

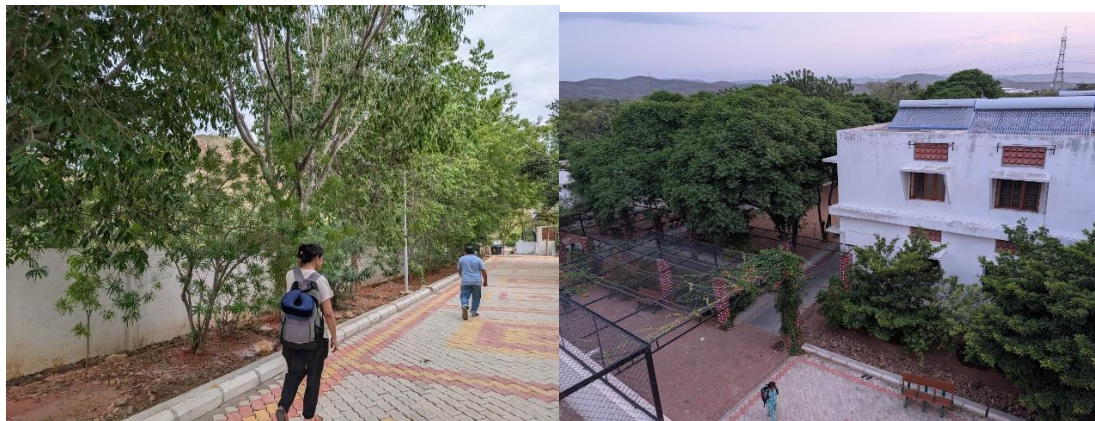
## Aarti Home Site Visit

Site visitor: Sree Geetha Dandapanthula

Date: July 14 and 15, 2025

I informed the project partner about my visit ahead of my visit. I arrived at Aarti Home along with my daughter on 14<sup>th</sup> July around 6:30 pm. We joined a meeting with the founder Sandhya aunty and few core team members to learn about their new initiatives. There were also members from their media partners – an advertising company based in Chennai. They were discussing about highlighting the children’s achievements and experiences on the social media and branding of the products made by the women at the cooperative society.

Later, we had a tour of Aarti Home by one of the staff members. Campus is maintained green and clean. Children are provided with healthy meals and snacks. Children have study hours, yoga, meditation, yoga, music and dance classes.



There are currently 132 girls at Aarti Home. This includes 20 girls from “Aarti Cares” program designed to help the girls from economically backward families. These girls (Intermediate- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade) are selected through an exam and are given free accommodation, food, college fees and transport. They are given all the study material and opportunity.

They opened a space with 30 computers (from Microsoft and other companies) at Aarti Home to help the high school students’ self- study through Khan academy and some educational channels on YouTube. We also talked to the students about safe and responsible usage of resources on computers.

There are 9 blocks and Kitchen/dining space. Each block can accommodate about 15 children. The rooms are equipped with beds and shelves. Each block also has 4 to 6

washrooms. There is a common laundry area. Study hours are held at common spaces of the building. There is a medical block and a guest room. The home uses electricity from solar panels. They have a kitchen garden, kitchen waste composter and rainwater harvesting. They are working towards making Aarti Home a zero-waste facility.

The kitchen and dining space are maintained very clean. The meals are carefully planned to be nutritious and healthy. We had dinner at Aarti Home.

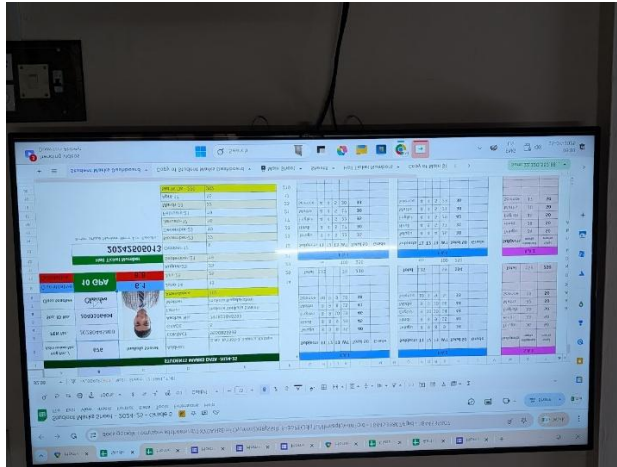






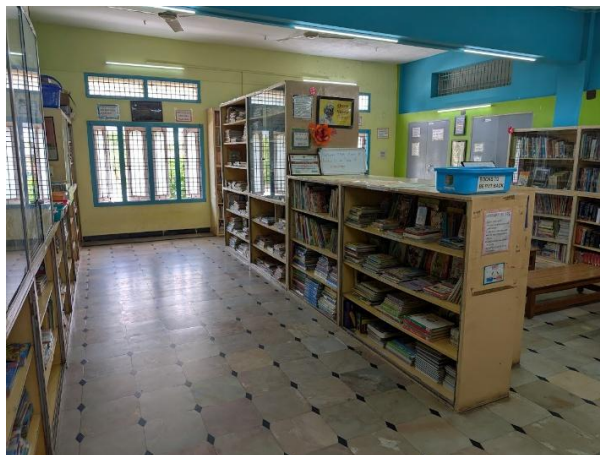
We visited Aarti school on July 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. There are 539 students, which includes 70 from Aarti Home. We met with the academic coordinator of Nursery to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Chandra. He explained in detail how they are digitizing all the students and teachers' records. They have an Aarti MIS app for teachers to access students' attendance, contact details etc. Teachers are required to submit a Google sheet with class work and Homework details by 5 pm every day. It is then communicated to students through groups. Students can also post their questions/ doubts in the groups.





Students' activities are displayed on the screens in the hallways near dining space. I suggested that they can also display positive messages and quotes to encourage good behavior and manners.

The school library has about 3000 books which include fiction, non-fiction books of various levels and magazines.



The bridge school is in the top 2 levels of the building. The students come from zero or very poor literacy backgrounds. Each grade has 2 levels. They are taught all subjects in small groups and promoted to regular classes as they are ready. The literacy in these students will bring a positive change in the generations.

Students are taught through MMM- mindfulness, music and movements.

We walked into many classrooms. Some students received awards from science Olympiad. Classrooms are also equipped with study materials like maps and diagrams.





School runs on Andhra Pradesh state syllabus.

Students have a small playground in the school. They are also allowed to play in the municipal playground right opposite the school.

School has 3 buses and 2 vans for transportation. A fee of Rs. 7000 per child per school year is charged for transportation. School fee is Rs. 10,000 per year for primary classes and



Rs. 15,000 per year for high school students. But more than 30% of the students (other than Aarti Home students) do not pay the fees as they cannot afford it. All students are provided with free lunch. Free uniforms are provided for Aarti Home and “Aarti cares” students.



There is Robotics lab and science labs in the school. We met with many teachers and staff.

Overall, I felt that the school is serving very well to students of various backgrounds in a very positive environment.

