

## **Manasa site visit report**

Site visit conducted by: Aarti and Vinod

Date of Visit: January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

In the first part of our visit we met the students of Manasa the special school. The classes were being conducted in a classroom at the Madepatti Hanumantharao Girls School in Himayatnagar, Hyderabad. During our visit there were around 30 students, 2 teachers, 2 helpers and 3 management staff. The students were very enthusiastic and very excited to interact with us. The students had varied interests like music, dance, photography etc. Group of 4 students performed a dance and their enthusiasm was very evident. One student recited shlokas, two students recited some rhymes and another student learnt to use the DSLR camera from us and took some photographs of the class. One of the students, Ramu, was excited about General Knowledge and answered many questions. Two students also showed their notebooks with the lessons they studied in the past few months. Some of them knew to sign their names and they signed a thank you card for Asha Purdue as a token of their gratitude. Overall, the students were very talented and were excited about what they were learning in that school. The teachers were very patient, well trained to handle the special children, well versed in the special teaching methodologies and highly motivated to make a positive change in the lives of these children.

In the second part of our visit, we toured the new school building that is under construction in Dilsukh Nagar, Hyderabad. The management committee guided us through the building with explanations for the usage plans for the different rooms. The building was well designed and constructed with some special needs of the students like ramps and special classrooms. It was a four-storeyed building, with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors for classrooms, and 4<sup>th</sup> floor for hostels. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor construction was halted due to funding issues, but just the outer wall was in place for the safety of the students.

We also had a chance to interact with some members of the executive committee. All of them were very motivated and shared a common long-term vision for Manasa including the use of the new building that is under construction. Manasa's executive committee had very educated members who included a lawyer, consultants for NGO, retired professors and other professionals.

Overall, the site visit report is very positive. In 2011, Asha Purdue's disbursement of \$6000 (Rs 3 lacs) was used for meeting their educational expenses. In 2012, the disbursement of \$6000 (Rs 3 lacs) was used for 6 months teacher's salary. For 2013, Manasa has sent a proposal to Asha Purdue which is under consideration.

We strongly recommend continuation of funding for the project in light of the excellent progress the project is making. We also strongly encourage others to visit the school for a very fulfilling experience.



Students reciting some rhymes



With some of the Manasa Committee members & Teachers



With Manasa treasurer and some students.



Students dancing for a Bollywood song.



With Manasa Committee during their meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013