NAME OF THE PROJECT: **Scholarship for poor rural student.**

**NAME OF THE ORGANISATION RUNNING THE PROJECT: Nabarun Seva Niketan**

Site visit volunteer for Asha Sheffield: Mrs. Dolly Bhowmik

Date: 08.07.2014

Nabrun Seva Niketan (NSN) is a registered charity in West Bengal, India and actively participated social welfare program since 1976. As a part of their continuous effort to empower women, NSN offers scholarships to the girls from poorer background attending primary and secondary education. Asha Sheffield provides partial support towards this cause by sponsoring 10 students in academic year 2012-2013 and additional 10 students (a total of 20 students) in academic year 2013-2014.

On behalf of Asha Sheffield I visited Deulia Balika Vidyamandir (local Govt. High School) where the girls supported by Asha Sheffield are registered. On this occasion I directly visited the school and the girls (who were present on that day). The Head Mistress (HM) confirms the receipt of the scholarship amount (INR 34,000/-) for Yr 2012-13. The school authority distributed the scholarship to the selected 10 students (INR 3,400/- per girl) and explained the breakdown of the likely expenditure including cost for computer training and private tuitions (Further details are provided in the proposal). The observation reported a better academic result for most of the sponsored students with notable exception of one student, Mamoni Das who discontinued her study due to her marriage suggestion.

To my observation, while it is worth to provide support for text books, computer training etc., encouraging private tuition sets a bad precedent and Asha Sheffield should stress on that. It is also noted that extending sponsorship to needy students of higher classes (9th, 10th, 11th or 12th) is more important as they do not receive help from Govt. (e.g. Govt. provides free text books only upto class 8).

Overall, NSN has performed a good job and Asha Sheffield can consider actively involving themselves in the project.