

Planet Why
Location: New Delhi
Site Visit Report
26th Sept 2008
Megha

Proposal:

Purchase land upon which Planet Why will be build. Planet why will have a home for disabled and abandoned children, a women centre and, function as a guesthouse for tourists. Income generated here will be sourced to fund the activities of Project Why (PWHY), another Asha project. Asha-Seattle was to fund Rs. 20 lakhs. The total land is ~ 8,000 sq. ft. and our donation will purchase roughly one-fourth of this plot.

Observations:

The land was purchased under duress after the main sponsor of Planet Why backed out due a difference in execution philosophy of Planet Why as envisioned by the project Why staff and himself. There was little time to cobble together the Rs. 80 lakhs needed for the land but with an enormous push through various networks the total sum was raised, of which Rs. 10 lakh is an interest free loan payable as convenient by PWHY.

I visited the land along with Anou, director of PWHY, Mamaji (the CA for Planet why), Mr. Dharmendra ji (the director of women center and future director of planet Why) and Ms. Barbara (a visiting British civil servant volunteering with PWHY).

The land is situated beyond Dwarka (the *singapore* of New Delhi and the closest metro station right now) in a village which has a substantial diary industry. In a few months construction is going to begin on the Nafdarjungh highway, which will come up about 1km from the land. This highway will connect this land to the international airport by a ride of 20 minutes; a valuable plus point for a tourist guesthouse. Right now there is no boundary wall on this land. The neighbours have put up a boundary wall on either side. Someone from PWHY visits the plot once in two weeks and there is little worry about encroachment. Delhi govt. has already put up signs for the layout and numbered the plots. Sewage and water pipelines are expected to be laid next.

Right now there is brush growing on the land and I suggested plating a few trees so that when the home is ready we would already have shady trees there. A few children came up to talk to us while we were visiting from the slum nearby and they would probably be the first beneficiaries of the school here. Clearly an establishment here that generates income for the locals and schooling for the children would greatly benefit the community.

Asha-Seattle has received the receipt of this land and it now legally belongs to Planet Why. The requirements of this proposal therefore are complete.