

Asha Darshan Oct 06 Site Visit Report

Kashyap Merchant

Vallabbhai, Govind, and Ranjana (Asha Varanasi) visited A-D during Oct 06 and send Asha – Silicon Valley the following progress report (http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/284/Site_visit_budget_detailed_06_detail_hindi.pdf). All the centers were visited during the trip and following is an English translation of the report we received in Hindi. (Note: this translation only covers the most important issues related to the education aspect of the report. The issues related to travel and other details of the trip have been omitted.)

Education Overview:

A-D operations (education and other social welfare activities) are spread over 50 villages across 40 KM and runs the following 11 centers

1. **Namati Education center:**

- school is 12x20 ft shed made of tin and bamboo
- Started 4 years ago
- 43/166 children present (18/43 girls)
- Low attendance due to Laksmi Pujan week long vacation
- 20 kids go to Middle school (not A-D run) is 6 Km away
- Mid day meal (MDM) scheme run from Nov 06 to June 06 – provided Rice, milk and Jaggery. MDM had resulted in better attendance.
- Army opening new center to be used for the school
- Village has water problems so filter has been provided

2. **Shantipur Education Center**

- Started recently in april 06
- Local population: Bengali, Dalit and Nepali
- 82/145 children present (36/82 girls). Usually 120 children come (82%)
- Middle school is 3km away
- No MDM here yet.
- School is new so children were found struggling.
- One more teacher required. Teachers need better training

3. **Satyanarayanpur Education Center:**

- Local population of Benagli, Assamese, Nepali and Bodo ~1300
- Well established center till 5th std. Now starting 6th & 7th as secondary school is very far
- 152/250 children present
- MDM provided till June 06. Attendance increased during that time.
- Villagers very satisfied and education level is good. Local MLA donated 50k to the school

4. **Pahadpur Education Center:**

- Started in April 06
- Local population: Bengali, nepali, santhal, bodo
- 4/36 present due to festival time
- No MDM given here

- **No supervision from A-D. Reason given center very remote**
5. **Nagapur Education Center:**
 - Started 4-5 years ago
 - Bodo region
 - 0/57 present. Most students go to government school. Schools closed due to durga pooja
 - Proposal: Move school to other end of village where students are willing to come
 6. **Sigramari Education Center:**
 - Bodo and senthal
 - 46/61 present (21/46 girls)
 - MDM given till june 06. Beneficial
 - Teaching and learning was satisfactory
 7. **Lakinarayanpur Education Center:**
 - local population is Bengali and nepali (1000)
 - 65/122 present
 - MDM till june 06
 - Venture school nearby has class 5,6 and 7 classes
 - Government school is 4km away. [*what kind of school ? What is the use of it?*]
 - Teaching level is satisfactory
 8. **Hajongbasti Education Center:**
 - started 4 years ago
 - local population Hanjong and Benagli
 - 32/155 present (19/32 girls)
 - Venture school for older kids. Government school close by has no teachers.
 - Student learning was average
 9. **Khumguri Education center:**
 - 18/50 present (7/18 girls)
 - Venture school in village center. A-D school is too far. Villagers want both schools/resources merged
 - Level of education not good
 - MDM provided till June 06
 - Village has lot of water problems and diseases (malaria)
 10. **Amaliguri Education center:**
 - started 4 years ago
 - 22/35 present(11/22 girls)
 - Government school is very close by. Not much use of A-D school
 - **No supervision from A-D as school is very remote**
 - **Suggestion: Close the center or relocate it to Dansang village**
 11. **Anthaihari Education Center:**
 - School is closed as teacher got married in Oct 06
 - Venture school is present and operational.

- Decision on school to be made based on discussion with villagers, ABSU (All Bodo Students Union), A-D and venture school
- **No supervision from A-D as school is very remote**

Mid Day Meal Overview:

- Started in villages that did not have government schools (as government schools were providing meals – stopped in Jan 06). From Nov 05
- Stopped June 06
- Teachers of the respective centers handle the transport of items.
- Rice, milk and Jaggery of value Rs 5 was provided
- Lead to increased attendance and performance. Villagers very happy
- Not possible to provide cooked food for the near future

Venture School Overview:

- unique community effort in assam started 20-25 years back
- teachers were the most learned persons of the village
- Only the schools with political connections got converted to government schools rest of the 15k schools remained venture schools
- State of VS is not good. Teachers going through hardships

Other updates:

- Bought motorcycles for travel worth 43k using loan from Savika Niketan
- Visited land allocated to A-D to develop center @ tamalpur. It is not developed yet. Funds of Rs 2.75 lacs allocated from WAH 2005
- Problems in working with Bodo regions as local population is heavily influenced by ABSU
- A-D opened a shop (rented) in Tamalpur sell SHG items
- 10 A-D children died due to diseases
- Village Garughutu needs funds for its venture school
- Pranab a new member of Asha Darshan and will provide reports to Asha SV

Suggestions:

- More teacher training required. Separate for bodo teachers
- Nagapur, pahadpur, anthaiburi and Amaiguri centers be given more attention
- Run MDM in all centers
- Children should be given regular health checkups and vaccination.
- Self Help groups should help in A-D schools.
- Get a list of Assamese text books to create library at the center
- A-D should send regular reports and Asha SV should also keep regular contact with A-D

Budget for 2007:

http://www.ashanet.org/projects-new/documents/284/Site_visit_budget_detailed_06_detail_hindi.pdf