Aadarana as an NGO was started by Mr. Madhava Rao in 2003. Boy’s orphanage home was established first. Aadarana girl’s orphanage home was established in 2007.

Me, my wife Sujanthi and Mr. Pawan Reddy (my friend who volunteered to join ASHA Hyd to support funding the Girls home via ASHA Hyderabad) went to Aadarana girls orphanage home @ Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad on 5th December 2010.

A total of 26 kids between the age 5 and 15 live in a 2 bed room rented flat on the 5th floor of an apartment in Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad. A woman Saranya doing her Ph.D lives with the kids and helps in tutoring the kids, cooking and housekeeping. Mr. Rao’s mother also stays with the kids in this apartment (she was not there when went for site visit).

* All the kids are very enthusiastic, active and in good health. I understand most of them are good at academics (we will get their progress cards as well)
* Some of them know where they came from while most don’t
* All the kids are going to private schools (3 different schools)
* Elder kids take turns and cook food for everyone
* Cleaning the dishes and house is done by the kids itself
* Most of the kids sleep in the living room/large hall
* One washing machine is available for cloths
* Kids learnt dance for free from a teacher but it did not continue for a long time. Kids are showing a lot of interest in singing and dancing, arranging teachers for these two will be good
* Kids are showing interest to learn using a computer (some of the elder kids already have computer education at school). They requested us to provide a computer

Problems

* No cook is employed. Reason: Lack of funds
* A professional tutor was employed but was discontinued due to lack of funds
* Kids particularly the elder kids in 10th std need a professional tutor for Math and I think an English tutor for teaching everyone will be good
* No consistent funding for any component (education, rent & utilities etc...). Most of the expenses are addressed through Aadarana account (join account for boys & girls)
* Rent + Water is too expensive
  + Rent is Rs. 7000 (from January 2011)
* There is a severe water problem primarily due to the apartment management/residents. This is how water supply works at many places in Hyderabad. Water (none drinking) is bought through water supply tankers. This water is filled into storage (called sump) on the ground floor. It is then pumped to the overhead tank from this using a motor and supplied to all residents. Ideally all the residents share the tanker and electricity for pumping the water to overheard tank.
  + In this case Aadarana is being made to pay the entire electricity for pumping (Rs. 1000 pm). They pay Rs. 2000 pm for tanker, so a total of Rs.3000 is being paid here.
  + In addition to this Drinking water is Rs. 500
* I understand from my wife that there was shortage of sanitary stuff elder kids needed. She arranged some of the stuff and gave cash to address the near future requirement.

How the funding/donations work?

* Most of the funding is received from door to door collection and individual donors
* Mr. Rao would ask donors if their funding needs to be spent for Girls or Boys and the funds are directed accordingly
* Receipts are given to donors (with girls or boys home mentioned on the it)

Other observations

* It was evident that they were prepared for our site visit. Kids were well groomed, living room was arranged etc., and I believe this is a regular routine thing for the kids to present themselves like this for visitors.
* During our visit a couple of others visited the place
  + A family donated rice, vegetables and stuff on the occasion of their kids birthday
  + Another family donated blankets

Following were the concerns from ASHA Hyderabad Site visit that I discussed with Mr. Rao

* Aadarana annual accounts include mention of buckets 'books, fee, uniform etc.. these components are actually taken care by ASHA Hyderabad
  + Mr. Rao explains that funds for these components from Hyderabad are sometimes not available when they are needed. There is usually a delay of 2 or 3 months. For some of the requirements that cannot wait they spend money from their account and include only those in the accounts

At this point we don’t have any documented proof to acknowledge this. More scrutiny of the account statements for the upcoming year will give us clarity about this

* As we hear from acquaintances, most of the funds are diverted from the boys/girls home to the new project. Hence, even after having donors to the school frequently, Mr. Rao has been asking Asha and a few more to donate for both boys and girls. This is also apparent from the talk that one has with Mr. Rao.
  + I discussed about this with Mr. Rao. He explains that no funding given specifically towards girls or boys orphanages is being directed towards the building fund. Building fund donation requests are made separately and only funds specifically given towards it will be used for it

At this point we obviously don’t have any documented proof to acknowledge this

Suggestions/Requests

* Since ASHA will take care of the education related components Mr. Rao should employ a cook and domestic help using the funds from Aadarana account
* Mr. Rao said they will be share the financial documents for the Aadarana Girls house. I requested him to provide financial documents for both Girls home and Boys home together
* Requested more transparency reporting of funding and expenditure between girls and boys home

Request from Mr.Rao

* They did not pay the rent for the month of December due to lack of funds
* He was requesting for funds towards education components for the completed year 2010. Those requirements were met with the funds from their Aadarana account and he says if we provide those funds he can address other requirements for the kids like rent and other amenities. I told him I will discuss with the team after I return back to USA and let him know