

Visit to Center for Social Service (CSS) on 15th May 2010
Visited by Giri, Chandrashekar (Chandu)

Chandu saw a program called “Velugu Veluginchu” in Maa TV (a local Telugu TV channel). This program featured (in fact twice in two parts in two weeks) about CSS. This has interested Chandu to visit the organization and learn about them. After expressing the same to me (Giri), we planned to visit them on 15th May and called Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi to have a scheduled visit to the school on the same Saturday. We planned to visit them on 15th May evening at 4 PM. We called again Ms. Vijayalakshmi on 15th evening after we left from Dilsukhnagar (my home) at 4 pm and asked for directions to the place. She asked us to come to Nagole cross road and at the signal, take left, and look for Rajasthan tiles on the right. Take the lane next to it and ask for a school (do not remember the name of it). We could actually find CSS itself after crossing that school. After we reached CSS, Ms. Vijayalakshmi arrived from a donor’s place 15 minutes later.



Pic 1: CSS Office in Nagole



Pic 2: CSS Office in Nagole (display board)



Pic 3: Van used by CSS



Pic 4: CSS Office in Nagole

We had a brief discussion about their organization, what they do and how they work etc. Here are some of the points discussed and their responses:

1. The school has all pre primary and primary school going children (all girl children) and about 185 children. They give free education to all the locals and underprivileged children there. These children would not go to school at all if their school did not exist.
2. The school is about 20km from Nagole and is outskirts of Hyderabad, after crossing Hayathnagar and close to Ramoji film city.
3. The school is closed for summer vacation on the day we went and would reopen on 14th June. They asked us to visit the school after then.

4. The school gives a snack for the kids and there are few dedicated teachers, who try to teach the children with more inclination towards extra curricular activities like dancing, painting etc. They are still trying to explore better way of teaching methodologies. I suggested looking in to Warldorf's education system and Giri said he will look in to in having their children find such training centers. They are happy to have such training for their teachers. Giri also said he will look in to [butterfly fields](#) and see if they can sponsor them educational material and books for their children if possible free of cost.
5. Out of 185, there are few children (I remember about 50) are residents there and they are orphans and CSS takes care of them completely.

Ms. Vijayalakshmi also runs a home for orphans, who are college going girl students. This is at her residence (which is also CSS office) itself. There were about 25 children there and they are all going to various colleges and in various professions. Some of them are going to engineering colleges, some of them to arts, science degree etc. They are all provided with all basic necessities and along with that, they are all given all the necessities for their studies including bus pass, books and other stationary.



Pic 5: Orphan girl children in CSS

The only source of funding that they have now is only from their friends and relatives, including Ms. Vijayalakshmi's daughter in the US. They keep sending them the funds necessary. Since they do not have FCRA, all the money is routed through another organization (I do not remember the name though). They need help in administration and volunteers who could help them in getting more organized. They realized that this is something that they lack and hence are not able to attract many donors as well.

Overall I think it was good visit, even though we could not see the school, we planned to visit it again after June 14th. They can be funded through Asha in whatever way possible.