

Aanchal:

It is still in the same place (as the last time I visited) near the Saket Metro Station. Jamghat has rented the top floor for the girls and the basement for their Ekjut activities. The rent for the top floor is Rs 24,000/-

There are now 13 girls in the house- some of the older girls have left and new ones have joined. They have space only for 10 girls (bunk beds). They are planning to get one more bunk bed. In addition, it was very clear from my conversation with the girls that CWC sends them girls for short-term stay. Of the 13 girls, I had met 5 girls- Priya, Pooja, Ayesha, Muskaan, and Jyoti- during my previous visit. So it was nice to know that they are continuing at Jamghat. Below is the list of the girls:

Komal, Naseema (will be leaving in May as she turns 17), Pratigya, Priya, Neelam, Parampreet, Tanisha, Fiza, Ayesha, Muskaan, Pooja, Jyoti, and Sapna. Most of the girls are attending Life Academy or Little Ones Public School. Two girls are going to Ryan International School. Pratigya has completed 10th class and wants to join NDMC government school for 11th where she plans to do Humanities. She said that the school was very impressive as they have smart boards (an initiative of Delhi Government). She told me that she will use the metro to go to school and one of the house mother will drop her and later pick her up.

There are three house mothers- two do the morning shift and one does the night shift. In addition, there is one coordinator

Of all the girls, Pratigya and Naseema were the most confident and vocal. They are also the oldest. Naseema is doing beautician course and has got a job that pays Rs 15000/- per month. She will, therefore, move out as soon as she turns 17.

The girls told me that they have a tuition teacher who teaches the class 10th and 9th girls. There is also one teacher who helps out with Math. In addition, they have 6 mentors (volunteers). The girls are divided into groups and work with the mentors. Every Wednesday they have a session with the counsellor. On Monday and Friday they go over to a nearby park where they play. A sports teacher has been employed. Some of the girls (at least Pratigya and one more girl) go over to learn Squash. On Sunday, they do Yoga.

They have been also taken around on trips- Jaisalmer, Lucknow, Agra... They described the Jaisalmer trip as it had been the most recent one. They told me that they had been on camel and had lived in a tent...clearly they had enjoyed themselves.

New clothes are purchased twice a year- on Diwali and on Eid. But all festivals are celebrated. They appeared to have enjoyed Holi very much. During the summer, they plan to do theatre. In addition, they also go on trips/workshops with Pravaah.

Aman:

14 boys are staying. They are Arbaaz, Rohit, Rihaan, Shamshad, Firoz, Roshan, Ramzaan, Krishna, Mushataqi, Akhil, sharif, Rashid, Sadaam, and Bobby. The accommodation has not changed from the previous visit. The rent is Rs 23,000. Most of the boys attend the Little One Public School. I found that the girls were far more livelier than the boys (but it could be that I was tired as I had been sick the entire week). Arbaaz is the oldest and he is doing vocational training. He too will be leaving soon.

The boys told me that they too had been taken on trips. Again Jaisalmer was on top of their mind-maybe because it was the latest one- but they did remember going to Agra and seeing the Taj Mahal. On Monday and Friday they go over to the park for sports. Some of the boys learn Squash. In fact, when I visited, they were getting ready to leave for Squash practice. So they, and Pratigya, rushed off after the introduction.

They have 2 tutors who teaches all subject. One of them is exclusively for Math while one teaches all subjects. There are 2 volunteers who come in to teach. In addition, they too have counseling sessions. Again, there is a coordinator for the Aman home.

I asked them what will they be doing during vacations. Most of them said that they will go home (this response was different from that of the girls. None of the girls said that they would go home. Instead they were clear that there would be activities for them to do. I do not know whether it is because their home is not as welcoming a thought as it is to the boys. Amit did tell me that most of the girls were abused and so I am not sure whether this has something do with it). The boys also told me that last year they did not do theatre- but the girls said very clearly that they do theatre every summer and that they were going to do it this year also. Amit told the boys that they would be doing theatre this year. However, four of the boys are going to Nainital with Pravaah (NGO) for camping.

Like the girls, they do Yoga on Sundays.

Overall: Both the boys and girls seem happy and well-adjusted. Amit is not involved too much with Aman or Aanchal. Instead the coordinators are responsible for the smooth running of the homes. From my conversation with Amit, it was evident that the boys and girls keep in touch after leaving the Jamghat home. Furthermore, Amit is trying to make the homes self-sustaining by raising funds through Ekjut. Last year they had a revenue of Rs 5 lakhs and they are trying to expand their business of making and selling bags/purses/laptop covers so that the homes could be sustained through this effort. However, it will take some time before they are ready to do so.

I asked both the boys and girls what they wanted. They thanked Asha in the beginning but when I pressed them the girls told me that they wanted more books (Novels including). The boys had no such particular wish.