**Transcription**

**Discussion with Assistant Project Director Samagar**

(I)Interviewer: Anusha, Sheetal and Dinesh

(APD) Assistant Project Director

Before startig the conversation, we introduced ourselves and shared the objective of the study and also she agreeed to facilitate the process. It also help us to plan for the meeting to DEO, DIET and other stakeholders at Pune.

**Conversation:**

I: It would be good to share some of your work and also about your role ?

APD: I have recently joined here in Mumbai, it is only five months since I took charge. Earlier, I was in Nashik for almost ten years. My work is to look over the purchase of books, that is my one of the main. No books have been purchased in my presence, so far. But we are going to purchase it soon, as it is in process at present. In the meeting it has been decided that we will purchase government books along with NBT(National Book Trust) books. As here, there are many publishers who come to us to discuss purchasing books from them. They come and tell me again and again to purchase books they even have given their sample to purchase books. There are a lot of debates and arguments among them and they come to us and tell why you purchase theirs and not ours. So there are a lot of challenges. So in the meeting it has been decided that we need to purchase books from them. So that has been cleared now so far. So, there is a committee to purchase books, secretaries are there in the committee and we will take meetings to decide on the purchase of books. So this meeting is going to happen next week probably on 19th or 20th Oct 2022. So we will decide everything in the meeting. Actually, everything is already set to purchase books. We just need to give orders in the meeting about how much books we need to purchase.

I have also decided that in Thane there is a government press, so there is a book/Koshik for 9th and 10th that is very good and its cost is between Rs. 300 to 400. They have only three copies, we are calling them as members, they are from the government press, so we will purchase from them as well. That is very important Sandharbha Granatha. So after purchasing a book has been reached to the district or not that is my major role. So I have to make sure that books have been reached to the district education officer. That is my role. After that it's their responsibility to send them to school. So when we get the acknowledgement form them then we release the fund to the publisher.

I: Through Samagra, do you give any funds to the school such as Rs. 5000 ? Is there anything like that

APD: Yes we give it some time and sometimes not. I am not sure here what has happened in the previous time. One needs to explore which district they have given the funds. How much funds have been given.

I: Can we get those kinds of circulars which were passed ?

ADP: Yes that you give us in a letter in writing for getting information in the last five years, such as how many books were purchased from where books were purchased, if the funds has been given and how it has been given. You may make a list of all these things and we will provide all the details. So we will provide all the details and xerox of required documents. You need to write an application letter in the name of SPD without that you might not be able to do the work. So whatever material you want for your research, ask in writing so we can give all the details to you.

You may ask for the fund as well how much it has been spent and what district has received the amount and what amount. So if you will get that it would be helpful for your study and you can analyze that details. It will also give me an overview about the condition.

I: As you mentioned you have worked almost for 10 years in Nashik, have you visited any library in Nashik ?

APD: (She laughed), Yes, that is part of my job too and I recently have visited the Nandurbar library. It was the 2nd (did not mentioned month) that was Sunday. So I was there for four days in Nandurbar for the visit. So I visited a school in Nandurbar and I asked the school to show me the library and books. What are the books, do you read the books or not? I also asked the school teachers and head teacher. I did this in Nandurbar.

She showed us the photo which she took in the Nandurbar, she mentioned these photos. Do you use the science *peti* (box) or not, show me all that. Also open the cupboard and show me the books. I also asked what book and when it has been given to you, show me everything. Also show me your register when someone has taken a book for reading.

I also checked with the children to see if they read the books given in the libraries. When I asked, they opened the cupboard. I told them that if you open the door of the cupboard then only we can use this library. Then it will have better use.

Photo Narration: there were staff and visiting team, there is one cupboard which is half filled with the books. It seems that it was closed for a while.

I: So generally books are kept in the cupboard ?

APD: No, it's not like that. It's not that bad, they do read sometimes, but it is mostly based on the teacher. So whatever work is there that belongs to the teacher. So when the teacher is good they do good work. If the teacher is not good. Then they do not do things in the proper way. It is very generic, whether you are teacher, doctor, engineer or anything , but if you are good you do good things but if you are not good you do not do. This is very common in all fields.

You know if we have not set up accountability, it might be difficult to happen. Suppose we say that if in your class children are not reading the books, some action will be taken against you, if you will make accountability like this. But there is nothing like that. So how things will happen. So if the authorities can do that that will be good and if we are visiting the library we can check it. Here like in our case, we have money and we have guidelines so we implement the things and utilize the money. As here authorities come and ask us so we do here. But you know this accountability has not been handed to the teachers. So It is like that

I: Are there librarians in the libraries in the school?

APD: No, there is no such librarian, even there is no peon, security or clerk. There are only teachers. Even though there are 400 students in the school, still there is no clerk, there are only teachers.

I: Is there a designated teacher who looks over the library in the school ?

APD: So there is a headteacher and as per the class, the class teacher gets approved for the teaching. So the headteacher will only be in school if there are a large number of students in the school. So if the number of students are less, in that case teachers only look at the responsibility of the headteacher so in that case there are not even headteachers in the school.

I: But still is there someone who takes care of the cupboard of the library ?

APD: Yes, someone has been given the responsibility of looking over the cupboard.

I: So it's their job to give books to the children ?

APD: Yes, yes, that is their job to do things. You know schools are in very remote locations so there are not many students in the school. Sometimes the number is even less than 30. So in such cases they have very little business to see things and they do like that.

So there are big villages and the number of children are large, in such schools this designated librarian is there. So you can visit such a school where there are more than 200 or 300 students. You may ask for the details and visit such schools.