

HelpYourNGO VISIT REPORT

NGO Name: Each One Teach One Charitable Foundation (EOTO)

Date of visit : Thursday, 21st November 2019

Visit conducted by : Ms Winnie Dholakia and Ms Suvarna Arvind

Location : Roots and Wings Balwadi at Wadala, Mumbai

About the Program

The target beneficiaries of the Roots and Wings Balwadi program are mainly first generation learners. The program aims at ensuring underprivileged slum children living in the vicinity of the Center enrol in formal schools (especially English medium schools) and *complete* their formal education.

The program provides required training and pre-school education to these first generation learners so that they are able to clear the Std I admissions interview in the school opted for. It also helps in ensuring that the children continue attending formal schools since the program acclimatizes them to the concept of 'schools'. This is significant since these children would have otherwise dropped out of school due to lack exposure to pre-schools.

About the Center

- **Location**

The Balwadi operates from a rented premises belonging to the Vitthal Vyayam Mandir Trust, Wadala and caters to children residing in the neighbouring slum communities. It is a spacious and airy room which otherwise serves as a gymnasium for the local youth.

- **Year of Operation**

This is the third year of running the Roots and Wings Balwadi program.

- **Enrolment**

The average annual enrolment is 45-50 students. The Balwadi teachers take efforts to reach out to the beneficiaries. They conduct a survey at the beginning of every year in addition to home visits to identify beneficiaries meeting the program's eligibility criteria. The identified beneficiaries are encouraged to enrol in the program. EOTO ensures that these children complete their pre-school education, and trains them in securing admissions in formal schools.

- **Infrastructure & Facilities**

- **Support:** The students are provided with a uniform, a school bag, water bottle, and a set of two note books by EOTO every year.

- **Water Purifier:** The NGO has recently installed a water purifier at the Center since the staff observed that the children kept falling sick and missed classes, most likely due to consumption of poor quality of water. Now the children are asked to carry empty water bottles from home and fill them at the Center to prevent water borne infections/ diseases.

- **Records:** EOTO is an ISO 9001:2015 certified organisation and has streamlined reporting systems and standards. During our visit, we glanced through the Students' Profile Records, Attendance Register, Teacher's Activity Book, and Teacher's Daily Portion Update book which were well-maintained and updated.



Pic: English class – Students reciting nursery rhymes

- **Curriculum and Time-table**

During the visit, the HelpYourNGO (HYNGO) team had the privilege to interact with the program manager, two teachers, caretaker, and most importantly the students.

We were warmly greeted by 38 young smiling faces in the age group of 2 to 6 years. All the students were neatly dressed in their uniforms, except one girl who wasn't wearing the uniform since it was unwashed.

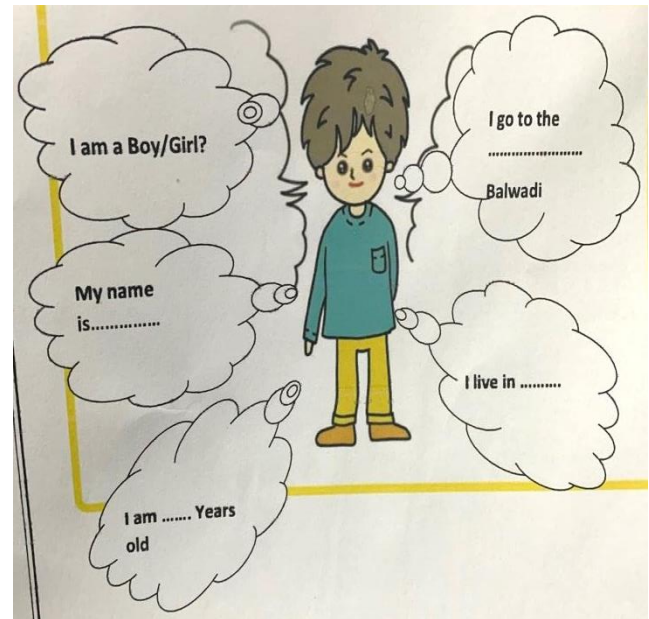
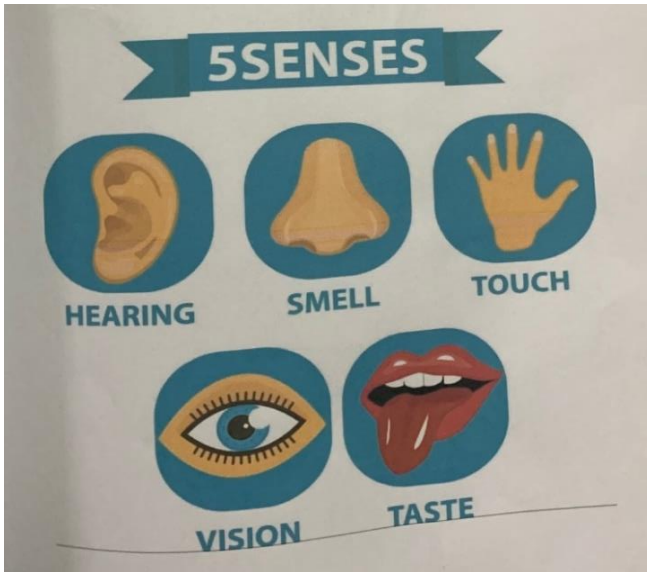
Each day begins with 30 mins of value education that all students participate in together. After that, students are divided into age specific groups:

- Khelwadi or Playgroup (2 to 3.5 years)
- Balwadi i.e. Jr. KG (3.5 to 4.5 years) and Sr. KG (4.5 to 6 years).

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
10:30	Value Education	Value Edu	Value Edu	Value Edu	Value Edu	Value Edu
11:00	Maths	Marathi	English	Maths	Marathi	English
11:30	Marathi	Maths	Marathi	English	English	Maths
12:00	R	E	C	E	S	S
12:30	English	Craft	Maths	Marathi	Drawing	story
1:00	Play Time	Play Time	Play Time	Play Time	play Time	Play Time

Pic: Time Table

The NGO has developed the syllabus for the students in alignment with the Government's curriculum standards for pre-schools. Subjects included are English, Mathematics, Marathi, Value Education, Story-telling, Craft, and Play time.



Pics: Study time and Syllabus snapshots

We observed the Math and English classes. During the Math class, students were asked to solve addition sums and the teachers would randomly pick students to write the answer on the blackboard. There was active participation by the students since they were excited to write on the blackboard. During English class, the students were learning nursery rhymes ([video attached in email](#)).



Pic: Lunch break

At 12 noon sharp, the students broke for lunch. First, they systematically organised themselves in queues and the caretaker took batches of children to the washroom. It was astounding to see this level of discipline in such young children.

The students then formed a big circle. Before starting their meal, they all prayed together along with the teachers ([video attached in email](#)). The students carry lunch from home, and the EOTO staff emphasises on them carrying *Roti* (Indian bread) and *Sabzi* (Indian vegetable). In case any student carries a snack (biscuits, wafers, etc.) for lunch, the teachers ensure that they speak with the mothers to pack a wholesome meal for the children going forward.

During our visit, one student wasn't carrying lunch since her mother, who works as a maid, had to leave early for work. One of the teachers was kind enough to share her lunch with this student.



Pic: HYNCO team with the Balwadi teachers.

- **Teaching Staff**

Of the 3 teachers, one was absent on the day of our visit. The two teachers we met are doing an excellent job of managing these young children with the right blend of discipline and fun. One of the teachers (first from left in the above picture) has been associated with EOTO for almost 30 years. The students are disciplined because they love and respect their teachers.

- **Challenges**

- The medium of conversation with the students is primarily Marathi, except during English class.
- There is no follow-up mechanism to ensure that the students who have enrolled into formal schools do not drop out and do complete their education.
- The teachers have to take extra precautions during class since there is heavy gymnastic equipment in the room, although in the corners.