

Mathru Foundation Site visit on June 23rd, 2016.

I visited Mathru foundation on June 23rd. My description will be accompanied with a sharable link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bw4N8-DCaF16MEtaemU0T3pVR2s> to everyone. All references to image names are related to this link. So, please use this link while reading this report to get a better sense of the site visit.

My visit was June 23rd evening around 5 pm. I first started by taking snaps of the building (01_Building_outside, 02_Building_outside2, 03_Building_backside3) from outside. Then went into the Main-Hall (04-Main-Entrance, 04-Main-Hall) and got introduction from the children (04-children-intro.mov). I then went to take snaps inside the building as this was the first time I visited the foundation. There are nice ramps that are designed for kids to easily go between floors (05-ramp1, 05-ramp2, 05-ramp3).

The first floor has the kids rooms (06-kidsroom) and bathrooms (06-bathroom1,2). The important thing about the bathroom is that the toilet is designed for the special needs of the kids (06-bathroom2). The first floor also has the cook's room (06-cooks room) and malathi's room as well. Then we go through the ramps to the second floor.

The second floor has the library room, projector-rooms and another similar room like the first floor for the kids. (07-libraryroom, 07-projector, 07-kidsroom-futureuse). You can see in the picture that they already have the infrastructure in terms of bedrails. They have to just set it up right when they add more children.

The third floor is in the open without any top floor. Here they are just using it right now for drying clothes (08-handtraining). This area is primarily dedicated for kids who graduate and who aren't able to find jobs. This area is for kids to learn various vocational skills by discussing with companies/factories nearby. We can also see that the lift which originates from the ground-floor goes all the way to the third floor (08-lift-construction) which is still under construction.

I later came down and looked through the kitchen (04-kitchen1,2), and talked briefly to the three key people for malathi (04-keypeople). They help in all activities of mathru, from cooking to taking care of day-to-day needs like dropping kids to school etc.

After looking through the building, I sat down to discuss with Malathi. The kids showed me their daily yoga practice in the main hall (010-Yoga practice) which lasts about 30 minutes which is a combination of asana and breathing practices.

During my discussions with Malathiji I found out that her primary source of income for the foundation is through her talks she gives across the country and individual donations and 'asha for education' currently. All the money from her talks goes to 'mathru foundation'. Many aspects of the building construction was donated by donors in kind rather than providing cash donations. I talked to Malathiji about CSR and she mentioned that in most companies CSR programs are very specific to a theme. For example, a company was ready to provide "tree donations" for planting trees in the foundation which is very specific to planting trees. So, the key would be to identify the CSR programs that suite their needs.

Lastly, during my discussions with Malathiji about fund utilization I realized that there was a communication error between me as the steward and Malathiji about fund utilization. Malathiji mentioned she will start using the funds only after she gets a letter from 'asha for education' stating what the funds can be used for. She had communicated that to me, but as a steward I interpreted that as proof of "how the fund was used" and NOT "formal authorization to start using the fund". I later thanked malathiji for showing me around the building and spending time with me and left the building. The next day I sent her the fund-utilization letter so that Mathru foundation can start using the funds.