



Adopt A Classroom Update - 2nd. March 2022.

About 6 months ago, Global OGBs Association (GO) started the Classroom renovation project with 12 Junior School block classrooms. We started small, with just enough funds for one classroom, and that classroom was handed over to the school on the Birthday 2021. Pictures of that one completed class opened the floodgates, with money being poured in and pledged by OGBs worldwide who gave freely with the large hearts they have.

Since then Pauline Sapphire Singh, ably assisted by Jigme Tenzing, Russel Framjee and the Workshop have been toiling their butts off in cold weather (throughout the winter with just a short break of a week for Pauline, to give you what you now see. It was no easy task - Full replacement of the Furniture with these aesthetic, powder coated and laminated plywood desks, Teachers Tables and lockable cupboards, full painting of the walls, thorough repair of the wooden floors to strengthen them, level them off and replace rotted planks, PU sealant and polish on the repaired floors to give a dance floor look which should last several years even with hundreds of naughty kids prancing about, new electrical wiring and adequate LED lights with MCBs for safety, new green-boards, new notice boards for the kids to put up their art and project work - even a spanking new brass Class number plate outside. In fact, for two of the classrooms on the ground floor, the floor was too far gone to be repaired, so we uprooted the planks and filled in the space and tiled them. The project was completed just on Saturday last.

Yesterday, 1st of March 2022, was the first day of school after two years of turmoil and trauma. I was privileged to have been present all morning in the campus and visited all the renovated classrooms to see the happy children and absolutely delighted teachers.

A big shout out is due to both the volunteers and workers I have mentioned, and those noble OGBs who gave of their hard-earned money to make this amazing transformation possible. I hope these pictures and more I'll be sharing will give you a sense of satisfaction that the money has been well spent and fulfilled the purpose you sent it for. (Quick aside - we have kept our expenses with the budget planned).

There are a few small jobs still to be done - A plaque in the central quad verandah acknowledging the contributions (other than the plaques within the Classrooms by their respective donors). A few teacher tables and cupboards are still due to be supplied and should be there before school starts on Monday next. (That's why you might see some old cupboards and tables in some photos). The class number plates have been delivered

and will be fixed soon - Some things were delayed at my end, and for that, I offer my sincere apologies. Some minor repairs to some desks due to transit damage will also be completed before we make the final instalment of payments.

We must mention here that the entire roof of Junior school block was leaking in several places and was causing immense damage to the classrooms below - in fact, many of them were safety hazards or unusable. On an appeal from the BOM, the MaCabe Foundation in the UK run by OGB Alistair Macabe contributed for an entirely new roof. We need not worry about leakage or painting of this roof for 20 years at least. I will be giving the pictures and the details in a separate post. Along with the roof, the guttering has also been replaced and aligned so that that bane of DGH buildings and infrastructure - leaking roofs and pipes - will not be a problem here. As a finishing touch, the gutters have been covered with a PVC frill for aesthetics - I'm sure OGBs will not grudge us this slight indulgence!!

Another issue which needs to be informed to all OGBs - especially those who have time and again raised issues of accountability, skimming and wastage: All the corrugated sheets replaced from this Junior School block have been sorted, counted and stored. They are already being used for repair of senior school block and will in future be used for other areas as required. They will NOT be carted off or sold off by the contractors and used by them for personal profit as done before.

Similarly, all planks removed and still usable from the two classrooms we have tiled have been given a rub-down, treated for termites, numbered and stored. In fact, wood from here was used to repair other classrooms in this block and also repair the 3 stairs and landings as required in the junior school - two of the staircases were almost unusable and very risky for all. This wood is also being used, under our supervision, to repair the floorboards of senior school. For this initiative, another big shout-out to Pauline Sapphire Singh who personally did the hard work and, in the process, got herself a rash from the fungus on the wood.

I do so hope that the successful completion of the biggest ever project undertaken by OGBs will motivate more to come forward to assist with money and time for the next phase which starts in the first week of April - the repair of the Senior School (Hornell Block). Please do join in to help Pauline Sapphire Singh in that phase - it will be tougher to do as school will be on. And dear OGBs - if you are happy with what we have delivered, please do keep the funds flowing in so that we can do more for the School and Home we love so much.

Sushil Marda,
GO