

## **Bhumi site visit report – August 27, 2017 – by Rajaram (volunteer at Asha-Chennai)**

I visited the Nakshatra talent fest organised by Bhumi today morning. I went there by about 10:00 am. The event was just starting up. The volunteers up in front put me in touch with one Raja. He tried to take me to meet Dr. Prahladan. But he had left for the morning and was only planning to be back in the afternoon. Anyway I told them that I just wanted to see the event and not necessarily meet anyone.

In the main auditorium things were starting up with a drums presentation by a young boy who was blind. The volunteer who was compering the show had met this boy in the MRTS train. He did quite well. Raja was in the meantime getting me up to speed about what the event was and how it was being organised etc.

Basically this talent fest was concentrating on literary and cultural talents. They already had sports events earlier. They had divided Chennai into 4 zones. Today the event was being held for zone 2. Zone 1 was held yesterday and zone 3 and 4 will be held next week. The best performers in each zone will be identified and will be brought together for a final event sometime in November.

The participants are children from various homes in Chennai. In some of the homes, volunteers had gone there to train the children on these various competitions. Other places were sending the children on their own. There were events like "Skit", "Group dance", "Group songs", "Quiz", "Block and tackle", "Adaptunes", "Rangoli" etc. Some of them were happening in the main auditorium itself. Others were happening in many of the classrooms in the Kumara Rani Muthaiya College where this was being organised.

There were several sponsors for the events. Asha's logo was also found prominently in the banner. Asha was sponsoring the food for the participants and volunteers. I did not personally see or eat the food but was invited to take breakfast with the volunteers.

I saw a few of the events. The main auditorium was having the skits. The teams did a good job but since the children in the audience were making so much noise and there was very little control, we absolutely couldn't hear a thing that was being said in the stage!

The other events in the classrooms were much better since only the participants were in the rooms. I saw the conducting of "Adaptunes" where they will keep changing the tunes for one minute and the participant will need to adapt their dance and dance for the whole one minute. I also saw "Block and Tackle" where the participants have to speak both for and against the given topic. I then finally saw Rangoli which was being organised at a stage outdoors. In all the events I was quite impressed by the quality of the participants. The events were also organised quite well by the judges and volunteers (except as I said in the main auditorium where they were struggling to control the large number of children). The overall organisation of the event was very well done.



*1. Blind boy who played the drums very well.*



2. His parents also on the stage receiving a gift.



3. Rooms where the events were happening.



*4. Children waiting for an event.*



5. Children in the main auditorium.



6. Nakshatra poster showing Asha also behind the stage.



7. A skit team from Bala Mandir.





8. Block and tackle.



9. Another skit.



10. Rangoli competition.

