

ILM school site visit report (Feb 15, 2014)
Submitted by Tisha Agarwal (daughter of site visitor Mr. Anand Agarwal)

Basic information

Date of the site visit: Feb 15, 2014

Name of the Project: ILM School

Name of the Organization Running the Project (if different): JKSMS – Jan Kala Sahitya Manch Sanstha

Was your site visit announced? (Yes, it was planned) or (No, it was a surprise visit)

Yes, it was planned

	Project Contact's Information	Site Visitor's (Your) Information (Volunteer conducting the visit)
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Affiliation to project	Project Coordinator of ILM School	Volunteer
Affiliation to Asha	ILM School is supported by Asha	Parents of volunteer's sister-in-law (Volunteer - Shruthi Prabhakara)

1. Talk to some of the people in the community, and see what they think about the school and the value of education.

In my dad's point of view, they are doing a really good job. He said that the organization JKSMS runs many other initiatives and they didn't know that one of the orphanages they donate to is also run by the same organization. My dad had called the number that you had forwarded me and scheduled a time to visit with Mr. Narendra Kumar of JKSMS. He came to pick up my mum and dad and he mentioned that the ILM school is in an area where the roads are very narrow and my parent's car is too wide to pass through. So he escorted them to the school in his vehicle which was a smaller car (a Maruti 800) which could only fit in partially and there was a nice long walk and climb to the school. They spent a couple of hours there and then returned to the JKSMS office to look at the other documents and registers.

2. Notice the level of teachers, and if they are effective.

The teachers are well educated and good. There are 3 of them - two teachers have been teaching since the past 6 years (I thin with the school) and 1 of them joined about an year back. All of them are college graduates.

3. Talk to the children and see how they feel about learning there.

The children were excited to learn. There is 0 drop out rate and they are admitted to the actual schools after 2 years at the ILM school.

4. Talk to a few of the elder kids, I think they have an after school program where they help these kids.

Yes. This is more like vocational training which is a part of their culture anyway. The older kids and elders teach the younger ones the skills of their trade - e.g. stitching crystals and gems (Nagina, Salma, Sitare (in Hindi) etc.) on fabric that is then used for custom tailoring various items.

5. If possible, try to ask about the drop out rates. Since the regular schools are probably not as much fun as the activity based school they have, I suspect this number would be high.

It looks like that no one drops out of the school. They had detailed attendance registers and had a record of 100% attendance with 0 drop outs! It was interesting and hard to believe but I guess the academic knowledge with vocational training kind of integrates well in their system.

Some pictures are included below:



