

Jan Seva Site Visit Report

Deepali Bhagvat

We did a virtual site visit of Jan Seva on Saturday, September 6th, 2025, from 9.30 pm to 11.30 pm PST. Primary project steward Deepali Bhagvat, stewards of other Asha Seattle projects Jyoti Gawade, Amruta Deshpande, Vibha Deo, and Asha Seattle biking volunteers Lalit Jina, Praveen Mantha and Asha Seattle running volunteer Anjana were present during the site visit.

Director of Jan Seva, Fr. Godfrey D'Lima coordinated the site visit. We also got a chance to interact with coordinator Fr. Wencesl, Warden Nitesh and Supervisor Fr. Jacob.



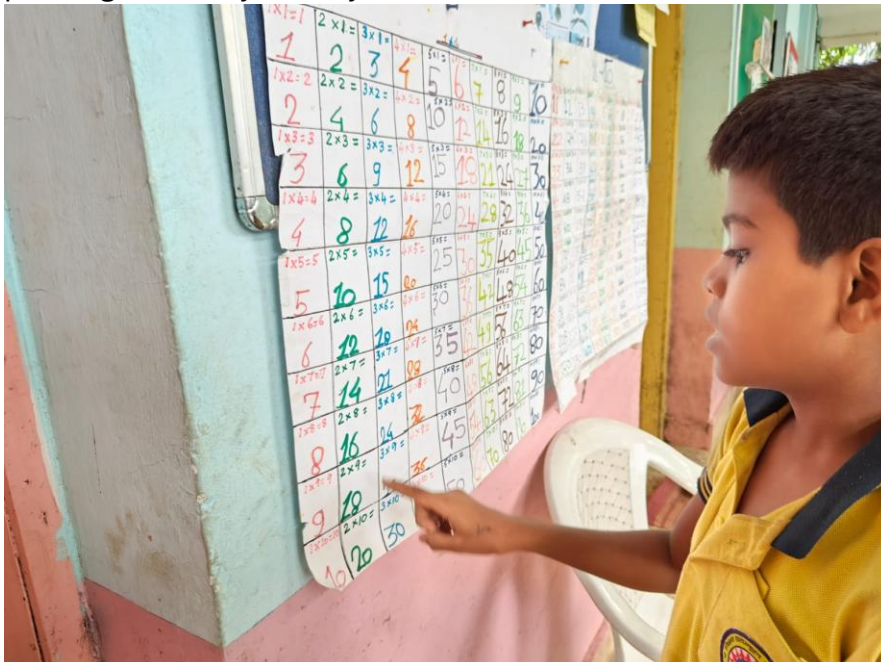
This year there are 60 boys at the boarding studying in grades 5th to 10th. They were at the boarding at the time of the virtual visit since the school had holidays for Ganesh visarjan and Eid. They were not assembled in a hall but dispersed around the campus.

As it was raining since the morning, but the rain had reduced significantly when we started the meeting, we decided to do the campus tour first.

This is the hall with lockers where the boys keep their belongings. It also has mattresses which the boys use to sleep on at night.



Fr. Godfrey showed us the two offices used by the staff. There were charts, drawings and paintings made by the boys outside the office.



We then visited the kitchen. Sajja Bai and Kunda were cooking lunch for the boys. They typically make rice, curry and rotis for lunch and dinner and pohe, khichadi or pulses for breakfast.



Warden Nitesh mentioned that boys also cook on holidays. Older boys are divided into groups and cook food under Nitesh's guidance. Younger boys help with cleaning and cutting vegetables. We saw some boys in the hallway peeling garlic for the curry and asked them questions about food and their typical day at the boarding. They mentioned that they wake up at 6 am, assemble for a prayer, eat breakfast, help with some chores such as gardening, take a shower, wash their clothes and study for some time. They eat lunch and walk to school around 11 am. They walk back from school around 6 pm, eat some snacks, play on the ground, do their homework, watch TV for some time and then eat dinner. They go to bed around 10.30 pm.

This photo shows boys helping with chores where they are grinding grains to make flour.



This is the on-campus vegetable garden where the boys help plant vegetables such as tomatoes, corn, cauliflower, cabbage, and pulses, and also fertilize them and harvest the produce under the guidance of Fr. Jacob.



A younger boy was playing in the hallway. The hallway had cupboards with board games, puzzles and books. Fr. Godfrey mentioned that the book library is inculcating a habit of reading in most boys.



I asked another boy in the hallway what activities he does on holidays. He mentioned that he likes to draw and paint and has participated in drawing competitions at the school. Fr. Godfrey mentioned that the boarding is in regular contact with the school to increase participation of the boarders in school activities.

Another boy mentioned that he enjoys singing and music sessions in the morning at the boarding. Fr. Godfrey composes music and teaches boys to sing if they are interested.

Nitesh sir mentioned that they have two sewing machines on campus and he teaches the boys to sew so that they can repair their own clothes.

Some of the boys were studying in the study hall. When I asked what are your favorite subjects, some of them mentioned English, Math and Marathi. Fr. Godfrey mentioned that senior students help junior students with difficulties during studies.



I talked to Fr. Godfrey about financials. Jan Seva maintains a record of all the transactions and tries to do cashless transactions as much as possible. But cash transactions have to be performed if someone does not have a bank account. Salary payments for the staff are made by the 4th or 5th day of the month. Jan Seva uses TALLEY as their accounting software. They charge Rs. 9,000 as annual fees. Most parents are farmers and pay the fees in installments. Sometimes they cannot pay the fees in full. There are some individual donors who donate either in cash or kind such as sports equipment, books, vegetables or other food ingredients.

The boys at Jan Seva were not as talkative as the girls at Jeevan Vidya. But I felt they talked longer compared to earlier years. We were happy to experience that and also to go around the campus.