



Navjyoti, Varanasi
Site Visit Report, November 2011

Navjyothi Project Site Visit, November 2011

Project Name:

Asha Trust - Navjyoti Swawalamban Sewa Sansthan

The organization provides primary education in 2 main centers and non-formal education in about 10 centers including 6 kishori kendras and more than 30 self help groups in eastern Uttar Pradesh. The organization also runs vocational training centers and supports various social causes. Asha Chicago provides support for teachers' salaries, training and school supplies.

URL:

<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=124>

Site Visit 7 am to 1 pm on November 17, 2011

Sowmya Karthikeyan, Asha Princeton Chapter Treasurer & Central Treasury Team 2010-12
and Mrs & Mr. Karthikeyan (Sowmya's parents)

Overall Impression:

Very impressed with the work, sincerity and passion of the coordinators and teachers, and the eagerness of the students. This project should definitely continue as it has a great impact in the communities.

How Asha can help:

Continue funding, reduce teachers' stress by communicating assurance of funding sooner, and provide newer computers that will work.



Eager to attend school, the students come in an hour before classes start.



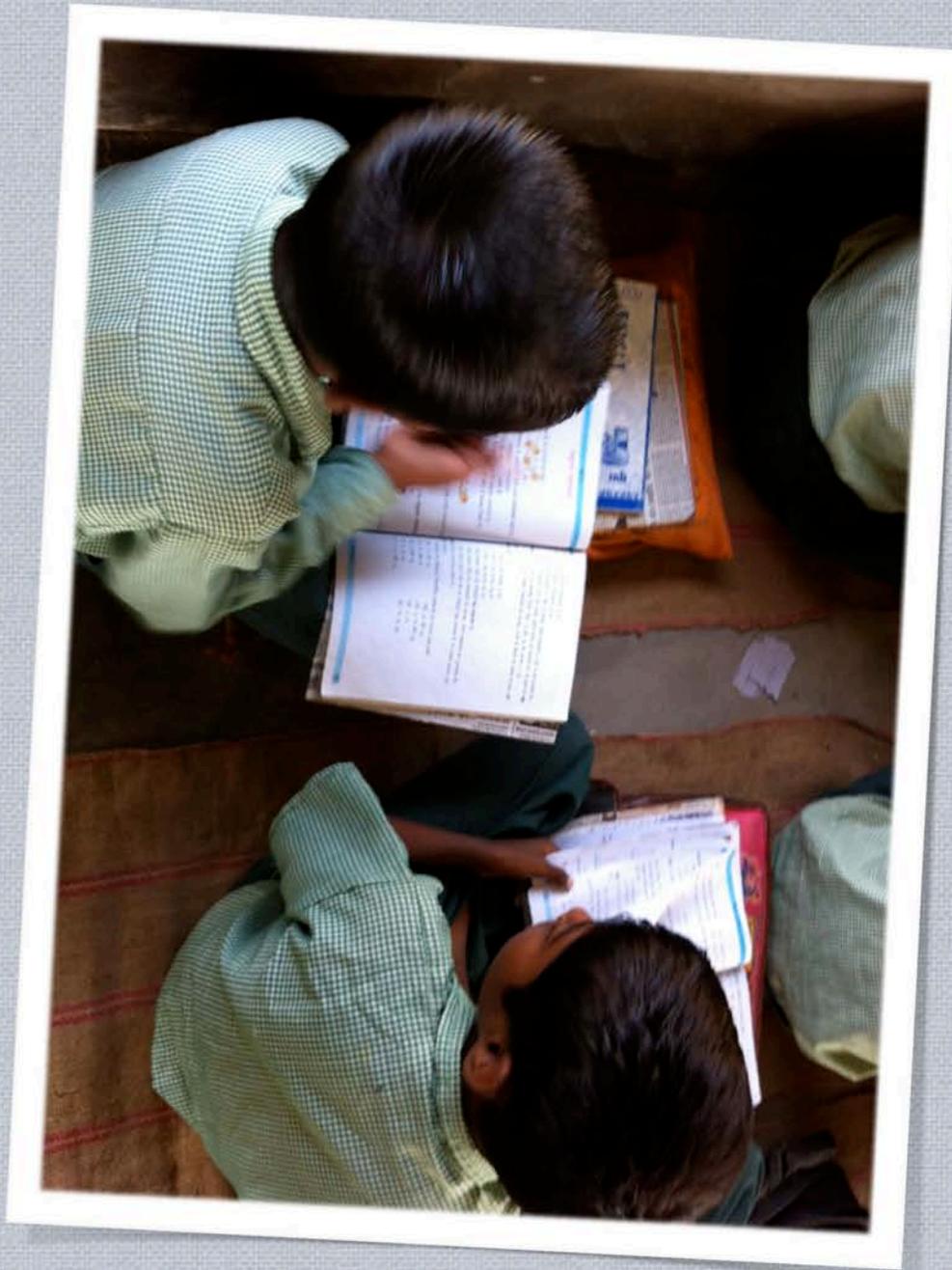
After some playing, the students do a bit of cleaning and get ready for the morning assembly - conducted by students themselves.



Classes 1 to 5 are taught in this school. After class 5, students can take an exam to join Class 6 at a registered school and continue studies.



Students were attentive and eager to participate in the class. The teachers, called Bhaiya and Didi by the students, ensure a fun learning environment.



Textbooks are provided by the State Government. Instructions are in Hindi.



Teaching material is stored in a separate staff room that the faculty uses. Attendance records and syllabus covered are meticulously saved.



The teachers and coordinators are sincere and extremely passionate in their efforts. They were concerned about continuation of funding from Asha.



Two computers provided by Asha Bangalore do not work. A third one from a different donor is being used by one student at a time while others watch and learn.

Mahila Center

We also visited a Mahila center in the same village. Thus was one of 8 centers, where women can learn sewing as a vocation.

This is also a space for the women to meet other women, and form a support network to discuss family and other social issues.

Navjyothi coordinators also use these centers as a forum for raising awareness on public health, hygiene and sanitation topics.

There are eight centers in different villages, using existing community building facilities.



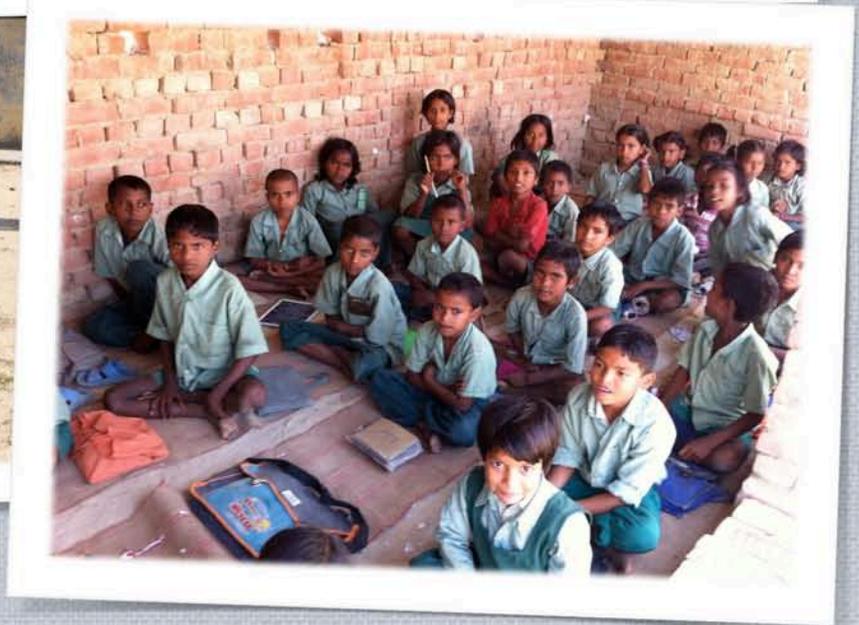
Ladies learn pattern-making for various clothing using smaller scale models that they create and share. It also helps them remember designs they learnt earlier.



Several ladies, young and newly married, regularly attend these centers every weekday. If they stop, one of the coordinators reaches out to the family to get them back.

Second Permanent School

We then drove to another a permanent school, also supported by Asha, a few kilometers away in a different village.



This school did not have toilet facilities or proper campus. The classrooms were unfinished.



This school also taught classes 1 to 5, and was in a more backward Dalit community.



The teachers are local, and have been with the center for many years. They expressed happiness in teaching and gratitude to Asha.