

Manasa site visit report

By - Rohil Jain, Volunteer, Asha Purdue

Site visit was done by me on 3rd of November 2017 with my parents. We visited Manasa in the morning hours when the school was still functional. We met Mrs. P. Sarvalakshmi, founder of Manasa, Mr. R. Ramakrishna Murthy who was the newly appointed director of the institute and several teachers and staff at the school. The school building was a 4 floor structure and the school was quite popular in the surrounding community.

Most of the children were in attendance along with 4-5 teachers. 1 therapist and other support staff. The children were divided into different classes based on their age. Each class was presided over by a teacher who were trying to engage the students in tasks that were appropriate to their level of disability. These exercises also serve to improve their condition over time. Several of the students were just taught basic life skills such as eating or talking or shaking hands, while some were taught how to recognize shapes or colors and very few even read or write.

One of the floors of the building was dedicated to classrooms and teaching. One other floor served mainly to provide specialized therapy such as physio therapy. The two upper floors mainly contained a meeting room, a hostel for kids which was non-functional and a couple of empty rooms and a washroom.

The low cost sanitary napkin making machines were lying in one of the classrooms due to a malfunction.

Overall the kids liked the place and had a strong connection with the teachers. Many of them were very happy to meet us and expressed their joy by shaking hands, saying hi-s and byes. We were there until it was time for them to leave around 3 pm when they were orderly sent to their respective buses and sent home. It was a wonderful experience for us and exposed us to the lives of some of the most unfortunate people. This in turn made us realize the importance of the work that Manasa does with them through their abundant patience, will and good intentions. I hoped to be able to support this project in future.

Few pictures and video from the visit:



The newly appointed Director Mr. R. Ramakrishna Murthy with the physio teacher in his office



The physio therapy room and equipment



Bedding and wheel chairs for hostel



Beds for the hostel



Space for board members and donors' meeting



Teachers' meeting room



Children in various classes interacting with us and performing activities



Conversation with one of the teachers of the school



A child trying to arrange balls by their color



Manasa building as seen from the roadside



Children getting ready to back to their homes in buses