



SSK

Visit to SSK, Patna

This is a confidential document

August, 2015

Visit to SSK:

Reaching the school and first view:

It was a lazy afternoon when I started for SSK, situated at the outskirts of Patna. Having diverted due to heavy traffic congestion near Danapur station, my travel there was through a seemingly never-ending and winding road cutting across open fields. And then suddenly, the school came to my view, with its red splendour, standing tall on a wide field.

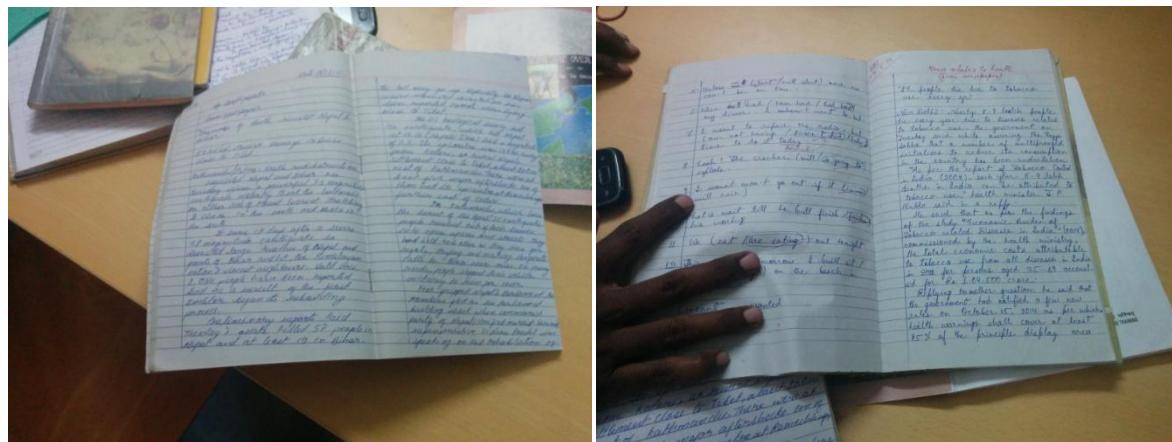


Meeting the students:

It was already 3:30 pm, and past school hours. I was worried about how I might meet all the students. But, thankfully, it was their self study time and they were all present in their classrooms and I could meet them. Mr Khan, the principal of the school, welcomed me warmly and took me around the school, to each of the classes. What astonished me was that the students were quietly studying even though many of the classes did not have anyone overseeing them! It was indeed quite heart warming to find such highly motivated and diligent students.

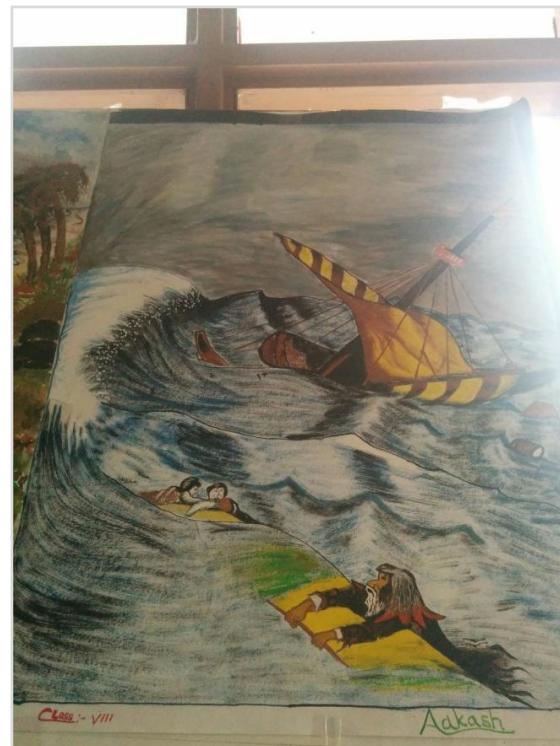
I came to know from a few excited students that the Patna Pro Kabaddi team had just visited the campus during which, the students played with the players and learned some useful tricks of the game. I am sure such a thing has gone a long way in enhancing the confidence of the students and the spirit of the school.

On asking the students what they aspired to do post school, many of them said that they wanted to appear for the UPSC, with a few mentioning that they wanted to join the army or become an engineer. They spoke in English with me and were quite eloquent. I also met an English teacher and he showed me some of the notebooks of the students, and I was quite pleased with the brilliant handwriting!



One thing that stuck me was the artistic bent of mind these boys have. I came to know that the boys had performed in school plays – ‘Mahabharata’ and ‘The Merchant of Venice’. The students, quite eloquently, narrated dialogues from the roles performed by them. On visiting the fresh batch of young boys in class I, we requested any one of them to recite a poem. To our surprise and pleasure, one boy after another came up to recite poems, all of them brimming with confidence and excitement! Mr Khan seemed really pleased and mentioned that most of the boys being new to the school were shy, but have adapted well in the few months.

I was left speechless by the paintings of the students, done without the guidance of any art teacher. The bold use of colours, the bright landscapes, the beautiful imaginations left me speechless!



The Campus:

During my visit, I also went around the campus and saw the computer room, the conference room, the dining space and kitchen, the washrooms, the playground, the library and the living spaces for students and teachers. While the school seems well equipped with amenities, there is scope for more. Some areas include need for hot water in the washrooms (considering the cold Patna winters)

and a better equipped kitchen. Also, the student dorms with triple layered beds could get a little crammed for space when occupied by the students. Overall the campus is very well built. Also, the open spaces on the campus have a great potential for beatification, work seems to have started in that direction with plantation of saplings and watering for grass cover.



Overall it was a very heart-warming experience; I wish all the very best to all the teachers and boys over there!