
- The class rooms were well kept, roomy, and airy with adequate natural lighting.
- Community members took great interest in the affairs of the school and are very much interested in educating their children so that they can have a better life.
- The main complaint was their treatment by the economically upper class of the society in not complying the government requirements - funds misused.
- Community members greatly appreciated the Asha efforts in providing an encouraging environment to under privileged students to educate themselves and prosper. Continue Asha support