

Hijli Inspiration: site visit report

Swati Sircar

I visited Hijli Inspiration on 30 Jun. Met several people including Uttam, Tamali, Arsia, Rita and one more person (forgot his name). But the pleasant surprise was meeting Kasturi di, whom I had known for years through another Asha partner, Tomorrow's Foundation. We reconnected after decades. The fact that she is involved, validated the work of Hijli Inspiration immediately.

It was one of their centres. Met kids from two centres. One group comes to this centre. The other group was brought in so that I could meet them. Ages ranged from say 6-16yrs roughly. Many were making cards, painting. Some were studying. Interacted with them, asked them what they want to become. Some are in boxing (or wrestling), several want to work in beauty parlour etc. Kasturi accompanied me when we spoke with these children. Clearly, they are getting a much-needed space to study and grow and be with each other. Since Kasturi di is present, the organization is looking into the emotional development of each child. She was trying to dig into what younger children drew and what were behind what they drew and what they left out.

The centre was not very spacious. But well lit and had lot of positive vibes – lot of books, posters, colour, pictures around. It was clearly a welcoming place for children.

Tamali, Arsia and Rita run the three centres. They are the three indispensable pillars of this program. In fact, when I got there, it was Tamali's name that helped in locating the place – few girls guided us to the centre.

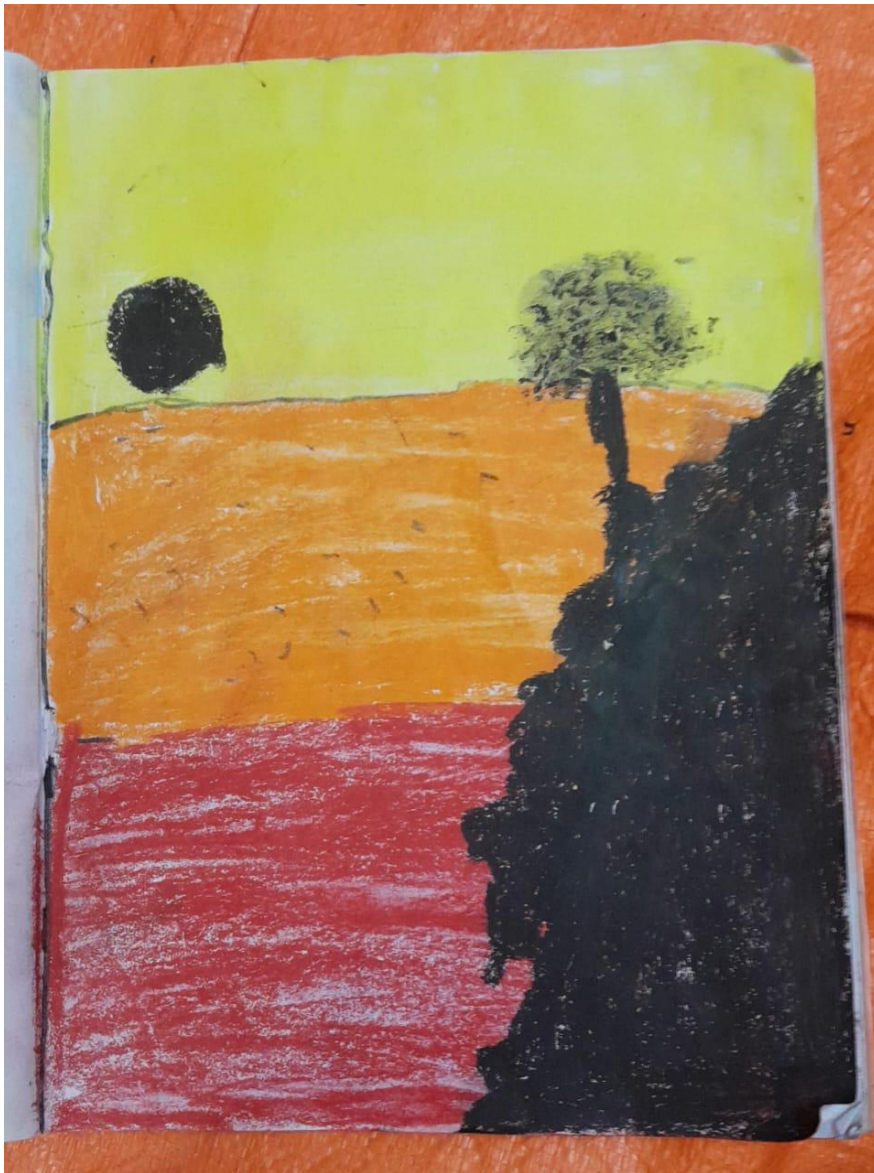
The organizers are trying to work with the local schools to strengthen the support net for the children in these areas. They seem to be well-meaning people, trying to do what is best for the next generation.

I returned with a bagful of cards created by these children – done with a lot of love and care – different styles.

Please refer to the photos shared immediately after the visit.

[Due to various personal reasons, I couldn't get to this earlier. So, unfortunately, various details of conversations have faded.]

Images on next page: progress report (Sep 2025 on the left to May 2026 on the right)





Hijli INSPIRATION
Kamarhati
30.06.2026 18:09
22.68210, 88.36773
Kamarhati, Agarpada, Kolkata, Panihati 700058

Conota
Camera for work

SW
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