

REPORT ON SWEDEN- WABLEWADI-TOS COLLABORATION PROJECT - WABLEWADI SCHOOL VISIT

The school in Wabewadi is an amazing place. This school is very different compared to the other traditional schools. Here, kids run the entire school. Kids have been allotted duties to maintain the school. These duties vary from cleaning duties, to serving food to guests, to teach the little kids.

This school is a great example of sustainable development. It has zero-power classrooms, which have special arrangements made for ventilation and have glass doors so that no electricity is used at all. They also have arrangements for solar power so that the school uses minimum electricity from the electric plant. They have also made a unique organic soap, made from ashes which come from the firewood which these kids have used for cooking dinner the previous night. This soap is a part of their innovative hand wash station, which has helped them reduce their water consumption from 1000 liters to 5 liters. The school has a very unique science lab. In this lab they have produced some wonderful inventions. They have kept some of their inventions such as their potato gun, droid and a wonderful robot, which the kids, who are 10-13 years old, have built from raw material in a competition and have come 5th place against the other students, who are in 11th and 12th grade. Here, kids

complete their course in 4 months and work on these projects for the rest of the year.

This school has also planted over 100 plants which have medicinal qualities like improving blood circulation, help prevent common cough, etc. These plants are spread across the entire school.

The students and the entire faculty presented before us a very wonderful hospitality throughout the entire 2 days, whether it was giving us a tour, making stay arrangements for the night, or even the really delicious food that they served us.

I am really impressed by the kids from Wablewadi, who are a group of smart people who are doing so much more than what kids their age normally do. I am amazed to see how they manage their school, their studies and most importantly, their time in which they are doing such a marvelous job.

I believe that experiences, especially good ones, change you forever. This once in a lifetime experience has been successful in changing my views on what children need to learn... and it's not just learning from books, but applying what they learn and also giving them an exposure to some of the duties that they will need in the real world. I am happy that I was a part of a project in which we created a film on the project.