

Interviews with teachers and supervisors

Civil Line

Civil line is divided into 3 zones. The activity in this area has been going on for one year only and is concentrated to School Based Libraries. There are in total 143 libraries but also 3 Transitional school classes. Civil line does not have any Balwadis, Anganwadis or Community Based Libraries. The plan for next year is to start three Learning Centers, one in each zone.

In the area there are three Program Managers, one for each zone. There are 11 Supervisors and 239 teachers/volunteers. There are 148 MCD schools. The result in the Survey is on average compare to the overall result for all Pratham's activities.

MCD schools in this area usually have 80-100 children in each class, compare to 20-30 in a better area and in a better school. The people in the area are mostly labour and the education level is low.

Jahangir Puri:

A lot of people from Bengali live here and most of them are Muslims. They are more orthodox and the families are usually pretty large. A very common job is rag picking and the education level is pretty low.

Azadpur

In this area, most people are Hindus. They mostly work with vegetables (sorting, cleaning, peeling). The families are a little bit smaller compare to Jahangir Puri. The education level is pretty low in this area too.

Bhalswa Diary

Hindus are most common in this area as well and the education level is low. A lot of people are working with cattle and the production of dairy products.

Kashmere Gate

This area is more "posh" compare to the areas mentioned above. The education level is higher.

People have started to understand the meaning of education. More and more families are only producing the number of children that they can support and more and more are attending school, if their parents have not.

Library teacher

She is 21 years old. She has been with Pratham for 5 months. She is a library teacher and is teaching on Level II, class 3-5, in hindi and maths.

She is from Azadpur and she has three sisters and one brother. She is the oldest and her brother is the youngest. All her brother and sisters are in school. Her father is a manager and a graduate. Her mother is a housewife and did finish 10th class. Her parents inspired her to go to school and have done so with her brother and sisters as well.

She wants to be a History teacher. Her work with Pratham has showed her how much she can do and that there are a lot of opportunities as a teacher. There is so much you can do for the children!

Supervisor

She is 19 years old. She has been with Pratham for 2 years. She started as a teacher in a transitional class.

She is from Azadpur. She has two sisters and one brother. One sister is married, one is in 10th class and her brother is in 9th class. Her mother is a housewife and has finished 8th class. Her father is a shop keeper and did not go to school.

In her job as a supervisor, she is responsible for 18 volunteers. She likes her job very much and is laughing. Her job consists of providing training, support and motivation to the volunteers, to give them the opportunity to improve their work. She also visits the schools and the teachers/volunteers.

From her work at Pratham as a teacher and as a supervisor, she has learned to speak in front of others, how to dress and how to feel more comfortable. She does not really experience any problems in her work.

The largest issues they meet are the children from very low profile areas that don't get much support regarding school, life, etc from their parents. These children do not always see the value of getting an education and it is very hard to convince them when Pratham does not have the support from the parents.

Supervisor

She is 22 years old. She has been with Pratham for 3 years and a supervisor for 1 year. She started as a library teacher in one of the school based library. She likes her job very much. She especially enjoys teaching and working with children that are exposed and vulnerable.

She has four sisters and one brother. She is the oldest and the brother the youngest. All her sisters are in school, so is her brother (4th class). Her mother is working and did attend school until 10th class. She lives with her grandmother.

She likes her job very much and would like to stay with Pratham and develop her skills.

The problem she is facing within Pratham is the lack of responsibility from some of the teachers. They do not show up at meetings in time or to class. This affects the quality in teaching and efficiency in meetings in a negative way.

Supervisor

She is 21 years old and has been with Pratham for 3 years. She has 3 brothers and one sister. All her brothers have finished school (12th class) are now working as a tailor, shop keeper and as a driver respectively. Her sister is doing her last year before graduation.

Her mother has finished 5th class and is now a housewife. Her father is part of the Delhi Police. He has finished 12th class and also attended a 2 years of Police training. They are all from the Civil Line's area.

To become a teacher has always been her dream and Pratham made that dream come true. She really enjoys working with children. The largest problem she is facing at her work for Pratham is the parents. Most of them have a very low degree of education; therefore, they do not understand the importance of sending their children to school.

Supervisor

She is 22 years old and have been working for Pratham for 2 years; one year as a transitional school teacher and one year as a supervisor. She likes her job very much and she is taking it very seriously.

She has 4 sisters. One is married and the others are all in school, 9th, 10th and 12th class respectively. Her brother is also in school. Her mother has finished 5th class and is now a housewife. Her father has finished 10th class but is not working today.

She is attending the teacher training, but is right now taking a step back to be treated for problems with her stomach. She is aiming to continue her studies later to become a teacher.

Library teacher

She is 28 years old. She is married with two children, 8 and 9 years old. Both her children are in school; in 3rd and 5th grade. She is working as a school based library teacher and likes it very much. The skills are very low and there are a lot of things that she can do and she feels that she very much can contribute to the learning of the children.

She has 4 sisters and one brother. They have all gone to school. Her mother has not gone to school and today, she is a housewife. Her father is a farmer and has finished 8th class. She is a graduate and

has also taken the 2 years of teacher training. She is a teacher in Hindi but is also very interested in English.

Overall comments:

From our interviews, some teachers and supervisors do see a problem with the support from parents. If the parents have a low education level, they do not see the importance of education for their children and therefore, do not give them the support to attend school as they need.

Supervisors do also mention that they do have problems with some teachers not showing up in time or not at all. The quality of the education will than be less and the engagement from the children will decrease with time. Some of them will most probably drop out and not finished school.

All the teachers/supervisors we have been talking to (more than those above) all love their job at Pratham and being a teacher/supervisor. They all love their job due to the children. Many of them see the opportunity to become something by working at Pratham.

Rohini

Rohini is divided into 4 zones. The area has 57 bastis and 198 MCD schools. The activity during the last year has been School Based Libraries and Learning Center only. There are about 390 teachers/volunteers and 19 supervisors working in the area.

The people that live here are mostly Hindus but there are also some Muslims. They come from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh or South India, mostly. The families are usually pretty small with 2-3 children. The area is pretty large but not a very old area. The area can be divided into two; one more posh area and one part called the backyard.

In the more posh area, parents are educated; graduate or up to 10th class. They are working in the service sector, in the business class, shop keepers, with property, etc. In the less posh area, parents are less educated. They work mostly as riksha drivers, housemaids, making envelops, etc. The parents are usually very caring parents. Most families own their house and have water in the house. The families do not move around too much, since they own their house, they tend to stay.

The problem Pratham is facing in this area is the fact that the MCD schools are not very good and the parents do not believe in them. Pratham gets a lot of support from the Parents, due to the low quality from the MCD schools.

Rohini is doing lower than average in the Pratham survey. Pratham does not have that much activity in the area; they are almost only supporting the MCD Schools. Pratham see several challenges in the area. The cooperation with the MCD schools is not working very well and Pratham is not really welcomed. In the schools were they are working, the people are very happy with Pratham being present.

Supervisor

She is 23 years old and have been with Pratham for 3 years. She started as a School based library teacher for two years, and has now been a supervisor for one year. She has taken her graduation and also a Children course.

She has one brother and one sister that are both in school. Her father is an electrician and has taken his graduation. Her mother is a housewife and has also attended school. The family is from the Delhi area, the Uttar Pradesh side.

She likes her work at Pratham. She really enjoys working with children and the people within Pratham. She would like to be a teacher within health education.

Supervisor

She is 35 years old. She has a bachelor degree in Hindi. She has been with Pratham for 8 years.

She has two brothers and one sister. Her brothers are working; one is a collage teacher and the other one is working with computers, with a Masters degree in computers. Her sister is a housewife and before that, she finished 12th class. Her father has finished 10th class and is today working as a driver. Her mother has finished 5th class and is today a housewife. The family comes from the Delhi area.

She really likes working with Pratham; she likes working as a teacher. She wants to continue her work within Pratham due to she see several opportunities to improve the work and also herself. The only problem she can see, it the work/life balance. She has plenty to do at home as well, taking care of her family.

Supervisor

She is 38 years old, married with two children, Garima and Mokul. They are both in 7th grade. She has a Masters in history from Agra University. She also has Nursery training.

She is from out side of Delhi. She moved here with her husband. She has 2 brothers that are both farmers. She also has 4 sisters; 2 are educated and 2 have not been to school. Her father is in the Army working as a bodyguard for the president. He has finished 10th class.

She has been working with Pratham for 6 years; 3 years as a teacher, 1 year as a trainer and 2 years as a supervisor. After her education, she tried to get a job in a governmental school but did not succeed. She really likes her job with Pratham. It gives her the possibility to combine work and her duties at home as a mother. The major problem that she is facing at work is the lack of support from the parents to ensure the education of their children.

Overall comments:

Rohini is divided into two different parts; one more posh with more educated inhabitants and one area with less educated inhabitants. The area is experiencing a lack of support from the parents, especially in the lower educated area. Pratham is also experiencing a lack of cooperation from the MCD schools in the area.

One way to change this behaviour is to start Balwadis in the area to get more acquainted with the parents. Through a Balwadi, the activity is closer to the parents and the teacher can interact more with them to increase their awareness of the need of education. It might be easier to receive better cooperation from the schools if the parents are supportive.

Zakhira

In Zakhira, there are 28 bastis and 35 MCD schools. Pratham's activities consist of 23 balwadis, 1 Community based library and 35 School based libraries. There are 76 volunteers/teachers and 4 supervisors in the area. 16 of the 35 MCD schools are cooperative, and 19 are not.

Most parents in the area are working with in the factories close by producing shoes and bikes. There are also plenty of small steel shops in the area. The railway close by does also employ some people. Most parents, mother and father, are working. Older brothers and sisters take care of their younger sisters and brothers. Most children will finish 5-7th class, and then they drop out, either to work and earn money to the family or take care of their younger brothers and sisters. Girls usually stay longer in school compare to the boys. The reason for children leaving school is also due to migration, the family is moving around.

Teacher

She is 35 years old, married with 3 children; two daughters and one son. All her children are in school.

She is originally from Uttar Pradesh but moved with her husband to Delhi. She has 3 brothers and 2 sisters that have all attended school. Her mother has finished 5th class and is now a housewife. Her father has finished 10th class and is today a farmer.

She has been with Pratham for 3 years. She likes her job very much and she very much enjoys working with children and teaching. She takes her job very seriously. She does not face any major problems at work. The parents are support to the work of Pratham.

Teacher

She is 30 years old. She has been a teacher for 4 years. She likes her job very much and especially the interaction with the children.

She is originally from Jaipur, Rajasthan, but has lived in Delhi for 25 years. She has finished 10th class. She has 3 brothers and 4 sisters. They have all been to school. Her mother has finished 8th class and is working in the office of Government. Her father has also finished school. He has been working as a Governmental officer but is today retired.

The problems that they were facing at first were that parents were not very interested in the Pratham activities and the children came to school/balwadi very dirty. That has today changed; parents are now much more supportive and the children are more clean when turn up for school.

Overall comments:

When the activity in Zakhira started, the support from the parents was not very good. This has changed over time and the support is now much better. The children will show up at the balwadi clean and well dressed. Maybe the experience and learning from Zakhira, how to get the support from the parents, can help in other areas.

Zakhira is showing rather low results in the tests 2009 (R1, R2, M1, M2) but will hopefully increase with the increased support from the parents. Today, there are only 16 MCD schools that are cooperative. Maybe some of the parents can help to increase the support also from the MCD schools. All to increase the learning level of the children.

Karol Bagh

Pratham has been active in Karol Bagh for 8 years. The activities are concentrated to the schools with teaching and libraries. There are 79 schools in Karol Bagh (incl Zakhira). Pratham is active in 42 of those schools. Today, Pratham are running 35 School based libraries.

Karol Bagh can be divided into two areas. In one area, the inhabitants are pretty high educated with a good job like business or governmental. They own the house they are living in and don't move that often. Most children are going to rather expensive private schools.

In the other area, the inhabitants are not that educated and the jobs are more like working with vegetables, in factories, etc. Most families are living in rental apartments and are moving quite often. Some children are also attending private schools, but less expensive and therefore, not as good.

In Karol Bagh, there are both large and small families. Most families are Hindus. The population is mixed with people both from Delhi and from outside of the city.

The problem in Karol Bagh is that the MCD schools are/were not very cooperative. Sometimes, the people that are running the schools and the students are pretty rude to Pratham. With time, some schools have changed their mind. They have very good teachers that have taught the children how to behave.

Supervisor

She has been with Pratham for 7 years; 6 months as a teacher, then a librarian and a data person. She is now a supervisor. She likes her job with Pratham. Every year, the material changes so she has to learn new things. She also really enjoys working with children.

She has 2 brothers and 4 sisters. Her brothers are today working as a mechanic and in the Governmental office. Her brothers and sisters have all finished at least 4-5th grade. They did not go all the way due to lack of interest. One of her sisters have finished 12th grade. She herself is a post graduate in Hindi. Her dream is to become a professor.

The problems that she is facing in her work with Pratham is the lack of awareness from the parents, they don't understand the need of education, since most of them lack education themselves. In many cases, both parents are working why some older brother or sister has to stay at home and take care of any younger brother or sister. Sometimes, Balwadi children bring their younger brothers and sisters as well, so their parents can go to work. This interrupts the balwadi due to these children are pretty young (less than 3 years old) and need additional attention from both the brother/sister and the teacher.

Another problem they are facing to some part; is the common view that girls should stay at home and take care of the household. Therefore, some parents do not send their daughters to school.

The MCD schools are pretty good and appreciate the work of Pratham, but there is a lack of teachers. There are a lot of children in the same class, 75-90 children per class.

Supervisor

She is 32 years old and has been with Pratham since 2002. She started as a teacher (1 year) than the activity was turned down, she then started to work in the Zakhira area as a supervisor. Today, she is working in Karol Bagh as a Supervisor. She has finished 12th class.

She has 3 brothers and 2 sisters. All her brothers and sisters have attended school and finished from 10th class to graduate. Her parents have also attended school, her father finished 10th class and her mother 8th class.

She likes her job with Pratham very much; she is learning new things every year and gets the opportunity to work with children.

The problems they are facing are that both parents are working and older brothers and sisters have to stay at home to take care of the younger ones. Another issue with both parents working is that it is difficult for Pratham to reach the parents and talk to them, convince them that the children should come to school, that education is important.

Another problem is space. They don't have any good places for the activities. Most of them are out in the open, which becomes difficult during rain season or when it gets too hot or too cold. 4-5 classes are run together. Some children are very difficult to get in touch with due to they have parents with drinking problems

Overall comments:

In Karol Bagh, we can see the problem that not all children are able to come to school, due to they have to stay at home taking care of younger sisters and brothers while their parents are working.

In this area there are also the problem with the schools, they are not very cooperative at first. There is a lack of teachers, why some classes are very large with up to 75-90 pupils per class. But there is also a lack of space, sometimes 2-5 classes have to share the room, and again, there are 75-90 pupils per room.

Conclusions:

Reasons for children not coming to school

- ***They have to stay at home to take care of younger brothers and sisters***
- ***Their parents are not very educated and therefore do not see the need of education as something important and therefore, do not support the activities offered by Pratham.***
- ***The family is moving around a lot why it is difficult for the child to start a new school every time. To be able to start at the right level (same level as the child left in the prior school) the child needs a certificate that proves his/her level. Far from all children ask for this certificate when they leave the school.***

Reasons for why the education is poor

- ***Too many children in each class due to lack of teachers or teachers without the right interest in children and education.***
- ***Too many children in each class due to lack of space.***