

# Jan Seva Site Visit Report

Deepali Bhagvat

We did a virtual site visit of Jan Seva on August 10th 2023 from 8pm to 10pm PST.

Director of Jan Seva, Fr. Godfrey D'Lima co-ordinated the site visit. Warden Nitesh was also present during the site visit.

There were some 10th std boys when we started the visit. Piyush, Rohit, Karan, Manprit, Ankit, Paradip, Hemant and Aditya were a few amongst them who talked to us.



We asked them what they were doing before talking to us. Some of them mentioned that they were working in the vegetable garden on the campus where they are growing corn. They work in the garden for an hour and then they do their homework. One of the boys mentioned that he likes to paint. We saw their paintings hung on a wall.



Another boy mentioned that he likes construction and yet another person mentioned that he likes tailoring. One kid mentioned that he aspires to become an IPS officer when he grows up.

We talked to another kid from the 7th std. He said his favourite part of the day is when they study. His favourite subject is English and he likes to read story books.

This year there are about 50 kids at the boarding. Kids are encouraged to not come if there is a school close to their homes. Jan Seva charges Rs. 7000 as the yearly lodging and boarding fees. But if there is only a single parent or the parents do not have a job then the fees are reduced or waived.

Then we talked to Nitesh Sir. He starts his day at 5.30 am and is with the kids till 11 am when they go to school. The school ends at 5.30 and kids come back around 5.45 pm. The kids eat snacks after coming back from school. Then half of them go to wash their clothes

and the rest go to play on the ground. They assemble again at 7 pm for their studies. They eat their dinner at 8.15 pm. They can watch TV till 9.15pm, pray and then go to bed around 9.30pm.





Nitesh sir teaches the kids how to make breakfast and tea. Two kids make it for all the kids every morning. He also teaches tailoring to the kids who are interested. There are two sewing machines at the boarding.

The boarding has various facilities for the students. This includes the TV viewing hall and the computer room. The computer room has 10-15 desktops. Two people teach the kids how to use a computer. There is also a small library which includes reading material for various levels. But Fr. Godfrey mentioned that students are not much interested in reading and would rather watch some TV. There are water storage tanks that can store enough water for the boys' use. There is a bathing ghat for the kids and solar panels for water heating.

Sajjabai and her daughter-in-law Kunda cook for the boarding.



Lunch is being served by the boys



Boys having lunch in the dining hall







Jan Seva has to be careful with food for the kids as they can't digest spicy food.

Jan Seva keeps in touch with the school. The school has a very good headmistress and has a very good relationship with the school. The school is 1.5 km away. Extra classes such as German and art classes are sometimes offered by the school and boys can attend those if they are interested. Jan Seva also keeps a lot of art material available for free to the kids and has a small shop to buy the art material.

The playground on the campus is pretty big. The kids can play various games there including football, volleyball etc. But Fr. Godfrey mentioned that the kids are not much interested in organised games.

Fr. Godfrey also mentioned that the kitchen was built years ago and cramped. In the rainy season, the water usually comes into the dining room. The storage room and another small room to grind grain and make flour are disjoint, joining which to the kitchen would make cooking much more convenient.

Jan Seva provides hands-on experience in agriculture, especially in the organic agriculture side. They also teach how to make compost, how to control insects etc. This should give them an idea of what to expect if they go back to their villages and want to pursue agriculture. Piyush of std. X planting turmeric under agriculturist Jacob's guidance





Bro. Maxim is another staff member and is knowledgeable in music and offers music class to kids.



Dinesh is the accountant for Jan Seva.





Children are very simple and manage with very few resources. There is very little consumerism. Use of mobiles is banned in the boarding but they can have them for an hour in the evening to contact home. Mobiles are also available any time they want to contact

home. The staff encourages the boys to have the communication channel open and keep in contact with their parents.