

# **Field Visit Report**

## **Annual Field visit to Jokhbala & Admission of New Children in the Bonn Sponsorship Program (2018 - 19)**



*Figure 1- Happy faces of children as we interact with the kids in Prathmik Shala, Goriyan*

# **Annual Visit Site – Jokhbala, Goriya**

Sahayika School, Jokhbala, District – Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

Prathmik Shala, Goriya, District – Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

## **Team**

### **The Field representative from Bosco Delhi -**

*Gabriel Murmu, Programme Officer*

*Bryan Morris, Technical Assistance*

### **The local team on the ground –**

*Father M. M. Joy, Program Incharge, Bonn Jokhbala*

*Sister Pushpa, St Anne's Congregation*

*Ms. Deepika, Field Agent, Goriya & Jokhbala*

## **Duration of Visit**

From – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Monday

To – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Sunday

## **Report Submitted by –**

BOSCO Delhi, Project Office,

Jamianagar, Okhla

New Delhi.

### **Overview of the Bosco Delhi BONN Sponsorship program and task**

The field visit was a part of an annual visit conducted by Bosco Delhi at Don Bosco Provincial House, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi along with BONN Office, Germany. The purpose of the visit was to develop an overall research and analytic design that will lead to specific findings and recommendations for our web interface the team has been working on to improve

communications between the benefactor and the beneficiary. The findings and recommendations were found through a prepared survey form and interaction with the students in order to carefully assess and evaluate the beneficiary's progress and the role school plays in the process.

Also, as the sponsorship is set to sponsor a new batch of students it was our sole responsibility to identify students who deemed fit as per the criteria or families who are in need of the programme.

### **Objectives of the field visit**

In support of the overall project objectives, the field visits were intended to serve the following objectives:

1. Evaluate that the school maintains the standards as per the needs of the students and the requirements enlisted by Bosco Delhi.
2. One to One interaction with each student to have a better understanding of the child's experience in the campus and to track the possible changes brought about in an individual through the sponsorship program.
3. To evaluate each student's academic progress, health and personality development through interactive sessions with the students, a teacher in charge and program coordinator and understand their standard of living and lifestyle.
4. To understand the impact of sponsorship program on the students, at large.
5. To identify the children or families who find it difficult to educate their children and are in need of support.
6. To identify any or all causes which are or might be a hindrance to the growth of the student at present or in the near future.
7. Enlist a new batch of students to the Bonn Sponsorship programme for the session 2018.

### **The site of field visit –**

**State** – *Chhattisgarh*

**District** – *Jashpur*

**Village** – *Jokhbala, Jumaikala, Goriya*

After a successful trip to Ithari, Buxar our next field visit was in Chhattisgarh Jokhbala. Unlike Ithari, children in Jokhbala are not studying in one definite location or school but are scattered across different villages in a radius of 8km from Jokhbala. Children record management, record updating, communication is all managed from Sahayika School, Jokhbala. Another lot students sponsored by the Bonn sponsorship programme are studying in Prathmik Shala, Goriyan which is approximately 7km from Jokhbala and 4km from another Don Bosco Institution, Jumaikala.

### **Annual visit to Jokhbala -**

After an overnight train journey and changing three buses and one taxi, we finally reached our destination in Jokhbala, Chhattisgarh. The state, Chhattisgarh, post division not only formed physical boundaries to job opportunities for people but they had to figure it all on their own. The government hasn't done much for the people here. They don't have easy modes of transportation such as trains or roadways buses connecting places. Buses are run by private companies with very less frequency like one run to the city in the morning and the other back home in the evening.

It's obvious to conclude that Jokhbala is a remote settlement of tribal groups staying together, helping each of their own to exist in the society. They lack basic elements of survival like electricity, water, and proper houses to stay in especially during summer due to lack or delay in monsoon rain people in this vicinity have to go without water for days till shower hits the land. Moreover, major occupation here is farming as every family has 2 or 3 cultivable lands through which each family is surviving. Lack of water leads to starvation for days in families. Even the monsoon time is not safe for the people. As per studies, the land consists of a lot of metal such as gold underneath and therefore every 50 - 60 people on an average die due to lightning.



*Figure 2- The admission procedure was a delight as we interacted with individual kids at their home.*

## Need for the Programme

Gradually the number classes and the number of children have increased over the years. These schools are run by the Salesians and are meant for the local children who are poor and mostly tribal. They cannot afford to go to any city school as they are far and the parents cannot afford to send their children to such distance. Moreover, They have low paying jobs through which they cannot afford to pay high fees in private institution. With the help of this sponsorship programme, we plan to take care of all the needs of the students and moreover improve facilities to upgrade quality education in our schools.

## Key Observations and findings from the field visit -

As the schools in Chhattisgarh had announced the summer break for the children we met each individual at their home. It was indeed an enriching sight to witness that children are serious about their studies even during the summer break. While most of them played in the farms and cycled all along the one-way lanes on bright sunny days while some practiced lessons they learned from school. Some helped their younger siblings to complete their assignment and some, on the other hand, prepared the toddlers to join the school in the new session.

Managing school fees and miscellaneous cost of sending a child to the school is a lot to bear for parents from a marginalized background. As most of them are daily wage workers and farmers, cash flow varies as per the harvest. Moreover, on an average, every family has three kids or more in one family and the father as the only earning member. It is a herculean task for parents to educate their children. Well, the sponsorship programme is a big time help and support. As we interacted with the family members they were happy to receive scholastic materials such as stationery, books and school dress from the school. As the sponsorship programme grows the



*Figure 3- Neha's grandmother expressed her gratitude and blessings to all the sponsors as she thanked us for the lanterns.*

parents are much more positive and ready to support the school and the management in any way possible.



The support these people receive from the programme has helped them unite as a community. They are stronger in faith now and work towards a better future of their children.

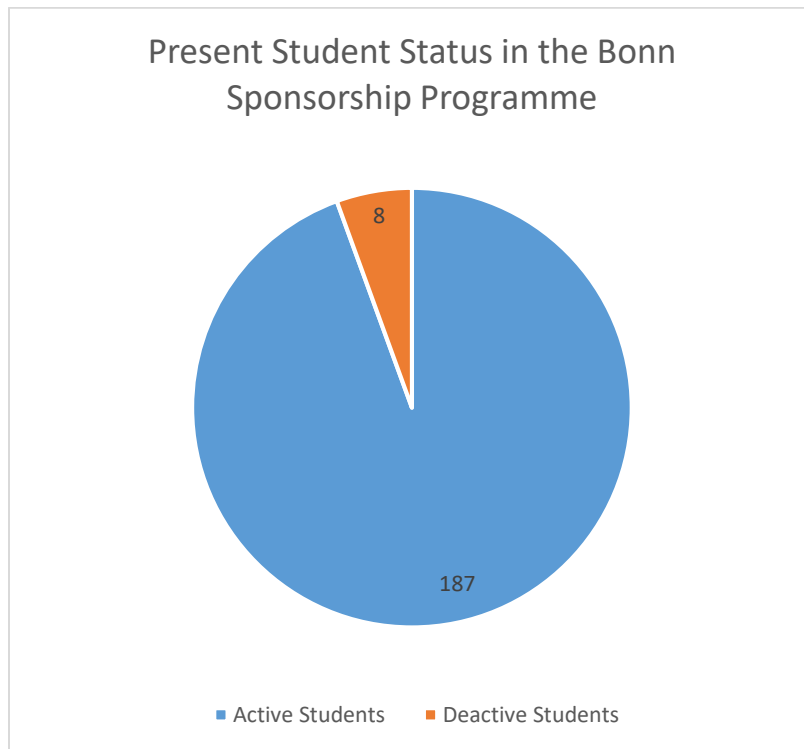
*Solar Lamps is indeed a blessing in dark nights* - As evening approached the very first thing we noticed were the solar lamps we had given to the families of each student. It was indeed a beautiful sight to see the houses all lighted up amongst the pitch dark streets of the villages. We could see some children trying to complete their home assignments while some held the lamp for their mother as she prepared supper for the evening.

### **Challenges faced**

*Number of students dropped out in the previous scholastic year –*

Even though the count of student dropouts in Jokhbala is very less compared to Ithari we wanted to analyze the reasons for children dropping out of the programme. In total **eight children dropped out last year**. Seven of these students migrated to different cities as their parents went

in search of jobs. Most of these parents were laborers and they went to a different city in search of a job, hence the children had to stay with them. They come back to their village during the time of harvesting. Once the season is over they go back in search of jobs. The children suffer the blow of this unplanned migration. We tried to get in contact with these parents but many of them have temporary contact or change contacts when they go to a different city. But, there were some who we did connect with. We tried to explain them the adverse effects of making the child suffer from shifting from one place to the other and offered them to make them stay in a hostel or any nearby Don Bosco Institution.



Please find below a list of students who migrated/left the institution in the last year –

<b>BOSCO ID</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Reasons to exit the programme -</b>
<b>BOSCOJOK032</b>	Karan	Ram	Father died recently, mother left the family abandoning the child. The child now stays with his father's relatives in a different village.
<b>BOSCOJOK046</b>	Sahil Praveen	Ali	The family chose to admit the child in a government school close by instead of sending him to our institution as it was a 60 min walk.
<b>BOSCOJOK056</b>	Yashwant	Ram	
<b>BOSCOJOK065</b>	Prince	Tigga	
<b>BOSCOJOK074</b>	Vivek	Toppo	The family migrated to a different village as parents are daily wage labors and are in lookout of a job. They only come back to the village at the time of harvest.
<b>BOSCOJOK076</b>	Anit	Lakra	
<b>BOSCOJOK081</b>	Shivam	Ram	
<b>BOSCOJOK095</b>	Sanjan	Minj	

*Improve parent's involvement* – The growth of these children also depends on the kind of thinking and upbringing is provided to them at home. It is very important that parents believe and works towards the betterment of the child. As most of these parents are daily wage labor they spend whatever they earn in a day. They don't have a lot of saving. Some of them are also quite abusive in nature be it against their wife or children. This affects the child psychologically and in turn, affects his or her studies. We could keep orientation program or parent counseling sessions to help parents comprehend their present circumstances and help them come up with better ways to help themselves and the growth of their children.

### **Conclusion**

The annual visit to Jokhbala and admission of new students to the Bonn Sponsorship program was indeed a fruitful one. We were able to update all the student information as per the requirement from the Bonn office and some as per our needs. We received a lot of extra



information about the child and his / her whereabouts which would be really helpful for our web interface in the future.

One of the things that were evident from this visit was the support of the school received from the BONN sponsorship program played a vital role in sustaining many students who otherwise would have dropped out or moved with their parents to some other cities and ended up in child labor or any other illegal activities.

All the parents without exception expressed their gratitude towards the donor stating that the uniforms and stationery articles provided by the school



through the support of benefactors in Bonn are a great additional support for them to meet the educational expenses of their children.

Also, when we visited the parents at their home, most of them said that they wanted their children to get educated and move out of this vicious circle of poverty, but then again it is very difficult for them as they struggle with survival every day. Thus, they feel the little support that they get from us, is a huge help for them.

It was altogether a refreshing experience to get a sneak peek into the lives of our students which provides us a lot of raw data to work on and provide a better lifestyle to the students who would grow up to be better citizens of this world.

Thank you,

Regards,

BOSCO Delhi.