

Online Site Visit Report (through Zoom) for Supporting classes organized by India Sponsorship Committee (ISC), Pune, Maharashtra.

Virtual Site Visit was organized on Thursday, 11th May 2023.

Organization : India Sponsorship Committee (ISC)

Representing ISC : Tejas Supekar, Director Operations.

Jyoti Dhiwar, Program Head Aakar

Sameer yerunkar, Supervisor

Priyanka Agase, Teacher

Sheela Shirsath, Teacher

Kalyani Yerkal, Teacher

Representing Asha : Vibha Deo

Seema Chaudhari

Deepali Bhagwat

An online Zoom Meeting was organized for site visit on Thursday, 11th May 2023 at 8.30 PM PST (9.00 AM IST).

Tejas conducted the meeting and introduced us to the staff and the kids. While introducing the program he told us that previously the program was concentrating on mathematical and linguistic skills, but now along with those they are working on environmental awareness and life skills which will help to shape up the personality of the growing kids. So the program name is “Aakar”

Jyoti, who is working with ISC for 22 years and working with Brick Kiln worker’s community for last 15 years gave information about the classes. She proudly told us that this year twelve kids had attempted the standard 10th Board Exam. Considering the kids are from migrant workers families, it is a remarkable achievement.

The classes are conducted in a container located near the community which is equipped with fans and toilet. Each class is for three hours. The timings depend on the school timings of the kids as they attend government school nearby. It offers shelter for the kids while studying. The

main advantage of containers is it can be moved if the community (vasti) relocated to other area. There were around 30 students in the facility.



Priyanka, Teacher was conducting class of Kindergarten (Balwadi) . The emphasis of the class was to develop motor skills with the help of props like beads.



There were a few mixed age groups (age from 7 to 10 years) learning about math, language, environment, and some life skills.

One group was learning how to sew buttons. Next day they will learn about some other life skill.



One group was working on linguistic skills by solving alphabet puzzles. From the set of alphabets, they have to find odd one out. Nandini and Asiya introduced themselves in English.



Pranjal and Kshitija from another group explained the activity their group was doing. They were recognizing various fruits and vegetables.

Amey and Nandini's group were working on their mathematical skills by solving additions and subtractions.

One of the most interesting skills we observed was awareness about the environment. Kids were making mud balls with various plants seeds so those can help for plantation in the barren area.

The kids carry empty plastic bottles with them. Wherever they find any plastic trash like candy wrappers etc., they pick those and keep in the bottle and then empty the bottle in the trash can. This activity will be so helpful for them to develop an awareness about cleanliness of the surroundings along with environment.



In each such container/classroom ISC provided one computer with internet access to the older kids generally from 9th to 12th standard to practice their computer skills by themselves. In some containers ISC had provided sewing machines to be used by older kids or their parents. In this photo Nihal Sayyad is practicing his coding skills.



ISC had given keys to the families in that community so that in case they want shelter in conditions like heavy rains.

Muskan and Dhanaraj talked about how they benefit from the current classroom setting. Previously if they couldn't find room for their class, they must sit under the tree in whatever the weather conditions.

Vaishali Dutonde, mother of Madhuri and Ashina 13 and 11 years, is very satisfied with the support class. Her kids regularly attend the classes, they developed an interest in studies. They do their homework; they share everything they learned with their parents.



The parents also got aware of the benefits of the support classes so though those are migrant workers, they along with their families were staying in the same community for few years finding odd jobs in off season.

ISC runs a program called Sarathi for older kids. They help the kids using various resources like aptitude tests, finding mentors, helping to find courses as per their aptitude etc.

Seema Chaudhari asked a question about what would happen with the kids if they moved to another state in between.

Jyoti and Tejas told us that now they are keeping the record of every kid attending the support class with the help of Aadhar Card. If the family of the kid decided to migrate, the ISC staff help the family to find the source of education and try to make sure the kids continue their education.

To conclude, it was a fantastic site visit. The hard work and dedication by the staff of ISC is Commendable.

Those faces of happy and enthusiastic kids in the classroom will encourage all of us to work more harder for Asha.

