

Asha Silicon Valley

Sankalp Special School Site Visit

Location: Kanpur, U.P.

Date of Visit: January 22, 2026

Visitor: Vijay Poduri (vpoduri@yahoo.com)

Visitor Affiliation: Asha Silicon Valley



I visited Sankalp on January 22, 2026. I was accompanied by Mahesh Pande (Asha SV fellow) and Raju Gaur of Jagriti Bal Vikas Samiti. Dr. Deepti Tewari, who founded Sankalp Special School and still is the overall administrator, received us and gave us a tour of the facility.

The school is open 10 AM to 2:30 PM, six days a week. Similar to my tour two years ago, we visited the few rooms in the facility. Some of the children were being led through physiotherapy exercises, while others were going through learning materials.



Physiotherapy



Development of writing skills

I then met a young man called Varun, who does not like to make eye contact, but is otherwise quite friendly and capable. He mentioned that he likes to use a smart phone to visit internet sites and uses Facebook. This is a good illustration of both the age range and the variation in capabilities of the children in the school



Varun

Several of the pre-teen children also like to listen to music and dance. This is good for motor skill development, but also creates a happy atmosphere for the kids



Kids dancing to music

The school also tries to provide vocational training to some of the older and more dextrous children. I met two of them, Dhananjay and Nancy, who like to cook and are practising their skills. Later on they served us tea and biscuits.



Vocational training at Sankalp

Dhananjay and Nancy posing for the visitors

After interacting with the kids, we sat with Dr. Deepti Tewari and discussed the school and the challenges faced by it. The school currently has 62 kids, with 2 kids coming solely for therapy. The mothers of some of the children come with them in the morning and stay till school is over. Dr. Deepti is considering ways in which to involve these ladies in the school's functioning. She also said that they are considering utilizing the space on the second floor of the building and have had conversations with the landlord about it.

I asked Dr. Deepti if there are ways in which Asha SV can help other than providing financial support. She gave it some thought and said that it would be helpful if we can provide her with information about

- research on Autism
- new technology relevant to the school and its children
- software for teaching autistic children.

My visit reinforced my impressions from two years ago. The school, while housed in a small facility, is spacious, comfortable, airy, well-lighted, and clean. The children get a lot of attention and care. I was impressed that they are able to provide care to 62 children in the facility and am very encouraged by their plans to expand. They are providing wonderful services to a group of children who are greatly in need. I think Asha should continue to support the school in any way we can.