

## **Site Visit to JBVS-Lodhar School in Jan. 2017**

I visited JBVS-Lodhar School on Jan. 11, 2017, for about four hours. I reached Lodhar School in the morning, accompanied by Madhav Ranganathan, the Project Partner and IIT-K professor.



We were greeted by Annapurna ji, the school principal. Madhav and I toured the school, before Madhav had to return to IIT-K campus. Annapurna ji then gave me a more detailed tour of the school with visits to individual classrooms and meet-and-greet with the students. Finally, we congregated in Annapurna ji's office and over an hour-long conversation, I learned about the school functioning and challenges.

### **The Premises**

Annapurna ji and Madhav showed me the school library where they house donated and purchased books for students and teachers to read. The library seemed to be well-stocked with books on different subjects and in both Hindi and English.



I was also shown the science lab room where students' creative projects were displayed and stored. The lab seemed to have basic equipment for science classes. There were colorful charts on the walls with information on different topics. The students and teachers' hard work was well in evidence.

I visited the computer lab where the computers were stacked in an orderly manner on desks against walls. When I visited, there was a computer class in progress. Two students each were working on a computer, experimenting with 'paint' and exploring features by drawing different objects.



I also toured different classes on both the floors of the school. I met briefly students from KG to standard VIII. The children were bright, smiling, and eager to learn. They were curious about me, but also focused on their studies when I stepped into their classrooms.



Overall, the school premises were clean, colorful, and organized. Students had made charts that covered the walls and there were pretty rangolis painted on the floor. Each classroom seemed to hold sufficient space for students' desks. All the students were wearing the winter school uniform and keeping everything clean and tidy.

### **Challenges**

After touring the school premises, I had a long chat with Annapurna ji about school functioning and challenges. Among the issues that the school is struggling with is replacing old and broken furniture and providing a sufficient of scholarships to students, especially to girls whose parents may be otherwise reluctant to spend limited incomes on their education.

It was clear from my visit that the School is flourishing and filling a real need in the village communities that it serves. I hope that Asha for Education will continue to support the School and its efforts in providing affordable and quality education to underprivileged student populations.

More school visit pics can be seen at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/oMMrbnM7ifCK1am63>