

# Navjagriti site visit- Monday-20<sup>TH</sup> Jan 2014

Report by: Shaurya Dawar

Navjagriti (meaning new awakening) is a charitable body working in the neighborhood of Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi. The group is working with street children, rag pickers and children from poor and underprivileged families. Navjagriti provides them education, food, clothing and other basic requirements. The aim is to change the attitude and awareness regarding education and prepare children for a better tomorrow.

Site visit was for 2 hours and I arrived around 1.30-2 pm which was also lunch time at the center. Children were excited and curious to see a new person in the center. The environment was warm, social and friendly.

Interaction with children was fruitful and it was evident that they enjoy studying and coming to center. They want to study further and bring a change in their lives. The success of the project is evident from the fact that there is no drop out from this project. Find below some information regarding the project.

## **1. About the surrounding community:**

- The project mainly caters to a Muslim neighborhood near the Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi. The area is ill-reputed for the children who roam around salvaging trash to support their families. The railway station area is also known for men playing cards and doing drugs.
- There is no support from local community for the project as the area majorly has low income families.

## **2. About the project:**

- The group is working with street children, rag pickers and children from poor and underprivileged families.
- Navjagriti prepares and send children to school and also take care of their school fees and school uniforms. Extra tutoring after school is also taken care by the project for senior classes' students.
- Out of 63 children (3 new children), 4 live in the center and rest all live with their families. Children are provided with lunch and evening snack. Some of them are also given food for their school tiffin. Birthdays are celebrated on monthly basis.
- Children are also provided clothes, medicines and all school supplies.
- Most of the children live at walking distance from the center.
- The project is operated from a rented house which is around 1200 sq. feet area.
- The daily schedule involves children arriving in morning and getting ready for school. Students who do not have toilets in their home are allowed access to the toilets at center. Kids who are too young for school also arrive in morning. They are engaged in educational and fun activities. Junior students (till 1<sup>st</sup> standard) come back from school by 12.30 pm and rest of them arrive by 2 pm. Lunch is served and kids are allowed to unwind for a little while. Afterwards teachers help them with homework and they leave by 5 pm. Senior students (6th class onwards) are given extra coaching from 5-6 pm.

## **3. About the teachers/Volunteers:**

- The center has 1 full time teacher, 2 part time teachers, 1 field teacher and 1 care taker
- Average age of teachers and volunteers is 25-35 yrs.
- Majority of the teachers/volunteers in the project are female.
- The project also has volunteers in US (Peter) and Australia (Jess).
- Most of the teachers and volunteers are at least graduates.
- The coordinator, full time teacher, one of the part time teacher and caretaker are with the project from beginning (5 years). One of the part time teacher is with the project for 1 year and field teacher is associated for last 3 years. Staff lives at walking distance from the center.

## **4. About the students:**

- There are 28 boys and 35 girls so boy girl ratio is almost 7:9.
- Their parents are illiterate so these kids are first generation learners.
- Activities outside school are: music, drama, singing, educational workshops and outstation trips. Trip to zoo and ISKON temple were organized this Jan.

- Children from Navjagriti have meet 2 presidents (Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee) and have also recently won awards at competitions organized by YMCA and Gandhi Smriti.
- A better future and achieving their dreams is what motivates the children to study and come to center. Parents were earlier not motivated because of lack of funds but constant assurance and convincing from center, and no burden of paying for education and better environment is what motivates the parents.
- Only 2 drop outs in last 5 years, and zero drop out last year.
- Students do not have to pay for anything .Nav Jagriti pays all their fees, meals, uniforms, medical expenses etc.
- All the children are given formal education covered under CBSE (Central board of secondary education).
- Medium of instruction is Hindi. English is one of the subjects.

#### 5. About the NGO:

- Navjagriti is a charitable organization located in a Muslim neighborhood near the Nizamuddin railway station in Delhi, India - an area made infamous by the children who roam around salvaging trash to support their families. Nav Jagriti tracked down the parents of these children and by offering to cover all the expenses involved, convinced them to send their kids to school. In addition to paying the fees to enroll these children in school, the center also provide school uniforms and supplies, food in the afternoon, clothing and some extracurricular trips. Some children need extra tutoring and Nav Jagriti helps them with it. Some children come in morning (mostly girls) to use washroom and get ready as they don't have even basic facilities at their home. 4 children live in the center as they are either orphan or they ran away from their family. At this time the project is 5 years old and supports 63 children. You can read more about the project on <http://www.navjagriticollective.org/ourstory/>
- The project is run by Dalia Kar (Founder and coordinator) and Tapan Kar (Full time teacher)
- Initially it was difficult to convince parents to send their children to school as they were sent out as rag pickers to make money for the family. Navjagriti staff had to invite the parents to center and sell them the idea of their children's education. Constant convincing and assurance did the trick and finally parents agreed.

#### 6. Financial Information and statistics:

- Asha is the main sponsor of the project and contributes to 79% of the total budget. Smart cube,Gigraj Kishory Lal charitable trust and Round table, contributes to 21% of budget. Navjagriti 's application to be covered under section 80g and 12a is pending in local court. It will enable them to issue tax exemption receipts to sponsors. Once approved, local contribution is expected to go up.
- Unaudited account statement from April-Oct 2013 is attached for reference.
- Budget for 2014-2015 is attached.
- Breakdown of expenses (as %):

Educational Material	2.43%
Educational trip	4.62%
Educational workshop	3.08%
Child care expenses (food, medicine etc.)	23.38%
Transportation	5.02%
Education expenses (fees and uniform)	13.70%
Salaries	26.70%
Administrative costs (Accountant, rent and electricity, local travel, communication and postage)	19.39%
Printing and stationery	1.67%

Find below few snapshots of the centre.







NAV JAGRITI COLLECTIVE



Merry Christmas











