

Hi Teju,

Finally the site visit was completed successfully. You can find the snaps in the below link :

<https://picasaweb.google.com/108765194792026257127/ASHAForEducationVisitPUMSKenganaickenpalayam?noredirect=1>

My friend Shivasri helped me a lot in this trip. He drove me all the way from Coimbatore to Tiruppur. He interacted with the students over there without which it would have been very difficult as most of the students spoke only Tamil. You should be mainly thanking him!

At the site :

We first spoke to Balamanikandan. He briefed us about SEBLA (excuse me for the abbreviation)- the science experiments which are taught to the students from 6th to 8th grade. They have prepared around 100 experiments that covers important concepts in physics and chemistry. These are explained to the students by making them do the experiments using easily available materials - cardboard, candle, scale etc; For Tiruppur there is one person trained (Dinesh) to carry out the experiments with the students. Dinesh visits each of the schools (in Tiruppur) once in ten days and covers roughly five experiments in each class. At the end of the year they conduct a written exam for these students and evaluate their understanding of the concepts.

Students demonstrated experiments based on Newton's laws, Bernoulli principle, centrifugal force; to name a few. They were very lively and showed active participation in performing the experiments. Shiva tested their understanding by asking few questions related to those concepts and he seemed satisfied with their replies. We had a personal interaction with them (that is without the teachers and coordinator around). Almost everyone liked to do the experiments and felt they could relate these experiments to their day to day activities. Few of the students had very good ideas and we encouraged them to implement those by taking Dinesh's or the teachers's help. We also requested Bala to add their ideas as well in addition to the existing experiments. We asked the students about how their interaction is with Dinesh and whether they get most of their doubts clarified from him. Their response was that they get most of the clarifications from their science teacher rather than Dinesh because he visits them only once in ten days. Overall we felt, the interaction needs to be improved between Dinesh and the students in that way it would help in improving both understanding and explaining of the concepts.

The HM of the school was requesting for a projector as they have comprehensive plans with the same. As per the interaction with Balamanikandan, they seem to satisfied with the funds for the project.

Thank you very much for giving us this wonderful opportunity!!!

Regards,

Meenakshi

Hello Meenakshi and Shivasri,

Thanks for conducting the site visit. The information provided by you will help us to decide if Asha Stanford should continue funding the project in future.

I have a couple of questions:

1. What was the travel time between Coimbatore and Tiruppur ? This would help us to plan future site visits.
2. Did the students know any other language besides Tamil ? What is the family background of the kids like ? Is the school in a village ?
3. Did you get a chance to speak with the teachers ? Are they happy with the work that India Sudar is doing ?
4. Do you think students can learn the concepts based on what is taught in school i.e. without India Sudar's intervention ?
5. Would you recommend us to keep on supporting this project ? The budget for supporting this project for this year is 5 Lacs and 40 thousand rupees.

Thanks,

Rahul

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Dear Rahul,

It was a nice experience for both of us to conduct the Survey .

1. The travel time was around 2 hrs ( by bike ) between Coimbatore to Thiruppur. If the location is unknown, it might extend.
2. The students doesn't know any other Languages other than Tamil. Since all of them were from Tamil Medium of Education, they are not even at the basics of English Lang.

Their parents seem to be working on Daily Wages nearby the village..

Yes the school is almost in a very remote location & it comes under Panchayat ( similar to village ).

3. We spoke with the Teachers & they are getting benefited a lot from India Sudar.. They are completely happy with the plans of India Sudar
4. I felt students are learning a lot about science concepts from the science experiments taught by India Sudar Org than from the School syllabus..
5. Yes , I recommend strongly ..