

**Inception Report on Learning and Support Centre (LSC) at Agahpur village,
Sector-41, Noida (U.P.), India**

1.1 Need Assessment in the area:

SADRAG conducted a door to door survey for ‘out of school’ children in Agahpur village and its immediate vicinity in the month of April - May 08. A team of two facilitators, Ms Santosh and Ms Kavita, who belong to the same village did the survey. They are now working as full time facilitators in the centre.

During the survey, around 215 children were found ‘out of school’. Out of these, around 11 children were found working in petty shops like tea stall or road side eateries in that area. The remaining children either while way their time in village lanes or look after their younger siblings when their parents go to work. All of these children belong to the migrant population category of Noida. They are all settled in jhuggies lined up along the village periphery.

1.2 The Initiation Process:

Along with the survey, talks with the Pradhan (headman) of Agahpur village were initiated to access the Barat Ghar (community centre) for the community children. The permission was granted and the children started coming to the centre from **12 May 2008** onwards. This barat ghar is situated at the fag end of the village. It leads to a lane which opens into the beautiful private houses of sector-41.

1.3 The Present Status:

The centre began with a few children and now presently a full fledged centre is operational with 25 children with 18 boys and 7 girls in regular rolls. It is functional six days a week from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the evening.

The following Day Long Schedule is followed in the centre:

Time	Activity
9.45 – 10.15 a.m.	Prayer and physical exercise
10.15 a.m - 10.45 a.m.	Study - Maths
10.45 – 11.30 a.m	Study - English
11.30 – 12 a.m	Study – General Knowledge
12 – 12.30 p.m	Study - Hindi
12.30 – 1 p.m	LUNCH TIME*
1 – 1.30 p.m	(ORAL) Rhymes, poems, alphabets, counting
1.30 – 3 p.m.	Drawing & colouring

3 – 4 p.m.	Games
4 – 5 p.m.	Revision / Recap of the day

* They either bring their Tiffin from home or go home to eat if it is close by.

1.4 Interaction with the Parents:

A meeting with parents of the community children was held between 1 to 3 p.m. on 20 June 08. There were 10 parents present in the meeting. The parental perspective was very positive and they very much want to send their children to the centre. They cited many reasons as to why they are not sending their children to school. Some of them being: difficult process of admissions in government schools, poor quality and meaningless education imparted in schools, household chores at home, care of younger siblings and of course, insufficient income of the family.

The facilitators interacted with the parents and convinced them about the need for education for their children. Since it was the first parental interaction, time was spent more in knowing about each other as well as about the organization.

1.5 Major Challenges:

The following challenges faced by Agahpur LSC were discussed in staff meeting on 3 July 08.

S.No.	Issues	Decision taken
1.	Smaller siblings at home so children can not come to centre	Smaller siblings to be sent to Angarvadis, run by the government in an adjoining primary school
2.	Household chores do not let them attend the centre especially the girls	Let them come for whatever time they can come to begin with
3.	A few children do not want to study at all.	Let them come and only play the games to begin with, do not force them to study
4.	Since the children live in kacchha jhuggies, they can not attend the centre during rains	Never mind, wait for them
5.	Since both the parents go to work, children have to stay at home	Convince the parents to send their children for safety sake
6.	Lack of space for keeping teaching material*.	Requesting the pradhan for a room in the adjoining school.

* The teaching material is presently kept in a room in the barat ghar which is used by the caretaker of the complex.
