

Savidya report

Note:

- All events are written in hierarchy .
- In conclusion there are some points to be noted including my comments.
- Day4 should be read with special attention.

Day 1:

I reached Haldwani by morning 7am and met Prof. Bisht for the first time. I recieved a warm welcome. Then Prof. Bisht told me a lot about the project and forthcoming events. He also told me how he came in contact with ashanet. After taking rest for an hour he took me to the Subhash Nagar School. He told me the performance of school is ok but there was some problem from school side in opening of a computer room.

As the school was closed I couldn't interact with the children over there. In the mean time Prof. Bisht told me about the vocational training they were going to organize for computers etc, . Meanwhile Mr. Joshi, who takes care of funds collected and spent covering all the sub-projects under savidya, came and updated the records. Record needed to be updated as recently some money was spent for buying raincoats for kids.

Here was a bit of communication problem as the inauguration of training program was after 4-5 days and still the following were not yet finalized:

- Final list of students going to participate.
- List of teachers going to volunteer.
- Fees (formal, refundable) to be charged for maximum attendance.

Still the principle of concerned school was relaxed saying everything is under control and all arrangements will be made in time.

Notes:

- Prof. Bisht , need not say, is more than committed for the social welfare.
- There is definitely some lack of communication between different schools and other members. Even Prof. Bisht was a bit annoyed.
- Money given by Ashanet is fully utilized and going the way it is intended to go.

Day 2:

As decided earlier we headed towards Amrapali Institute to meet Mr. Pandey. He is a busy man. As the coordinator told me the third year was about to begin for B.Tech students and placements thereafter. After meeting Mr. Pandey, I told him about my wish to volunteer for Vocational training program for which he replied in affirmative. Later in some light moments I interacted with few undergraduates and a French couple. Nothing more productive could happen that day as Prof. Bisht was busy taking interviews and in meeting with college authorities.

Day 3:

The traveling day. I started at morning 5 for champavat. I reached there by evening 4. I met Mr. Kamlesh rasaira who made the arrangements for my stay and food. As it was too late we decided to go to schools the next day. Here again I would like to point out lack of communication as

- My arrangements were made in a hotel room whereas Prof. Bisht directed them to make it at the place where I was suppose to stay during my internship and is comparatively cheap.
- I had to find a separate place to eat as it was told in a restaurant to not allow me to pay and bill to be given to them so that it will be later reimbursed by Ashanet.
- Prof. Bisht later told me about the arrangements that “they think money is coming from some govt. organization, they spent luxuriously but we have limited funds.”

Day 4:

Early morning I reached **Dhakna school** accompanied by the curator of the science centre. The morning prayer was going on that time over there. The principal of the school was absent as some training was going on and other teachers were reluctant to talk to me. Then I had to initiate of my own and I asked a senior teacher over there about the student’s progress. In the mean time Mr. Phulara arrived easing out the proceedings. It is a school till class 5th. I asked the students some simple mathematic problems which they answered.



Curator, science centre,& teachers at Dhakna. Mr. Phulara at the back

What I observed after this school visit is:

- There is definitely some input given to students as without it output which they gave me is not possible
- Students had to sit outside(extreme right) for classes as the classroom(right side) was filled with water due to heavy rain.
- Material distributed by ashnet (bags ,uniforms ,etc.,) reached its intended destination.

After spending some time there we headed towards Dungrasethi. We first went to **primary school** there. As new session was about to begin , teachers were teaching English and Hindi subjects. Classes were going normally and here again major portion of students knew what they are reading.

Then we reached **Dungrasethi junior school**. Situation was a bit different here. No teachers were present except a teacher provided by savidya and the principal himself. All govt. teachers went for some other govt. work. I don't remember the reason why the principal hadn't been to the training. Two classes combined were going on and the physical education teacher was teaching Hindi. After introduction the principal opened his complaint box and demanded for some teachers from savidya. What I observed after this visit is:

- Demand of principal for more teachers for this situation was unnecessary as if provided they will be sitting idle in the presence of a complete staff.

- Situation of students here was not good. The complete class was not able to answer the simple questions on simultaneous equations and science as well , which they have already learnt.
- Few frontbenchers, especially girls, knew a bit of subject but not much.
- Leaving few, situation of class was horrible in science and math.
- Computer facilities were available in the school for the kids.
- A new building for school is under construction as the old one is in the state of collapse.

After interacting here we headed towards the **Kulethi School**. This is the most organized school as is under the direct invigilation of Mr. M.S. Rasaira. Also it homes the science centre of the district.



Mid-day meal in Kulethi School. Mr. Diwan singh(manager) in picture

After reaching here I was introduced to various people who volunteer for the cause. In the photograph below, from left – Curator, Mr. Diwan singh , Mr. Rasaira, Mr. M.S. Rasaira, Mr. Phulara. The view is inside library. Computer facility is in the same room.



During light moments while sipping tea we talked about the current education scenario in district and the steps they are taking to make education more interesting for savidya kids. The steps were like introduction of charts for visual introduction of concepts. These funds they arrange within themselves. Also they keep rotating library books and sports materials within schools so that everybody makes use of whatever is available.

After tea I attended the science experiments demonstration given by curator to Kharakkarki School (the other one adopted by savidya). The topic was centre of gravity.



Kids looking at the demonstration in science centre.

I gave a helping hand in demonstration in the way I could. At the end I asked students of that school about the problem they are facing in studying. Instead of concepts I got to know they were in desperate need of sport material. Rest, those kids were good in studies (especially a front bencher- Arjun singh).

It was 12:30 already so I gave up the plan to go to Kharakkarki School. As it would have been close by the time I reach there.