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**Site Visit to ASHRAY AKRUTI – EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER, Hyderabad, India,
September 26, 2022**

A Voluntary Organization Working for the hearing impaired since 1996

Website: www.ashrayakruti.org

I visited the “Early Intervention Center” at Ashray Akruti on Monday, September 26, 2022. The “Early Intervention Center” at Ashray Akruti has three locations.

- 1) Srinagar Colony, (Ameerpet, Telangana)
- 2) Chandrayangutta, (Telangana)
- 3) Kadapa, (Andhra Pradesh)

I visited the “Early Intervention Center” located in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad. This center has grown since my last visit (in March 2020) and has 45 children. The enrollment is expected to rise further due to the high demand, because of the positive outcomes & success rate – this will translate into more resources/funding that will be needed in order to continue providing quality services – this point was stressed by Kalpana & Mr. Babu. All children/students are hearing impaired with varying levels of disability. The goal of these Early Intervention Centers is to help the children at an earlier age when the outcomes are superior and the cost per child is significantly less. Furthermore, these children go on to regular schools and are mainstreamed at a much earlier age. This is the only such center in Telangana.



The early intervention center/school building at Srinagar Colony is clean and properly maintained. The classrooms are well organized. On a Monday morning (Sept. 26, 2022) I met with Kalpana, the vice principal of the center/school & Mr. Babu. I also discussed their AVT program. After a cochlear implant the children attend the Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT) from where they can be easily mainstreamed. The progress for each child is tracked individually. The AVT program has 120 children. In the past 5-6 years 185 children have benefitted from cochlear implants and of these 26 implants were in the past 5-6 months.

Learning at an early age as at the Early Intervention Center, occurs via hearing and speech as opposed to lip reading and sign language when there is no early intervention. This results in much better outcomes and quality of life for the child and family. It is also more economical: Happy and healthy children and a greater return on the investment.

They will need sponsors/donors in order to keep the programs going since the children are from very poor families. Ashray Akruti administers 20 programs & approximately 750 children benefit from these programs. Due to the rise in enrollment, space is also at a premium.

It was a very rewarding experience to see a place where children & women can hope and build a better life. The center is very appreciative of the support provided by Asha for Education, Danbury Chapter.

Below are some photographs taken during my visit:

Therapists teaching classes



Students and mothers at the Early Intervention Center

