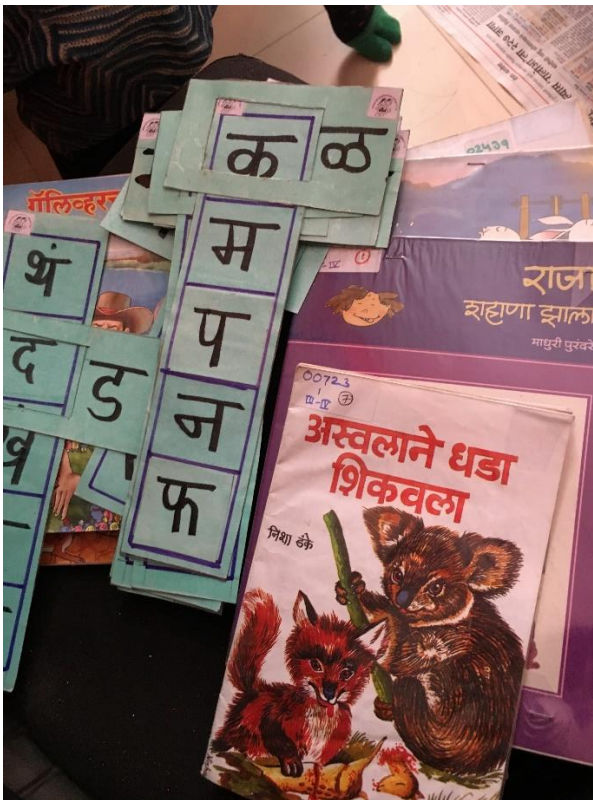


## India Sponsorship Committee Site Visit

Date: - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

By: Seema Chaudhary, Seattle Chapter project coordinator

Visited 2 support classes in the community with Kranti Salve (Deputy Program Manager). Visited ISC office – Laxminagar Anganwadi Class and Anusuya Bapu Sawant Municipal School, Pune, Maharashtra



There were about 20 children divided by age in 2 groups. They gather for 2 hours in this one room to learn by drawing, singing, story reading and writing before going to their regular schools. The teachers are experienced, and the field staff helps them manage the classroom.

The boys and girls were collaborating in storytelling and conversing with me openly with confidence. Teachers were able to manage the class very well and connect with children.

I read a story book to them in English and children were able to grasp and interact well.

Kranti and I visited 2 support classes in extremely poor areas of Laxminagar. These classes kept the children occupied in learning activities from 9 to 11:30 am prior to going to their regular day schools.

We also visited a regular Anusuya Bapu Sawant Municipal school classroom with an experienced teacher Farzana who had been associated with ISC for many years as a volunteer.



Pic: Seema Chaudhary, Kranti Salve, Arti Chavan, Shilpa Gaikwad and Nirmala Walhekar

Pic: Teacher Mangal Ghorpade and children at Laxminagar Anganwadi Class





Kranti also informed that the ISC staff is very active and alert in their students' safety at their homes. They found out and reported a case of child molestation to the local police authority. The local police work closely and in collaboration with ISC volunteers in these communities where unemployment is very high, and the crime rate is also high making the children vulnerable and unsafe.

Picture at Municipal School



Kranti Salve with Children



We met at ISC's office with staff Farzana, Samiksha, Seema, Arti, Rajeshri, Kranti, Audrey, Tejaswini and Sapna. Audrey Ferreira is the Director (Now a Consultant) Kranti oversees the field activities, Farzana is a schoolteacher and rest of the teachers, field staff and tailoring class teacher were also there.

The staff works in unison and is engaged in their work in communities. Their work is making a difference as the kids do not miss coming to morning support classes with ISC and enjoy their morning time.

The accountant discussed the spending of their funds in 2018. Overall, I felt there is enough transparency and clarity in accounting of expenditure. Meeting with Ms. Audrey was insightful and satisfying knowing how much social awareness USC is bringing to the communities.

ISC's existing office has a good size plot and building for their work and activities. Ms. Audrey mentioned that the lease of their office building is getting over soon. The owner has not started any discussions about renewal.

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