

## A Brief Report on Exposure Visit to Doosra Dashak

Five of the team members of **Balamitra**, went for Exposure visit to **Doosra Dashak** in Rajasthan, to learn about the activities of the organization. Balamitra is a Tribal Education Project of **Samata**, a Not for Profit organisation, based at **Visakhapatnam**, Andhra Pradesh. With its head office at **Jaipur, Rajasthan**, Doosra Dashak, has **9 blocks** spread in 7 districts of Ajmer, Jodhpur, Baran, Pali, Sirohi, Jaipur and Alwar. The Blocks are Pisangan, Bap, Kishanganj, Bali, Desuri, Pindwara, Aburoad, Barisi and Laxmangarh. Providing **Residential education** to adolescents is the major activity of this organization along with other activities like training and workshops, creating learning network, science programmes, continuing education, life skill training, evaluation and monitoring of participants, community etc. The team got an exposure to the **Bali Block** where a residential camp for the adolescent girls was going on. This was a very good opportunity for all the members who were able to get a first hand information on all the activities of Doosra Dashak.



**Girls at Sevadi Camp**

**Day 1:** We met the Director of Bali Block, Ms. Vibha Upadhyay at her office, which was five kms away from **Falna**, and she introduced us to the coordinator Ms. Aruna and other members of the team. All of us started for **Sevadi** to see the residential camp for girls. Sevadi was 12 kilometres away from Bali where 8 residential camps for girls and 7 for boys were being organized. On our way to Sevadi, Ms. Vibha briefed us about the activities of Doosara Dashak. As soon as we reached the camp, we were greeted by the Master trainers of the camp. There were smiling faces all around. Classes were going on and it was amazing to see the girls learning with great interest. There were **53 girls** in the camp which started few weeks ago. Kusum, one of the **master trainers**, gave us a detailed description of the activities in the camp which included learning subjects, exercises, games and sports, wall magazine, sharing of work, health module, mock panchayat elections, self study, night school

for **drop outs**, general knowledge etc. We also got a chance to explore the curriculum designed for them. It was learnt that the science programs are run by the blocks through **vigyan kendras** and **gyan vigyan kentras**. After lunch we were taken to vigyan kendra of sevadi and got a chance to interact with the team. We also got a chance to observe the health sessions at the camp in the evening. On our way back to Bali, we were informed about our schedule for the next day.



**Day 2:**

On the second day, We met Mrs. Rajini, who is the Director of Desuri Block and she introduced us to the field coordinator Mr. Rajender. We visited the **Anganwadi** centre of ‘**Ganderav**’ village and met the children and staff members. It was heartening to see that the anganwadi was functioning well under the supervision of Doosra Dashak. We also met Shanti, a former student at one of the camps of Doosra Dashak, who handles the kids of Anganwadi centre and teaches the children to play games. She also keeps a check on health and hygiene of the children. Shanti was brave enough to convince her parents about not



making her a victim of early marriage. It was good to know that she is continuing her studies after matriculation. She started a learning centre at **Gharasia**

colony of her village to facilitate the young children. Children gather in the centre after the school hours and read books, play games and learn subjects through activities. Every body in the team couldnot stop appreciating her work .

After lunch, we started for **Kesuli**, where we got to see an educative programme for women in the learning centre for women. Here the women are taught to think logically and through some interesting activities the trainers try to create awareness about superstitious beliefs

among the illiterate women. From there we were taken to the Equallo in a village called 'Kotsolankiyan'. The interaction with the equallo incharge and the other members was very informative.

### Day3:

On day third, we went to **Bijapur**, to see the activities of Gyan vigyan kendra .This is a science centre for students and here they are allowed to do practicals and explore with models. This centre had many models for students of all ages. Preparations for the forthcoming science fair was



going on. The science centre incharge and his team explained about the activities. There was also a presentation given by us on the activities of our organization on the request of the Director. This interaction helped us to learn many things. We returned to the camp for lunch. And after lunch there was cultural presentation by students of the camp. The girls beautifully staged a drama depicting the marriage ceremony of their community. After which there were songs and dances. All of us had a great time and it was really sadening for us to realise that we have to leave the camp. With heavy hearts we had to bid good bye to the girls and the team.



### Conclusion:

The visit helped us to learn about people working with adolocents and their activities. The idea of conducting mock panchayat to train the students for their role as citizens in a democracy was admirable. The experience of visiting Science centres was really good and will be remembered for ever. It was surprising to know about the similarities between the tribes of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh. We thank the Director of Bali Block and her team for making this possible.