

I spoke to Vallabhji.

Overall he was impressed with the project considering that it was in the first year of support. He felt the knowledge level of students was good. Student teacher interaction was good and the pressure on students was low. The visitors were able to talk to the kids without issues. The teachers were very effective and extremely committed. They have come all the way from Orissa and there may be a minor problem understanding the local Bhojpuri language which can be overcome. Based on the visit he had made some suggestions to Rekhaji and he may list them in the site visit report as well. Some of the suggestions are as follows.

1. This is the first generation of students sending kids to school. The teachers will need to interact with them more to counsel them about the importance of school education especially for the handicapped children. Currently a teacher interacts with them every Saturday. They should consider sending a group of teachers to interact with the parents for a couple of hours. They need to realize that the responsibility does not just end with sending them to school

2. The school was initially intended to be in an area about 5km radius of where most kids live. It was eventually built in a place which is about 15km. This has posed a huge logistics issue. The school has had to spend a lot on the conveyance of students as this cannot be expected of the parents. This would mean pulling funds from other areas. The expenses are around 9000/month. Rekhaji must consider this additional cost in the budget proposal

3. Physiotherapists have been regular visitor to the school, although the school needs to work around their schedule. Sometimes they can come a couple of times in the week and sometimes it takes about 15 days. They have to come from 20/25kms away. There was an idea to try and train a teacher in this so they can fill in for the physiotherapist.

4. School supplies, playing stuff are very limited/non-existent. They have been suggested to buy them in phases. Consider adding to the budget

5. Minor construction work could be considered for easier access to handicapped students. ---such as railing support in the walkway to school.

We should go ahead and keep the project running. We can ask Rekhaji to include some of these items in the budget for our consideration.

Regards,
Srivatsan