

VARUN status report February 2006- answers to noon questions

1) Bee keeping: "At initial level we are starting to run the programme in above four villages with 5 units. Money has been arranged and everything is ready to hit the bull. It is expected to invest approximately Rs.15000/-. It is a pilot project, further extension of the programme will be depending upon the success of the pilot project."

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- What is the status?

VARUN : The status is exciting in our opinion because people are seriously interested and involved. From first week of December we started and within 4 months period they are obtaining honey @ 8-10 Kg. per unit (harvesting period). In coming days when the Mahuwa blooming on the peak (approximately 20-25 days from now) may start getting 15-20 Kg. per unit, simultaneously the number of bees will increase quantitatively and qualitatively.

Since it is a pilot project and is at the infantile stage but the results are awaited and the that should be hopeful as of indication till now.

- When has the pilot project started? How many villages and how many units per village?

VARUN- The pilot project was started in the month of December 2005. At initial level we have started from 5 units in following villages : Lerha, Semarsadhapur, Batauwa, Nonwat (with one unit in each village). Presently it is spread in five more villages i.e. Parsia (3 units), Danogarh (1 units), Bajardiha (2 units), Chakargatta (2 units), Parsahwa (2).

- What are the Future plans and when?

VARUN : We plan to replicate the same throughout the Naugarh block. In whole process it may take a quite longer period of time. The exact period can be helter skelter right now to predict because it will be depending upon fund, training and willingness of the community people. But we are excited if we properly communicate them the results of pilot project, they must imitate and involved in the process of income generation through beekeeping.

2) Middle School: "The Govt. of the state (Province) is planning to make middle school accessible by all up to 2007. ... Vaguely, because Govt. is planning to run the middle school, upon failure of them we can do the same."

=> Yes, I agree totally.

- What is the current status from the govt. side?

VARUN : State Education Department has sanctioned a total of 7 middle schools in the whole block of Naugarh (according to nice man, Coordinator Block Resource Centre). Construction of the schools started but due to scarcity of water the construction work has been stopped. In nutshell we let you know that govt. decision and policy is a kind of enigma. Even their people do not know the completion period then how can be? We can just pursue but not influence but we are constantly in touch with them to know the situation.

- How do you stay up to date?

VARUN : Up to date the foundation of school building is laid down but construction has been stopped. No person can give exact information when and how.

- Can you influence, force or motivate the govt. in order to advance the building of schools?

VARUN : No, not exactly.

3) Shahpur: "If in other village we go for education it is a nice idea, but not in haphazard way, because education has a proper system everywhere, after completing one, you can start further. Definitely your idea is good. You may provide further your suggestion. 1 teacher at every 40 students required by the government as per norms. But in Shahpur, we have only one teacher @ 65 students, that also for different classes. At new school in maintaining the strength (no. of students) may take some time."

==> We can discuss the idea (deep or broad education) on my visit in Varanasi in July 2006....

O.K.

- How is the situation in Shahpur now? How many kids?

VARUN : In village Shahpur total 72 kids are enrolled and getting education regularly and classes are running regularly. Dropout rate is low (negligible). Students are showing apparent result.

- How many teachers?

VARUN : Two teachers are appointed in Shahpur namely Mr. Punnu Singh (Rs.1200/month) and Mr. Madan Gupta (Rs.500/month).

- Special happenings in the village?

VARUN : Road construction is on progress. Work is being rapidly. One of our student's named Mr. Indrajeet dead due to severe fever. The diagnosis is unknown.

- Stability concerning Naxal? Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats?

VARUN :

Naxal activities are almost not affecting common life. Life is on as usual.

Strength : We are working for people cause, we have nothing to do with Naxal people and their activities. We are doing our duty well.

Weaknesses : there is no weakness, we don't see anything as such because we are totally involved in development work.

Opportunities : We get chance to work in reverse situation without any fear or favour. People need our services.

Threat : No threat.

4) Lehra: "Govt. is keeping on top priority for setting up the schools."

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- What is the status there?

VARUN : A primary school for village Lehra is sanctioned and it is expected that by 2007 the construction should be finished.

- Special happenings in the village?

VARUN : Road construction and rural electrification is on progress.

- Naxal?

VARUN : Andi Bhai since we are social worker, so, we are not much bothered. We have nothing to do with their activities. They are fighting with system and administration. We are no where.

- Strength , Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats?

VARUN: As above

5) Pathraur: "We had discussed regarding the repair (ruin building from Gram Panchayat), newly elected Panchayat chief said, he will repair during this session, if funds are available. In Pathraur VARUN has started a school in a private building owned by Mr. Nandlal. He provided the place voluntarily."

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- How is the status of the repair?

VARUN : Not started yet. Village chief has no fund.

- Who pays for the renovations, how much does it cost?

VARUN : Renovation fund is released from block level and completed by Village chief. The chief says that you arranged iron garter for laying base on the roof rest expenditure he will arrange himself.

- How many kids to you teach on Pathraur (at Mr. Nandlal's house)?

45.

- What is the name of the teacher?

Mr. Vinod Kumar

- How much is the teacher paid?

Rs.800/month

- When exactly did you start teaching (at Mr. Nandlal's house)?

July 2005 onwards

- When can the school be held in the building from Gram Panchayat, means when is the repair finished?

Not known as on date because the work of repair has not been started yet.

- Naxal?

- Strength , Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats?

As above

6) Dhobahi: "In Dobahi, the NGO which was running the school has been stopped itself. We do not know the reason why they closed. From this July we are running a school at Dhobahi."

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- What was the name of the NGO which has stopped?

'EPUS'Paryawaran evam Prodyogiki Uthan Samiti, Jhusi, Allahabad

- Do you have any contact details of this NGO (name, address, e-mail, etc.)?

NO

- Do you know something about the reason why they closed now?

Might be they would have funded by some organization for a particular period of time and after completing the period the funding would have been stopped (this is our opinion).

- What is the name of the varun-teacher?

Mr. Bhawan Kumar Viswkarma

- How much is the teacher paid?

Rs.800/month

- Naxal?

- Strength , Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats?

No way to think, don't think of them

7) Financial Situation: "The above budget sanctioned for 3 centre but we run only 2 centres which are mentioned above"

The proposed villages for 3 centres were as : Pathraur (running), Dhobahi (running) and Horila : The situations were not in favour so, Horila got replaced by Amritpur another village adjacent to Naugarh town. Reason being the villagers proposed to run and cooperated well with us. The report on Amritpur had already been sent to Silicon valley. (The centre started from 1st November 2005 and running satisfactorily). The

number of enrolled students are 62. The teacher is Rajhans Bharti (Rs.800/month). No dropout rate.

- How is your financial situation?

In this session we received Rs.75000 from Asha Varanasi (Asha Silicon Valley sent this fund to Asha Varanasi), With this fund we run project with 4 centres (5 from November) up to December 05, We discussed on our requirements at Kaithi on February 12th. Our revised budget up to June 06 is Rs.62800/-. We also discussed on our next year budget (July 06-June07) and finalised figures as Rs.212700/- .(details

- 3 teachers honorarium: What are the names of the three teachers?

We are already discussed above

- Health checkup: What have you done? How many persons treated and for what?

Regarding regular health check up neither we have any setup nor any trained person. But one Health check up camp for children had been organized in association with Primary Health Centre (Govt.) We invited the doctor with para medical staff. They examined the children and provided some essential medicines for common diseases. During the camp approximately 250 children and some 100 women were benefited. Health related needs were felt.

- Cultural: What has been done?

Students meet were organized. Students from all 5 centres were gathered for 2 days. Sports and cultural events were organized and winner and runner were rewarded. Teachers also were rewarded by giving dress (6 teachers and 1 supervisor). Students were given essential house hold use utensils (Plate, Glass and bowls, Pencil, copy etc.) so that their family people could use in their house hold.

- Supervisor: Who is the supervisor (name)? What does he do? How often does he visit the villages? Is there regular contact to govt. officials possible and realised?

Mr. Lal Sahab, He visits schools regularly in a week to each centre. He also works as a teacher if any teacher is absent due to any reason. Overall he is responsible to run all the centres well and looks after the activities with his involvement. He is like a peer person but he does not have time to coordinate with govt. officials neither his skill level. VARUN himself take this responsibility.