Yearly Information Survey (2010-11)

Part I: Organization Profile

(Update this part if necessary, otherwise you can leave it as it is)

Name of the organization: BHOOMIHEEN SEWA SAMITI

Date of establishment: 1980

Location: The Society's headquarters are at Allahabad, but the centre of its activity is in Aau village (Atarra tehsil) of Banda district.

Description of area: Aau is a village in Atarra tehsil of Banda district of Uttar Pradesh. It is at a distance of about 40 km from Banda and about 5 km from Atarra on the road to Baberu, another tehsil headquarters. Aau has a population of about 3,000 made up roughly of 360 families. Of these, 250 families, i.e. more than 69%, live below the poverty line. Most of these are Dalits. The educational endeavour at Aau is targeted primarily (but not exclusively) for the uplift of the children of these landless Dalits. The school is in three parts, a non-formal and innovative primary school (including a school readiness programme), a formal but innovative middle school, and a vocational high school.

Current contact person LALIT UNIYAL

Current Address 6A, PANNA LAL ROAD,
ALLAHABAD 211 002,
U.P., INDIA
E-mail: ulalit@sancharnet.in
bsewaald@dataone.in

Current Phone number
At Allahabad: 0532-2256448**/** 2256757. Mobile: + 91-9415218562
At Aau village: School = +91-9235963201/ Primary School = +91-9236246210/ Head Master = +91-9451091694

Part II: Annual Update

1) *Please give a class wise break up of number of students (from pre-primary to high-school). Also mention boy/girl ratio.*

As on July 2010

Class	*No. of Students*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Scheduled Caste children*	*Boy/Girl Ratio*
0 (Pre-primary)	23	10	13	12	10/13 = 76.9%
1	37	18	19	17	18/19 = 94.7%
2	36	18	18	16	18/18 = 100%
3	36	17	19	16	17/19 = 89.5%
4	34	18	16	16	18/16 = 112.5%
5	31	20	11	16	20/11 = 181.8%
Total Primary & Pre-primary	197	101	96	93	101/96 = 105.2%
6	32	20	12	13	20/12 = 166. 7%

7	33	19	14	10	19/14 = 135.7%
8	31	23	08	11	23/8 = 287.5%
Total Middle School	96	62	34	34	62/34 = 182.4%
9	17	10	07	07	10/7 = 142.9%
10	14	04	10	03	4/10 = 40%
Total High School	31	14	17	10	14/17 = 82.4%
Grand Total	324	177	147	137	177/147=120.4%

2) *How many teachers are there in your school (specify break-up in pre-primary, primary, middle and high-school)?*

Class	Teachers	Trainers	Other staff	Total
0 (Pre-primary	1		1 (help plus cook for primary and prep)	2
Primary	6 + 1 Music Teacher		1 peon	8
Middle School	5 (paid by state government)		1 clerk, 2 peons – (paid by state government)	[*8, all paid by state government*]
High School	**3**			**3**
Trainers		Sheet Metal 1, Tailoring 1, Beautician 1, (Mushroom, Vermicomposting, Agriculture) 1, Radio-TV Repairs 1, Motor Winding 1		6 (3 full time)
Computer Teachers (for classes 4 to 10)		3 Computer Teachers		3
Other Staff		3 Administrative staff at Headquarters at Allahabad	1 Security Personnel	4
Grand Total (Staff and teachers paid by Asha)				26

3) *What was the dropout rate last year? What were the main reasons for drop out?*

Class	*Dropouts*	*Boys*	*Girls*	*Scheduled Caste*	*Reason*
0 (Pre-primary)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4	01	Nil	01	01	Parents left for work in Punjab; took the girl along.
5	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Primary & Pre-primary	01	Nil	01	01	
6	01	01	Nil	01	Father died, the boy stopped attending.
7	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8	01	01	Nil	Nil	Father took up work in Ludhiana; the boy left too.
Total Middle School	02	02	Nil	01	
9	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
10	01	01	Nil	01	A student's labouring father broke his leg; so the son was compelled to take up work as labour on behalf of the family.
Total High School	01	01	Nil	01	
Grand Total	**4**	**03**	**01**	**03**	

4) How was the school attendance last year? Do you see any trends over the years?

Class	*Attendance Percentage*
0 (Pre-primary)	60.7%
1	78.2%
2	80%
3	77.5%
4	83.3%
5	84.3%
6	80.5%
7	89.0%
8	79.8%
9	73.5%
10	75.2%

It is difficult to indicate trends, because there are many variables – holidays declared by the state government, unanticipated winter closures on account of cold wave, problems of families arising out of fluctuations in agricultural production, etc.

5) Do you have a way to track students who graduate from the school? Roughly what percentage of them go for higher education?

We have a list of ex-students. We are trying to maintain contacts with them, and to an extent we are successful in this. But it needs to be understood that the concept of Alma Mater is essentially an urban one. For villagers loyalty to an institution is still an alien concept. Loyalty to individuals and groups, especially family and caste, is more natural for them. Our guesstimate is that roughly 25% of our students go for higher education, i.e. BA etc. With the starting of our High School this percentage will definitely go up.

6) *Over the years, have older students who had graduated many years back come back to serve the village or the school (as teachers or any other ways)?*

There is no such trend. The reason has been stated above. But some old students did apply in response to vacancies advertised. Our selections however are strictly on merit.

7) *What were the highlights of last year? Things that went well for the school & the community in general.*

There has been improvement in academics at our High School level, especially in English. A girl got 72% marks in the subject, which is quite an achievement for a village girl and a village school.

In agriculture, Mushroom Production was successful, and the quality was declared excellent by a top restaurant in Allahabad to whom I had sold some of our produce.

Our Vocational Education (skill development) programme appears to have stabilised. Our students are taking it quite seriously.

8) *What areas need improvement in your opinion? What are the problems you faced last year? How do you plan to address those issues? How can Asha support you in those areas?*

The priority area where steady improvement is needed is academic teaching. Our Teacher Development programme needs to be enriched.

Asha can help (i) financially and (ii) by sharing information about organisations that specialise in specific subjects.

9) *Beyond the school, what changes do you see in the community over the past few years? What impact did that have for Bhoomiheen?*

(i) Land re-distribution has been the single biggest event in Aau. It has encouraged the process of democratisation and to an extent liberated the deprived groups. Education in the largest sense has now become the most important need for them – and they seek it.

(ii) Girls are definitely becoming keener on education. Some of them have been repeatedly requesting me to upgrade the school to 12th level.

10) *What are your focus areas for the next year? Things that you want to work on in the short term and in the long-term both in terms of the school and outside.*

Although there is now a demand for upgrading our High School to the Intermediate (12th) level, the immediate and short-term task as we see it is **not Growth but Consolidation**. This means (i) Stabilising Finances; (ii) Improving the Quality of Teaching; and (iii) Improving the Quality of Vocational Education (Skill Development).

Our vocational education (skill development) programme has been inspected by NIOS. The inspectors have recommendation recognition/accreditation. When the Head Office grants us accreditation (as we hope it will), the school will acquire equivalence with an ITI (Industrial Training Institute). This is in addition

to its being an academic institute. This will certainly be a valuable contribution to the area. A few days back I was in Aau, and some old students approached me for admission to our vocational courses.

So, for the ***long-term***, development of vocational courses and upgradation to 12th level could be key objectives.

One change of policy that has occurred in UP is that Maths and Science are no longer compulsory for boys in High School, as they earlier were. We will of course continue to offer these subjects, but this change opens up the possibility of introducing **Commerce** as a subject in High School. This will go well with our vocational courses. This too is a ***long-term*** objective or possibility.

11) Anything else that you would like to tell us?

Please continue to support our work. Actually, we need more funds than before. But if the US economic crisis does not ease out, please do try to support us as long as possible.

12) How can Asha better serve your needs?

In the ways already mentioned – by continuing to provide financial help and by sharing information about organisations that specialise in teaching specific subjects.