

PATORE GOVERNMENT HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT

Preliminary report regarding the Renovation, repair and maintenance of school fabric and facilities. Addition of digital equipment to aid learning



Around the 2nd of August 2020, I had requested Mahesh Mansukhani to distribute an appeal letter to **The Doon School alumni batch of 1974** (my classmates) for funding a small project firstly to provide some digital equipment by way of a couple of laptops and portable projectors in order to give the village children some access to digital learning; and - secondly – to repair the boundary wall of the school in order to secure it from livestock. In addition I had mentioned the longer term goal of providing working toilets for the girls who make up half the school strength.

The response from the batch was immediate and incredibly generous. The initial target was for 2, 20,000/-. The final tally was an amazing 4,92,000/- with several wives donating separately from their husbands. Mahesh was indefatigable as always and pursued every payment and ensured that complete accounts were maintained. My salutes, salaams, pranaams and deepest respect to all of you generous and good hearted folk!

At this point **Arti Vakil** stepped in pointing out that we would need a registered charity and proper accounting for this money to be managed. She immediately offered to make her own trust – **The Step Up Charitable Foundation** the nodal organisation with the services of their excellent and efficient accountant **Surjit Rathod** and his assistant **Ganesh Pawar**.

Arti being Arti she went much further. Through her own contacts she raised an additional Rs.5,25,000/-. These trusting, lovely people are **Shikha and Sanjay Sharma (4,10,000/-)**, **Uday Grover (15,000/-)** and **Ishna and Rishad Byramjee (1,00,000/-)**. An additional 10,000/- were donated by my friends **Ramachandran and Surya**.

The total amount raised: **10,27,000/-**

The provisional account sheets are also attached. Payments are still being made and balance money will be banked in anticipation of further IT equipment requirements and better equipped science lab. In addition some money will be used for sports, art and music equipment. We have found a local art teacher (volunteer).

The following construction and repair works have been carried out in the Patore High School beginning 7th August 2020

1. Building 45 m of boundary wall to fill broken or missing areas in order to secure the school premises and grounds from livestock. The main gate supporting posts were also rebuilt.

Before:



After:



2. Repair and renovate the girls toilet. This toilet was in a bad shape. There was no roof, there were no toilets, no taps, no water connections. Only one cubicle had a western style commode. Which was broken and blocked with cement. No electricity.

This toilet was stripped down. A new TATA Profile tin roof was put on top. The interior was remodeled with three toilet cubicles with doors added. Indian style commodes with flush and taps. Each cubicle also has an exhaust fan. Water supply line was connected to a new 500 ltr over head Sintex tank. One basin with tap was installed. New sewage lines were added and the septic tank pit was enlarged bricked and cemented with proper soakage filtration layers of sand, limestone powder and broken brick. The main door was also repaired. New tiles were put in and the final painting remains to be completed.

Before:



After:



3. The hand pump in the school borewell was replaced with a submersible pump. An underground pipeline was installed for supply of water to the new overhead 500 ltr tank which supplies water to the girls toilet, the boys toilet and the kitchen. In addition an outlet was created for external supply of water for irrigating kitchen garden and other plants. All water supply lines are underground. The pump and bore well have been covered with a brick and cement chamber and solid metal lockable lid.



4. An armoured 4-core underground electric cable was installed providing secure and safe electric supply from the transformer to the school. All classrooms have electricity. 2 fans have been installed in each of the larger classrooms and 1 each in the 2 smaller rooms. Each room has 2 light points and 5 power points. All power supply lines are underground.



- The external walls of all the buildings – except for the old school building which is to be demolished – have been repaired and painted with Asian Paints External emulsion. Sunrise is the school colour. Broken steps have been repaired and ramps repaired/rebuilt. One building has yet to be painted. This had a damaged and leaking roof which has caused extensive damp in the walls. The roof has been repaired by the Panchayat. Walls will be painted once they dry out.





6. School desks with seats have been ordered for one classroom. These will be 3-seater desks x17 accommodating 51 pupils. Other classrooms should be equipped by the government. Any shortfall later can be completed by us in the future.
7. Digital equipment: The original idea behind this project was to help introduce digital facilities to benefit the students from the digital education aids that are now being used everywhere. However, due to poverty in the village students have very limited to non-existent access to hardware.



To address this problem we have acquired 2 laptops and 2 Projectors with appropriate cables; One Jio dongle with a high data post paid connection; and 1 HP laserjet printer.

Quite apart from the benefits in direct learning, this equipment can be used to show students interesting documentaries about social and environmental subjects in order to expand their General Knowledge and awareness about critical issues that affect their own homes and lives.

In addition we have also donated one **5x – 1000x digital microscope** as a starter for the fledgling science lab. Using the laptop and projector one microscope will be able to enable an entire class to benefit from a single microscope while allowing the teacher to explain whatever is under the microscope. It also allows students to record subjects using still or video photography. This should be a very exciting learning tool for the students interested in science.



Teachers learning how to use the digital microscope in my house. They had no idea what a powerful tool this is, where one microscope attached to a laptop and projector can share 1000x magnification images with the entire class. Tremendous excitement and enthusiasm which hopefully will be transmitted to students as well.

8. School Playground: The school is set within an almost 2-acre campus in a picturesque setting at the base of a hill which forms the boundary of the Bandhavgarh Tiger

Reserve. With the boundary wall complete this can offer excellent sporting opportunities for the students. However, the ground is undulating and sloping with almost 4 – 5 feet difference in height between the lowest and highest point. This also leads to erosion around the actual school buildings which are at the lowest point. We have asked for estimates for the leveling and permanent drainage of this field along with firm footings at the bottom to prevent erosion. The best estimate is Rs. 1.46 lakh for this entire work. If certain administrative issues can be resolved, we aim to begin this work by 29th Oct. It will take approximately 10 days to complete.

Once this levelling is completed the students will be able to organize both team and individual sports in this extensive ground.

The school playground

Before:



AFTER:

