

BASUNDHARA SITE VISIT REPORT

Date of Visit : Mar 17, 2015

Asha volunteer : Suchismita Sarangi

The site visit for Sri Aurobindo Integral school (SAIS)-Basundhara was conducted by Asha-Purdue volunteer Suchismita Sarangi. The overall feedback from the visit was very positive. The final exams were going on at the time of the visit, and there was full attendance. The exams were being conducted in a diligent and fair manner, with invigilators in every room. The children were happy and motivated and eager to show their skills.

The Center holds around 60+ students presently. The students reside in separate hostels for boys and girls, and attend classes regularly. Some key points from the visit are noted below:

- Since the kids are orphans and all from varied backgrounds, the classes are comprised of students from different age groups. Teachers have to assess the mental level of the kids and determine which class they belong to. Each kid responds differently and the teachers have to take that into account to provide individual attention. The kids are taught to be disciplined, to respect others, keep the school premises clean and other moral and social values.
- The school is like the only family for the kids, so they have to provide special care. Apart from education, the expenses for accommodation, healthcare, food, books and other daily living expenses are also borne by the organization. All the faculty and staff that we met were very close with the students and provided personal care. Hostel staff also provides help with homework etc. Good food, water and healthcare is provided to the kids.



Lunch hour

- The kids we spoke to, were very happy with their daily routine, enjoyed classes, and were highly motivated to excel in future. They were eager to answer questions, recite poems etc. Special talents in extra curricular activities are strongly promoted, and these kids are trained to use their talents effectively.



Kids in class



- Kids also enjoy arts and crafts, and showed us their drawings, tailoring etc. The school walls are decorated with art and motivational quotes by kids who enjoy painting.



Arts and crafts



- Sports, music and yoga lessons are included in the curriculum for integral development of the kids. Kids participate in competitions with other schools in the city and have won many awards.

Suggestions

- Due to low pay scale, it is difficult to find talented teachers. Adopt-a-teacher and Teacher training programs would be very helpful. More number of teachers are also required.

- Some more facilities such as fans in the classrooms, common refrigerator etc. would be very useful especially in the scorching summers. They also need to setup a separate computer room for computer classes.