

Sangamam School – Site Visit Report (FY 2025-26)

Visit Overview

I (Ramesh Ramakrishnan) visited the Sangamam School, run by Amar Seva Sangam, in Ayikudi, Tenkasi District, Tamil Nadu, in Sep 2nd 2025. The school continues to serve as a center for children with special needs, providing academic, vocational, and life skills training. The location remains semi-remote, with connectivity through buses, autos, and donor-supported school vans, ensuring regular attendance for children from surrounding villages.

School Background and Asha Support

Sangamam School has been supported by Asha for Education since 2009. The majority of funding continues to go towards teachers' salaries, with additional support provided for transportation, infrastructure, and training materials.

Key developments:

- Expansion of **vocational training programs** for students above 18 years, enabling integration into the workforce.
- Introduction of **Inclusive Education initiatives** with digital classrooms and peer group tutoring.
- Support for **Autism care, rehabilitation orchards**, and the **Enabling Inclusion App** for tele-rehabilitation and progress monitoring.
- **Current Students and Classes (2025-26)**

Class / Program	Boys	Girls	Total	Age Group	Focus Areas
Primary I (A+B)	14	7	21	6–10 yrs	Daily living skills, basic academics
Functional Academics (A+B)	12	10	22	8–11 yrs	Academic readiness, inclusion prep
Primary II	6	5	11	9–14 yrs	Self-help, grooming, academics
Secondary	6	3	9	12–15 yrs	Pre-vocational readiness, basic academics
Pre-Vocational I & II	11	3	14	15–18 yrs	Life skills, community interaction
Inclusive Education	22	1	23	10–15 yrs	Academic inclusion, peer tutoring
Vocational Training Centre	23	7	30	18–35 yrs	Employment skills, computer/data entry
Digital Classroom Inclusion	12	5	17	6–10 yrs	Accessible digital learning

Total Students: 135 (94 boys, 41 girls)

Staff and Infrastructure

- **Teaching Staff:** 12 Special Educators, 3 Teaching Assistants, 3 Special Teaching Assistants, 1 Headmistress, 1 Assistant Headmistress
- **Support Staff:** 1 Office Assistant, 4 Helpers
- **Facilities:** 7 classrooms, physiotherapy hall, occupational therapy hall, speech therapy room, sensory room, sensory garden, vocational training center

Activities and Programs

1. **Academic & Life Skills:**
Daily living skills, communication, academics, and self-care are emphasized for all age groups.
2. **Vocational Training:**
 - Trades include **candle making, jewelry, chalk piece, soap oil, and nursery training.**
 - Partnerships with **AMBA (Bangalore)** provide real-world work exposure.
 - 25 students now employed, with 7 at Amar Seva Sangam itself.
3. **Inclusive Education:**
 - Digital classrooms and peer group tutoring introduced.
 - Students participate in music, sports, yoga, and arts alongside mainstream peers
4. **Therapies:**
Physiotherapy, speech, occupational therapy, and yoga are integrated into the daily schedule.
5. **Recreational Events:**
 - Annual Day celebrations on March 1, 2025.
 - Excursion trip to **Bay Watch Theme Park, Tuticorin**, May 2025
6. **New Initiatives:**
 - **Autism Care Program** with sensory integration therapy.
 - **Amar-Abdul Kalam Rehab Orchard** for sensory, motor, and emotional development.
 - **Enabling Inclusion App** for therapy monitoring and remote rehab services

Teacher Interaction

Teachers expressed interest in:

- More **digital teaching skills** training.
- **Stress management workshops** to prevent burnout.
- **Regular peer learning visits** to similar schools

Recommendations

1. Continue funding for **teacher salaries** and **transportation**, as both are critical for operations.
2. Provide **additional training grants** for digital skills and inclusive education methods.

3. Support **mental health workshops** for staff to address job stress and improve retention.
4. Expand **vocational training** partnerships for better employment opportunities.
5. Introduce **regular recreational outings** for students to promote social integration.

