

Besuch bei Ugta Suraj am 26. Juli 2017 von unserer Ambassadorin Rohini Muthuswami in Delhi.

I reached the Sadrag office at 1pm on Wednesday and had a chat with Mala.

The nutrition is still a sticking point and she said she is giving buttermilk. With the implement of the new tax regime, things have become more difficult as they are expected to show bills for every purchase. Therefore, they can buy food only from stores that will give them a bill. As these shops are not close to the centers and there is no storage facility, **nutrition scheme is not going to work.**

As you must know, **Khurram is the new coordinator** for the centers. He has just finished his Master's degree in Social work and is enthusiastic. He took me around. He seems to have grasped the main issues that Sadrag is facing.

Hoshiarpur center - This center continues to be in a pathetic state and I felt sorry for both the facilitators and the children. Last year when I visited the center, building materials had been piled up in front of the door. This year too it was just the same. Khurram told me that the old lot of material had been cleared but now the owner of the building just next to the center is building additional floors and has decided to dump the materials in front of the center. The villagers do not seem to care at all that it is their children who are being educated. A week or so back, a child got electrocuted in the village. So the electricity department has decided to cut electricity in public areas. Therefore, the center has no electricity. There is barely a window and in this weather (it is hot and humid), the teachers and the children need to be commended for their patience.

Neetu and Rinku are teaching at this center.

There are about 35-40 students enrolled. All the children, barring two, from the previous year are going to formal schools. In one case, the child had been enrolled in govt. school but her mother had a baby. So the child has been told to look after the baby as the mother has to get back to work. Khurram has tried to explain the position to the mother but now the child was again at the center. She told me that she will rejoin the school after three months but Khurram feels that her name will be removed from the register if she does not go to school for three months. In the other case, the school felt that the child was too old for the junior class but was not up to the standard for the senior class. So Khurram has asked me to continue at the center and try again for the senior class next year. The teaching has not commenced in this center. The teachers are still trying to get the children to come to the center regularly and they are focusing on other activities. However, formal teaching will start from August.

Nagla Center - This center is in a good shape. There is electricity and the teachers have ensured that there is now a fan. A fridge too has been installed and really, I think at least at this center the nutrition program can be implemented. But it depends on Mala.

Here too new children have been admitted. However, teaching has started in this center. When I visited the center, **teacher Babita** was reading a story to the children and she was doing a good job. **Prachi is the other teacher** who joined last year. The children are eager to learn and they seem enthusiastic.

This is all I have to report from Sadrag. Overall it is going well. And I was happy with Khurram as I felt he was focussing on the centers. He seems to be regularly visiting the centers and he is interacting with the teachers. So let us hope he stays on for some time with Sadrag.

regards

rohini

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