School Leadership: Knowing your school

English
The learning walk is very important for school leaders, because by doing this, we get to know what is happening in the classroom. We can observe the teaching and learning process, and see if the children's understanding is up to the required standard. In today's learning walk, we saw that there were some concepts which the children were not able to understand. So the teacher was trying, over and over, to make them understand. Today, for the first time, they were reading this chapter, which the teacher then explained and clarified for them. I discussed what had happened with the teacher afterwards. Through these walks and discussions, we get to know what's happening in the school. The children are our main focus here. Normally, I see the classroom from the outside. One can tell from the outside, too, what the teacher is doing, but I also go inside the class. I joined this school in July, and have been doing the learning walks since then. I go into the classrooms, but I interact with the teachers later. First, I see how the teaching and learning process is working. I don't share my comments with the teacher at the time – I do it later. So that's what I do, I always do a learning walk. If children have any problems, we pay attention to them as well. During the walk, we get to know if any child is ill or has any other problems. Generally, in the rural areas, the children's problems are different, so we have to handle them individually. During the learning walk we see the factors that affect the children. We can pay attention to the teaching and learning process at the same time. The learning walk is very important for the school head. It is very helpful to know what is happening in the school. We get to know if whatever the teacher has planned is being executed in a proper way or not. Through this, we get to oversee the teaching and learning process, or monitor the children's attendance. We can also get a sense of the atmosphere by monitoring the whole school. We not only monitor the teaching and learning process, we also monitor the administrative aspects and the cleanliness of the school. All the factors that we plan, which are related to our school activities, they are all covered in it. Learning walks are very important.