

Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS)

Annual Report 2019-20

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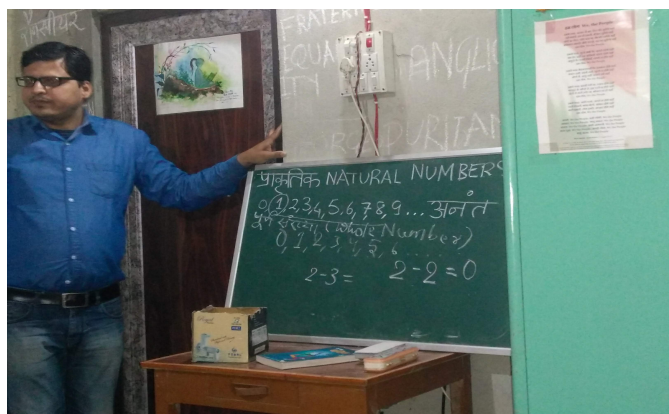
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Introduction

The Mosamat Budhiya Shiksha Nirman Sangathan (MBSNS), was registered under the Trust Act on 11th October, 2017. It has now been working in the field of health and education for the last two years. Though geographically limited to northern districts of Bihar the MBSNS, has an educational vision which cuts across geography and age. The MBSNS does not see education as limited to the classroom setting and therefore engages with people across age group, class, caste and other social constructs.

The Jeevanshala – Residential Educational Centre

The work started in the previous year, continued this year. Twelve students ranging 12 to 18 years, were housed at the centre. They followed a common routine and their studies were facilitated by centre coordinators, Abhimanyu and Mithun. The students were enrolled at the local government schools and the centre provided them a safe space to pursue their formal education. In addition to the regular tuitions and classes, all residents went through a theatre workshop and computer workshop, introducing them to the basics of both. It was always kept in mind that



education was about giving to society and not limited to scoring in tests and exams. However, in March 2020, when the lockdown was announced, all children except those in classes tenth and twelfth were asked to leave, till further notice.

Interaction with Video volunteers

In April, 2019, the video volunteers (VV) invited MBSNS representatives to engage with their team, working across Bihar. Tanmay, presented to the VV team, about the MBSNS's work with the youth. We were also pleased to learn about the VV team. The VV team is mostly composed of women from marginalised communities, who make videos on issues concerning their own local communities. This mutually enriching conversation was organised by VV in Patna.



Internship 2019

In May 2019, the MBSNS, again teamed up with the Jan Jgaran Shakti Sangathan (JJSS) to organise the fifth batch on rural interns, from North Bihar. 28 youth were identified for the one month internship. This year the youth learnt cooperative social games, got a chance to talk about how caste, religion, gender and other social constructs affect their lives, as also got a chance to learn practical skills like make a press release, bringing out a newsletter, clicking photographs and handling computers. They also had a chance to interact with Bhanwar Meghwanshi, a renowned Ambedkarite social activist.

In the last week of the internship, the youth travelled to Dharan, Nepal and saw for themselves, how gender worked differently across the border, where women were seen running business establishments like shops, dhabas etc.

Interaction with visitors

Dr. Vijayan, visited Bihar to volunteer his services for the poor and marginalised rural populations in Araria district. He was exemplary in his commitment to the camps, in which he attended to hundreds of patients in a day. In all the rush and pressure, he still took time to visit the centre and spent time with the children living at the centre, to talk about his home state of Kerala and about medicine, as a

profession.

Mona, a Patna based theatre artist, known for her leading roles in performances by eminent theatre groups, like IPTA and Natmandap, visited Araria and spent two days with the children on campus. She helped the children do some very basic theatre exercises and use their voice and bodies to express themselves. She assured us that she would be back next year and spend more time, to prepare a play with the children.

Jignasha, based in Gujarat, is a socially conscientious individual, with a mindful spiritual approach, introduced the group to 'dhyān' and also worked with some of the children who are very dexterous with their hands, to make a rain stick, from bamboo, which is locally available in abundance.

Photos (Clockwise) : Sunil shows the bamboo rain stick he made with suggestions from Jignasha; Students interacting with Mona and Nivedita, on theatre and women's right issues; Interaction with Dr Vijayan, at the centre.



Village Camps

The MBSNS team also reached out to children in small village hamlets, in and around Araria, to talk about the constitution and constitutional values, in ways that children can grasp. The children took an oath to the constitution and involved in cooperative games, which help inculcate in them values of sorority and brotherhood for each other, one of the many values enshrined in the Indian constitution.



This year however, ended on a difficult note, with the protests around the NPR-NRC and CAA, followed by the covid-19 lockdown. We hope that the next year will give us a chance to carry on our activities and work more holistically.

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