Sri Sarada Niketan Public School Site Visit Report

Visitors: Srilakshmi Yenamandra(Asha volunteer since 2012)

Ravi Teja Gollakota

Report:

Myself and my cousin Ravi visited Sri Sarada Niketan Public School in 2018. It was an informed visit. The school is located in a village called Martur near Vijayawada. We were picked by 2 teachers from the railway station and it was about 1 hour drive from railway station.

It was a Sunday but the teachers had absolutely no qualms attending to us and guiding through the school premises, its various programs and the different activities there were doing. When we reached the school we were very warmly received by Dr Polineni’s sister and her family. Dr Polineni’s nephew had also come with his kids for a visit and they guided us through the entire site visit.

We were quite amazed by the serenity and premises the school was constructed and to know it was inaugurated by none late Honourable President of India Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. We were also quite humbled to see exceptionally clean the classrooms, sleeping arrangements were. We went just before academic year was going to close and kids were jumping with joy even though their school and home were same and all of them were orphans.

**Academics:**

The kids and teachers were both very diligent and we had to see some of their class work and were quite impressed by their proficiency levels.

The classrooms were quite spacy with lot of ventilation, but the kids did not have chairs and tables to sit on. They were still happy to a get an opportunity to study.

Some of them were very excited to recite some of the poems to me.

**Extra-circular activities:**

Apart from academics the students were also encouraged quite a bit to improve their artistic skills. While some students showed some excellent sketches and art some students sang songs and some others danced. We were quite humbled to see their performances.

**Vocational training:**

We learnt that some older students got vocational training as well so they can make some money.

**Efforts to self-sustain:**

The school was growing their own vegetables and also had owned their buffaloes and cows to meet their day to day food and milk needs.

The children were fed hormone free, organic healthy food on daily basis and most of them enjoyed helping with gardening in their free time. The cafeteria was also exceptionally clean, and kids took turns cleaning up after themselves.

They also built dormitories to accommodate sleeping and comfortable living of the kids.

**Health measures:**

There were quite a few HIV positive kids and while they were provided utmost medical care they were completed blended with other students and do not feel differentiated because of their medical condition.

There was a nurse living in the school full time who apart from taking exceptional care of the students played a big role in both ensuring and educating the adolescent kids in menstrual hygiene which is very commendable.

**Outstanding needs where Asha needs to help:**

The teachers and the students shared a great rapport but neither the teachers addressed the students as students nor the students addressed the teachers as teacher. The students called the teachers aunties and uncles so they don’t feel the void of being orphans and can personally connect with teachers. The teachers also consistently were referring to them as their own children and also heeded to their personal needs apart from academic needs.

However, the teachers still need to get paid and the consistent challenge the school was facing was getting funds to pay salaries to the teachers, secure the required stationery, furniture and the school needed help with that.

Given the exceptional effort and extremely selfless effort Dr Polineni put in to self-sustain school as much as they can and their specific areas of struggle to enable education to the kids because that can be the only and only differentiating factor which could impact their lives greatly I truly and honestly think we should help them out in their educational needs.

Concluding note:

I am truly humbled by the efforts Dr. Polileni’s effort in building this school/orphanage and I look forward to many more site visits.

Thanks,

Sri

(Srilakshmi Yenamandra)

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Description automatically generatedA group of cattle standing on top of a building

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