

Site Visit report of Apna Skool Project

Visiting Time and Date: 23rd February 2019 12:30 PM

Project name: APNA SKOOL

<https://ashanet.org/project/?pid=81>

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I got an opportunity to visit two of the Apna Skool centres being run



in Maharajpur area of Kanpur along with Asha fellow Mahesh Kumar. These are run for the children of migrant workers who work at brick kilns. The children studying in these centres come from very poor families whose parents are forced to migrate from one place to another annually for work. The work is seasonal in nature and migration result in

the lack of proper schooling for these children.

The distance between Maharajpur and Kanpur is 35 KMs and there are some 70-80 brick kilns in the area. We reached the Apna Skool centre run at Indra Brick Kiln II around 12.30 PM. This centre serves the children from 7-8 brick kilns. We met teacher Priyanka Gautam on arrival who was teaching Hindi to the students of Class I. Half of the students in the class were girls. The children were in the 5-8 year age group and most of them were from Hajipur district in Bihar. Majority of them were here for the first time. During interaction with them, we found that there was a difference between the old vs new in terms of learning. However, most of the students were able to write their



names in Hindi and recite a poem. Some of them like Akash were also able to tell the meaning of their names.

Meanwhile Apna Skool co-ordinator of the area BN Sharma also



He shared that there are 4 teachers and 4 classes are being run for the students from Class I to V. 136 children have enrolled at the centre and 95 of them were present on that day. The boy-girl ratio was almost equal. We then met with the students studying in class II, IV and V. There were 26

students in class II and 26 in III-V. The students here were more eager to share what they had learnt. For any student of their age-group, they were good at mathematical skills. Some 4-5 students came forward to share their learning of mathematical tables. Kirti studying in Class II and Preeti in Class V shared their experience of Apna Skool.

During mealtime, Kheer was served to the students. There were separate toilets for boys and girls. The classes at present are being run in the open.

We also visited the Apna Skool centre run in the same area at Dhamna primary school. It serves children of migrant workers from two brick kilns, 58 children are studying here and most of them are from Bihar. In Class I there are 33 students and in Class II-V 25. Here the attendance was 100 per cent and the classes are run within the school premises. When we reached the Class II-V period for general knowledge was in progress



students were learning about the capital cities of different states of India.



We asked them the related questions and most of the answers were correct. We also tested the basic English skills of students. They were able to write their names in English.

The challenge seemed to be bringing the learning skills of new students on par with old

students. This should be one of the focus areas of teachers' training. Teachers also need to consistently work on developing good hygiene habits in children. Every possible opportunity for parent-teacher interaction should be explored. We should look at introducing new learning techniques.

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Camera View







