

Site Visit Report for project Khelwadi, Parivartan

Place: Two classes in Ghanval school, Mokhada

Date: 20th July, 2013 (approximately 4 hours)

Khelwadi project is in a beginning stage. Hence, this site visit reports the activities going on at school premises and information collected through Balmitra and other volunteers working at school. During site visit at Mokhada, we attended two such classes in one school at Ghanval, Mokhada that have started just one week back. According to the project proposal of Balmitra, extra two hours classes have been proposed for students of 1st to 4th standard after school hours. These classes are supposed to be more interactive sessions than regular school classes in order to enhance students understanding of language (Marathi) and math especially which are poorly developed by attending regular school. School takes place regularly in this area however it is not able to achieve progress of students upto the mark.



School at Ghanval, Mokhada



Mrs. Varshatai teaching classes.

While working in Mokhada region Parivartan group realized that students in these schools can speak words, sing songs or even remember tables very well. However, they cannot read the same. These students are very weak in reading, writing and expressing their thoughts. Hence, one pretest was conducted for students from 1st to 4th standard and survey forms were filled from their parents. Pretest form is attached in mail attachment. The result of pretest was found to be poor. 4th standard student's performance was not different than 1st standard student's performance. These results were shocking. The tests were also very simple considering this as a tribal area. Now the question was how would these students survive when they step outside Mokhada in metro cities like Thane, Mumbai or Pune. From survey forms it was found that every year farmers from Mokhada region go to cities for few months for work as they do not have any agricultural work at that time. Hence Parivartan Sanstha decided to propose a Khelwadi project. The idea is to work with these students for 2 hours Monday to Saturday after school hours. These extra hours would teach them to read, write especially topics related to

language and Maths. During our visit, we were able to see three such reading games- number game, words game and storytelling.

Mrs. Varshatai is a one of the key persons in Parivartan Santha. She takes care of Balmitra, students and activities and overall project. Balmitra come regularly and Varshatai gives surprise visit occasionally. Currently three Balmitra are teaching these sessions in two different classes in one school where total number of students (1st standard to 4th standard) are approximately ninety-seven.



Number game



Balmitra Chetan doing writing exercise

One of the games is number game. On square cardboard paper, numbers are written from one to ten in different orders. Balmitra announces one number and students are supposed to find that number on square board. Whoever will be able to finish his table fast, everybody will clap for him/her.



Number - word game



Students identifying words from Balmitra Baburao

Other game is number-word game. One board has labels like year, date, month, day. Separate cards are kept for all days (Monday-Sunday), months (January-December), years (2013...) and date. Students are supposed to pick up correct month/day/year/day and put it below label reading month.



Chetan conducting number game



Chetan teaching how to write number on board

Both these games have helped students to read month, date, year and day. Since this education is through words students seems to be enjoying and willing to come ahead to give answer. In addition to these activities, few interactive songs are also taught in Khelwadi. These songs are taught such a way that students are asked to act on it while singing. Balmitra first sings a line of song with body gestures and students follow that line and his actions. Here are few pictures of it. Some videos of these songs are also recorded. These songs are selected such that at the end of last line few sensible connected questions are asked linked to the song. E.g. did you brush your teeth just like a monkey in the song? What do you use to brush your teeth?



Singing songs



In our visit, we could see enthusiastic Balmitra working with students to improve their reading and writing abilities. When we visited the place, this Khelwadi just finished one week but still we could see their strong participation and good bonding with Balmitra. Generally, trust is the big factor in such backward areas and making students talk is one big task. These students are scared to interact with teachers in class but seem to be free with Balmitra. Thus, this Parivatran group and Balmitra have done good job. During conversations with Varshatai and Sujit we came to know that soon Dhyanprabodhini (Pune) volunteers will be visiting this place for two to three days. After interactions with students, Dhyanprabodhini will be able to suggest few more interactive games. This project foundations and work looks very strong to us. This project approval will definitely help lot of students to really learn and write which school is unable to provide.