

Asha for Education - Silicon Valley Chapter Savidya Upasamiti :: 2006-07 Annual Report

Since 2005, Asha for Education - Silicon Valley Chapter (AshaSV) has been working with the Savidya Upasamiti, an NGO based in Champawat and Haldwani, Uttarakhand, to improve the quality of school education in the district. In 2004-05, the project “adopted” a primary school – the *Prathamik Pathashala*, Kulethi village – and helped to augment the school’s facilities and teaching resources. In 2005-06, the project was extended further to include 2 additional schools – the Subhash Nagar Govt. Primary School, Haldwani and the Girls Junior High School, Dungra Sethi. A total of 338 children benefited from the project.

Here is an update of the project’s activities for 2006-07:

Prathamik Pathashala, Kulethi and Girls Junior High School, Dungra Sethi

- Savidya appointed 3 full-time teachers and 2 part-time teachers at Kulethi, and 2 part-time teachers at Dungra Sethi.
- The Savidya-supported teachers organized special classes on music, games, mathematics etc. for interested students during the winter break.
- School uniforms and study kits were distributed to the children in the schools.
- The library at the Kulethi school was expanded. It now houses 425 books.
- 2 new computers were installed at the Dungra Sethi school.
- A school playground was constructed at Kulethi in Dec 2006. Benches and chairs were also provided for every classroom.
- On 7 Jan 2007, the students from both schools organized a rally for the Pulse Polio campaign to spread awareness about polio and polio vaccination programs.
- In July, August and September 2007, Savidya conducted academic tests in both schools to ascertain the academic progress of the children.
- A health camp was organized on 16 Feb 2007. The school children were given Hepatitis-B vaccines. The height and weight of the students were recorded, and the school authorities are monitoring these on a regular basis. A first-aid box was also installed at both schools. At the Kulethi school, 2 students were operated for cleft lip and palate deformity.
- The students are being provided with de-worming, Liv-52 and calcium tablets everyday after their mid-day meals.
- The schools organized student “learning trips” to various local government and private institutions such as the district administrative offices, local police stations, hospitals, vocational training institutes and industrial plants.
- A cleanliness drive was organized in the Kulethi school on 10 Sep 2007 to mark the birth anniversary of Prof. GB Pant (the first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, a former Home Minister in the Govt. of India and a recipient of the *Bharat Ratna*).
- Various cultural events were organized in both schools on 2 Oct 2006 (Gandhi Jayanti), 14 Nov 2006 (Children’s Day), 26 Jan 2007 (Republic Day), 15 Aug 2007 (Independence Day) and 5 Sep 2007 (Teachers Day).
- A project committee was formed in the school to oversee the developments in the both schools. This committee is made up of members of the *Gram Shikshya Samiti* (Village Educational Council), *Vidhyalay Prabandhan Samiti* (School Operations Committee) and selected students and parents/guardians.
- Savidya organized numerous meetings between the teachers and the parents/guardians of the students to increase the parents’/guardians’ awareness about their children’s education.
- Savidya also set up a *Siddha Jagaran Seva Samiti* in Champawat comprising of student volunteers from local schools and local graduates. This *Samiti* acts as an active forum to increase awareness about the educational problems faced by the children and seeks to educate the guardians and village elders of their rights and duties towards the children. This move was inspired by the Pa Ba Ma setup of the Mountain Childrens Forum, whose volunteers visited the project in February 2007.
- A tree plantation drive was undertaken in the Kulethi school in July 2007. The school students planted 20 *deodar* and 20 *surai* plants. The District Forest Officer provided the saplings from the official nursery.

- In addition,
 - a. The construction of the Science Center at the Kulethi school was completed. The grant for this center was provided by Capt. Satish Sharma, Rajya Sabha MP, under the MPLADS (MP Local Area Development Scheme).
 - b. A boundary wall around the Kulethi school and an additional classroom were constructed with funds allocated under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan. Local residents participated in the construction of the wall under a *shram-daan* initiative.
 - c. In Dec 2006, separate toilets for boys and girls were built at the Kulethi school with funds allocated under the Swajal Yojana by the Govt. of India.
 - d. The district administration has decided to build a set of offices in the grounds adjacent to the Dungra Sethi school. As a result, the school shall be moved to a new location a quarter of a mile away. At this new location, the school shall be approachable by a paved road, but there will not be any playground for the children. Savidya is trying to convince the local authorities to allot a nearby ground for use by the school children.

Govt. Primary School, Subhash Nagar

- 2 new teachers were appointed as per the project's requirements.
- In 2006-07, the school reported that none of its students had failed in the annual examinations.
- The school is the only primary school in Haldwani which imparts computer education to the children.
- A health camp was organized at the Subhash Nagar Primary School, Haldwani on 20 Sept 2006 and on 15 Feb 2007. Four doctors and two nurses from the local hospitals participated in the health camp. A first-aid box was installed at the school.
- The students are being provided with de-worming, Liv-52 and calcium tablets everyday after their mid-day meals.
- Raincoats and umbrellas were distributed to the children in both schools.
- School students participated in various sporting and cultural activities in the city and district. They won numerous prizes in various inter-school competitions.
- The school playground was completely redone when the local residents joined the school's staff, students and their parents in a voluntary effort to upgrade the playgrounds in the school premises.
- The school has organized a "Clean Campus" program, wherein, once a week, the students of various classes take turns in cleaning the school campus by collecting twigs, dry leaves etc. from the school premises and collecting them in designated bins. The school hopes that this weekly activity will teach the children basic civic skills in keeping their homes and neighborhoods clean.
- Various cultural events were organized in the school on 2 Oct 2006 (Gandhi Jayanti), 14 Nov 2006 (Children's Day), 26 Jan 2007 (Republic Day), 15 Aug 2007 (Independence Day) and 5 Sep 2007 (Teachers Day).

Other developments

- In late 2006, Shri Diwan was appointed as a project manager to oversee the day-to-day operations in the project in the Kulethi and Dungra Sethi schools in Champawat.
- Volunteers from the Mountain Childrens Forum, Dehra Dun, visited the project in February 2007, and submitted a report on the ongoing activities.

Summary

- Savidya has accomplished all tasks detailed in the 2006-07 project proposal. In addition, Savidya has acted upon the recommendations in the site-visit report and increased the parent-teacher-community interactions in the schools.
- Student and teacher attendance have been high throughout the academic year in all the schools.
- Savidya has organized numerous interactions between the schools (ie. students, teachers, parents/guardians) and the local authorities to encourage greater support by the government officials in the schools' educational and non-educational initiatives.



Figure 1 A function organized at the Kulethi school on 8 Feb 2007. School uniforms were distributed to the children.



Figure 2 House emblems for the Dungra Sethi and Kulethi schools. (from top-left, clockwise) Emblems of the Raman House (Dungra Sethi school); and the Mother Teresa House, Tagore House and Marie Curie House (Kulethi school).



Figure 3 Health camp organized at the Kulethi school on 16 Feb 2007.



Figure 4 Health camp organized at the Dungra Sethi school on 16 Feb 2007.



Figure 5 Parents - teachers meeting at the Kulethi school on 19 Apr 2007.



Figure 6 Teachers and guardians from the Kulethi school meeting the District Magistrate at his Dungra Sethi office.



Figure 7 Students from the Kulethi school walking towards the Dungra Sethi school for a function, on 22 Apr 2007



Figure 8 Students from the Kulethi school at an inter-school meet in Dungra Sethi on 22 Apr 2007.



Figure 9 Children from the Dungra Sethi and Kulethi schools at an inter-school function organized at the Dungra Sethi school on 22 Apr 2007



Figure 10 Children from the Dunga Sethi and Kulethi school at an inter-school function organized at the Dunga Sethi school on 22 Apr 2007



Figure 11 Children from the Dungra Sethi and Kulethi school at an inter-school function organized at the Dungra Sethi school on 22 Apr 2007. The District Magistrate distributed school bags and study kits to the children at the meet.