

A Report on basic Hindi teaching to children of labourers engaged in construction of multi-storied flats.

Introduction: In our country, India, multi-storied flats are being built in cities and it generally takes 2-3 years for their completion. Labourers engaged in construction work shift to new locations or new cities after the completion of work. Children of these labourers, if staying with them, often don't go to school for their stay at any location is not long; generally one or two years; maximum three years.

SBNJEAC Trust objective is for educational activities and helping poor and needy. An experimental activity was conducted to impart knowledge of basic Hindi to the children of labourers; with the aim that the level of children can be raised above the illiterate category.

As the stay of the labourers in a working site is rather uncertain, the aim has been kept in teaching them Hindi quickly in limited time.

Background work: A multi-storied flat under construction (Solitaire Crown, Aradhana Garden locality, GMS Road, Dehardun) was identified and its management/owners, contractors and labourers were contacted. Permission was given by the Management to make use of a small lawn in front of their office for teaching children during evening time (6 to 7 PM). Their main concern was safety i.e. no harm to come to children from any untoward accident (things falling from top of the building under construction) as the labourers would raise complaint/objection against the management.

Stationary (notebooks, pencils, erasers and pencil sharpners) were purchased. Few elementary Hindi basic books were offered by some known people. A medium size blackboard / chalks were procured. It was also decided to provide some eatables (normally biscuits packets and few times, chocolates or frooti were provided) to kids daily after the end of class.

Actual work: The teaching activity was initiated from 23rd May 2022 and conducted till 08th Aug 2022. Class was taken from 6 to 7 in the evening, by the trustee, Bhagwant S Rawat. Sunday was kept as holiday. As the children were from varying age group, and had to be taught differently, help was also taken for first two months from two poor students (Yogesh, Class 9th pass and Inder, class 12th Pass) during their summer vacation. Initially, reading and writing of Hindi letters was taught and then to higher age group, dictation of Hindi Text/words was given daily.

A report of the performance of the children taught is given in Annexure A and the photographs and Hindi writing of some children is given in Annexure B:

Expenditure: Net expenditure till date is around ₹10000 of which ₹3000/= paid to Inder/ Yogesh from Trust fund. All other expenditure is being borne by personal fund of Trustees

Lessons/observations:

1. This model of making children literate (knowledge of basic Hindi only) can be followed independently anywhere with very less expenditure by educated people interested in helping poor.
2. Children of age 6 and above have generally faster pick up to learn things from scratch and can also write properly. Small children can recognize Hindi letters but they will need much more time to write properly and hence teaching Hindi should be basically restricted to children above 6 years, when the time is limited.
3. Self-interest/IQ of a child is important for faster learning.
4. Some parents are rather apathetic to send their children to even govt. schools.








Conclusion: The activity has benefitted children and will be re-started again. It is however, in no way, substitute for school, where the children learn number of others subjects/activities, learn to put up for longer hours for studies and have benefit of interacting with a much larger group of children/ teachers.







Acknowledgements:

We would like to thank following individuals for their help in this activity (Names put in order of help received)

1. Mr Verma and the management team of Solitaire Crown: For appreciating our aim and persuading the labourers to send the children to our class, and also later allowing us an office room for teaching children during rainy season.
2. Mr Ravindra Rana for providing preliminary Hindi books for the teaching of children
3. Ms Nautiyal, A lady from the neighbouring flat, : For providing sketch books, books, and colors and gifts to the children.
4. Ms Neeta Kandpal, IRDE (DRDO) : For providing books, clothes and two school bags for the children
5. Mr Krishan Kumar Arora, A social activist: for providing storybooks, sketch books and colors to the children. He also contacted govt and semi-govt schools for admission of the kids in the schools. However, it could not be done simply because parents were not willing to send their children to schools
6. Ms Tanya Rawat: for monetary help in providing snacks for children

Annexure A

Sr No.	Details of Children	Report on performance in Hindi teaching	Other Remarks
1.	Santoshi d/o Balram(Supervisor) Age: 12 years Native place: Anantpura Beheda (UP/MP border) 	- Santoshi is 5th class pass from her village school, but has not been going to school for last two years due to Covid. - Her pickup was good due to prior knowledge and higher age. - She admits that the teaching by the Trust has been very beneficial to her. - Can now read and write in Hindi though, fluency can come only with practice and still make mistakes while writing. - Her handwriting is good.	- Good in sketching -Due to interest taken by a social worker Mr Krishan Kumar Arora, formalities for her admission in a nearby semi- govt were being done but as her parents were not keen, the matter was closed. - Possessed knowledge of arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) - Interested in English speaking and also knows to write name in English
2.	Vishal s/o Hari Kishore Paswan Age 10 years Native place: Sitamarhi, Bihar 	- Vishal is class 3 pass but not going to school for over two years as the school is quite far.. - His pick up was better due to prior knowledge - He admits that Hindi learning from trust has been very beneficial to him - Can now read and write in Hindi though, fluency can come only with practice and still make mistakes while writing. - Fair handwriting.	- Unfortunately is fond of games on mobile - wants to join Army. - Interested in English speaking
3.	Vivek Age: 8 years (brother of Vishal) 	- He says has not gone to school, but picked up Hindi letters fast due to family influence - Can now read and write in Hindi though, fluency can come only with practice and still make mistakes while writing. - Has shown very good improvement from initial stage. - good handwriting .	- Unfortunately is fond of games on mobile - Interested in English also and knows to write name in English
4.	Sugandha (Sister of Vishal) Age: 7 years 	- Has not gone to school, but had little knowledge of Hindi letters due to family influence . - Can now read and write in Hindi though, fluency can come only with practice and still make mistakes while writing. - Good handwriting.	- loves sketching
5.	Rasil s/o Sabikul & Rashida Age: 8 years Native place: Bihar 	- Had no prior knowledge of Hindi and was learning from scratch - Was better performer in class due to self-interest and higher age. - He left after one month when he was in initial stage of forming words in Hindi.	
6.	Manish S/o Birju Age: 8 years Native place: Bihar	- Had some prior knowledge and was sincere child - Left after one and half month when he could make words and sentences in Hindi. Was a better performer.	
7.	Ragini sister of Manish Age: 7 years Native place: Bihar 	- Was a good student and learning Hindi letters. Left after one and half months.	
8.	Rahul Kumar s/o Asanu Age: 7 years Native: Bihar 	- learning from scratch. Has learnt letters and is learning to make small words. - sincere - Good handwriting.	-His admission in govt school was pursued by Mr Arora but could not materialize due to lack of interest from his father. -There were regular brief fights with Sahil and two had to be separated

9.	Ritu Sister of Rahul Kumar Age; < 5 years		Learning from scratch. Able or identify some Hindi letters. But seems still too young to write properly and hence not given serious time presently.	Also does sketching in class
10.	Sahil s/o Age: 5 years 10 months Native: Chattishgarh		Learning from scratch. -Has become good in reading small words correctly. - Not good at writing and can write properly only some letters.	- Is sharp learner but was also taught by other elder children of the class(outside the class) who were staying near him
11.	Hansi D/o Aminoor & Jamila Age: < 6 years Native place: Bihar		Learning from scratch. Able or identify several Hindi letters. But seems still too young to write properly and hence not given serious time presently.	Also does sketching in class
12.	Khusi Twin sister of Hansi		Learning from scratch. Able or identify several Hindi letters. But seems still too young to write properly and hence not given serious time present	Also does sketching in class
13.	Ashish Age: 6-7 years		-Was there for only one month. - Was a fast learner of Hindi letters and had good self-interest	Eye problem from birth. Getting treatment from PGI
14.	Rusika d/o Dharu Age: 6 years Native place: Nepal		Joined class on 20th July. Has good pickup in writing and reading letters. Seems she can learn much faster than other younger girls.	--
<p>In addition to above children, two children attended the class for two days but then left.(Most likely their parents shifted). Also, another boy, Shridhar, studying in class 8th and elder brother of Vishal, also helped children in class. He was in turn taught a bit on English speaking.</p>				



Children with their teacher, Inder



Yogesh, the younger teacher being presented a bouquet on his last day



A flower pot in the garden decorated by children



Mr Krishan Kumar Arora with kids



Children Class



Five kids came from these tin shade rooms



Hansi in a swing outside her house



The multi-storied flat under construction where parents of these kids are working

Children were told to give something in writing. This is what they have written

मेरी नाम सुगंधा हैं मेरे पापा के
नाम हरिकीशोर हैं
मैं बिहार के रहने वाली हू
मेरे पापा चुनाइ करत हैं
मेरी मंमी का नाम रेनुदेवी हैं
मेरा भाइ का नाम राहुल हैं
सुगंधा

VIVEK विवेक Date: _____
Page No. _____

- मेरा नाम विवेक है।
- मेरे पापा का नाम हरिकीशोर है।
- मेरे माँ का नाम रेनुदेवी है।
- मेरा पापा काम करता है।
- मैं खाना खाता हूँ।
- मैं आम खाता हूँ।
- मैं गाना गाता हूँ।

VIVEK विवेक

Vishal विशाल Date: _____
Page No. _____

- मेरा नाम विशाल है मैं 2 साल की हूँ
- मैं 3 दिन में पड़ता हूँ मेरा सपना है कि
- आरमी में जाऊँ
- मेरे पापा का नाम हरिकीशोर पासवान है
- मेरे मम्मी का नाम रेनु देवी है
- मेरा मन काम करने का है

मेरा नाम संतोषी है मैं 12 साल की हूँ
हल दो लोग है एक भाई एक बहन है
मेरा पापा का नाम बलराम है मेरी माँ का नाम
प्रेमवती है मेरा भाई का नाम बलेंद्र है
मेरी भाभी का नाम सुमन है मेरा भाई का चार
तुलने है एक रोहित है एक मोहित है एक मोहन है
एक गीत है Santoshi