

Site Visit Report: Bhumi Special Education Program

By: Ganesh Murthy, Asha Minnesota chapter coordinator

Date: February 27, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: CPS Government School, Jones Road, West Saidapet, Chennai

Point of Contact:

- Shankar B, Programme Manager, Ignite Communities, Bhumi
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Onsite Guide:

- Elango M, Programme Associate
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Key Highlights

- **Highly Interactive Learning Model:** The program uses play-based and activity-driven techniques to teach core subjects like mathematics and science, making complex concepts accessible and engaging.
 - **Strong Student Engagement:** Children actively participated throughout the sessions, demonstrating enthusiasm and sustained attention—an indicator of effective approach.
 - **Specialized Teaching Approach:** The presence of a dedicated special-education teacher enables personalized attention and fosters a supportive learning environment.
 - **Consistent Weekly Intervention:** Regular sessions (45 minutes each) ensure continuity in learning and gradual skill development.
 - **Positive Institutional Feedback:** The school principal expressed strong appreciation for Bhumi’s contribution, highlighting the program’s tangible impact.
 - **Scalable Volunteer-Driven Model:** Bhumi leverages a structured volunteer network to deliver programs across multiple cities, extending its reach to underserved communities.
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Visit Overview

This visit was pre-arranged by Bhumi at my request in coordination with their Program Manager, Mr. Shankar. The objective was to observe firsthand the implementation and impact of their special education initiative at a government school within Chennai.

Upon arrival at CPS Government School in Saidapet, I was guided by Mr. Elango, who facilitated access to multiple classroom sessions. Bhumi conducts these sessions weekly, rotating across classrooms to ensure broader student coverage. Each session lasts approximately 45 minutes and focuses on foundational skills in mathematics and language.

Program Observations

1. Innovative Teaching Methodology

One of the most notable aspects of the program is its departure from traditional rote learning. The teacher employed:

- Games and interactive activities
- Visual and hands-on learning aids
- Collaborative problem-solving exercises

This approach transforms subjects like mathematics and science—often perceived as difficult—into enjoyable and approachable topics.

2. Student-Centric Engagement

The children displayed:

- High levels of curiosity and participation
- Willingness to respond, ask questions, and collaborate
- Comfort and familiarity with the instructor

The strong rapport between the teacher and students was evident and played a key role in maintaining an inclusive and energetic classroom environment.

3. Importance of the Approach

This model is particularly impactful for underprivileged children because:

- It **bridges learning gaps** caused by limited access to quality educational resources
- It **builds confidence** in subjects that students may otherwise find intimidating
- It **encourages critical thinking and curiosity**, rather than memorization
- It creates a **safe and engaging space** where children feel encouraged to participate

Such interventions are essential in ensuring that foundational skills are developed early, which has long-term implications for academic success and self-confidence.

Stakeholder Feedback

Following the classroom sessions, a discussion with the school principal reinforced the program's value. The principal:

- Praised Bhumi's consistent engagement with the school
- Highlighted the positive influence of the sessions on student learning and participation
- Specifically acknowledged the contributions of Mr. Elango and the teaching staff

This external validation underscores the program's effectiveness and its alignment with the school's educational goals.

Students were bringing their handmade math and science projects to show me.



Overall Assessment

The visit provided a clear and encouraging view of Bhumi's impact on underprivileged students. The program stands out due to its:

- Thoughtful, child-centric teaching methods
- Strong execution through trained educators and volunteers
- Measurable positive reception from both students and school authorities

The experience was highly positive, demonstrating how structured, interactive, and empathetic educational interventions can significantly enhance learning outcomes for children in underserved communities.

Additional links to movies

Class in progress #1:  Bhumi_Site_Visit_Report_022025_1.MOV

Class in progress #2:  Bhumi_Site_Visit_Report_022025_2.MOV

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