

South Shahdara, Saturday 21 March

We found that this area is more alive than the previous areas we have visited. People were more out in the streets, a playground in the centre gathered boys to play cricket, some plants and trees made it feel green. The houses looked more “real” there were several floors, doors and windows. The houses were painted in different colors and there were laundry hanging outside, making it look alive. Therefore, it is more difficult to imagine that the area is slum. We have understood that in some households, up to three families shared one kitchen and that this is one sign of poor living. Another sign is the public water supply in the community which the inhabitants had to pay for.

We visited a community based library which was situated in a temple area. Children were reading books together with the teacher. We got the chance to interview two children and there we understood that it was a cramped housing. The children had sometimes stomachache which may be explained by the public water supply which they also were drinking.

We also visited an Anganwadi where the small children were singing some songs. We were also shown the food that is distributed to the children.

Our last visit was in a family that participated in the yearly Pratham survey. For reflections of the survey see separate report. It was very interesting to see what a home looks like from the inside. This household looked like a real home, with different rooms, furniture and paintings on the walls. It looked nice and comfortable.

Questions:

What are the criteria for an area to be classified as a slum area?

Is this one of the better areas Pratham is working in, in Delhi? Are the people living here not as poor as like Zakhira for example?

Comparing this area to other areas, are more of the children attending school? Is the need for Community based libraries lower or higher?

For how long has Pratham been working in this area? Can you see that more and more children are attending school? Has the number of balwadis/Community based libraries decreased or increased during this time?

How has the implementation of the Anganwadis worked out? In this and other areas? Does it work better in some areas compare to others? Why in that case?

Is the people (both the women preparing the food and the Pratham personnel) satisfied with the co-operation around the anganwadis?