

### **Visit to Asha Kiran Home, Kurdha, Jatani, Orissa on 16 Dec 2012 by Giri Kolanupaka and Family:**

We visited the home at around 11 AM and could not spend more than 1.5 hours. Within that time we met Mr. Hochiminh Shastry, who is Secretary and the main person who runs this home. We got to see the office, the premises, and the home (separate rooms for orphanage, old age and special children). There were about 50+ children when we went there, about 10+ old age people, and 3 to 4 special home. I guess we could not count the number of inmates properly or not all of were there at the time we went. There is also a Maruti Omni van donated by AID chapter (on recommendation of one of the Asha USA chapter, I think Perdue). They have been using it for distributing food for destitute people around the place, and near Kurdha Road station. But it has not been running well as it is not being supported much. It is only being executed whenever possible, or when they have some excess food. There is also one TATA Nano which is also being used for local conveyance. There is a doctor who keeps visiting on regular basis (once in 15 days) and gives medicines as per requirement. There is also a dispensary and most of the medicines are supplied by govt for free of cost.

There was even a 3 year old girl (Madhuri), who has been picked up from a dust bin almost when she was just born. She is most adorable and every one there takes good care of her. I talked to few children and they are all decently conversant in Hindi and English. They had a decent library, computer lab with 3 old computers. There are few inmates who also volunteer in computer needs like documentation or any such sort of requirement.

I liked the way they have used the backyard to grow vegetables and some trees. The water that they use for cleaning and washing goes out to the backyard and is used as water to the trees and they also use the waste from kitchen as urea. There were cabbage, raddish, and few others that were grown there. All the children were also given passbook with bank accounts created since they get (I think all the children) get some amount deposited through a govt scheme (I did not enquire the details). The same pass book could also be used as identity card for each of them. Other than this, they would not have any such.

Hochiminh had also asked Asha Hyderabad to see if we could also fund the expenses for dinner to all the inmates so that he could concentrate on the development of the home rather than worrying mostly about the food being available or not.

The project is definitely worth being supported and I could see some sincere effort being done at such a place, which is at least 30 km away from city (Bhubaneswar).

Some of the Pics clicked during our visit:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/115358572994333923990/AshaKiranHomeVisit16Dec2012?noredirect=1>