

Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya Site Visit Report : 7th Nov 2019

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Kalkeri Sangeet Vidyalaya (KSV) is about 18 kms from Dharwad, Karnataka. It provides classical music/dance education in addition to the regular curriculum to 250 students from neighboring villages between ages 5 to 18, who otherwise might not have any education opportunity. Students are from underprivileged families and communities within approximately 25 kms radius. KSV is a residential school and free of cost to every student.

I reached the KSV campus on 7th Nov. 2019 morning with 3 of my friends from Kolhapur, Madhavi, Neeta and Shilpa. All of them are educational professionals in Kolhapur, so they were very curious and excited to visit KSV.

The minute we entered the KSV campus, Adam welcomed us warmly. Adam took us first to the main office and introduced us to the office staff and volunteers. Volunteers Celine and Mack gave their perspective towards KSV and it was wonderful to see them gelled so well with the local staff.



At this time, students at KSV had gone home for Diwali vacation, campus was mostly empty, but getting ready to welcome the students after their long Diwali break. Pathway construction was in full swing, some dorm rooms were getting patched up, wardens were making sure everything is in place for kids to come back to. Due to torrential rains this monsoon, a lot of patching/reconstruction was needed at so many places. Even if November is a dry month in India usually, even on the day I visited KSV, it started

raining by the end of our visit and we did experience crossing an overflowing bridge on our way.



Visited first aid center at KSV headed by a foreign volunteer. While we were visiting, a worker was getting treated for poisonous snake bite. It was great to see that at least the first and immediate treatment is made available at KSV before patient is transported to the nearby hospital.

Adam and his wife Rekha showed us the new developments in the kitchen area where food for the whole KSV family is prepared every day. Old mud stoves are replaced by new gas stoves which saved kitchen staff from getting smoke inhalation. Newly installed rice cookers can now cook rice in large quantity easily. Rekha's simplicity and humble nature, her kindness and team building skills reflect in smooth operation of kitchen area and its staff. Even if there is so much work going on, there is no chaos or shouting. Rekha herself was participating in every chore (from cleaning and sorting vegetables to cooking anything) and chatting with all of them at the same time. Wonderful management style, everyone can learn from.



New Yogashala has come out really beautiful. Adam was very grateful for ASHA Boston's help in getting it constructed/renovated. This hall is used for almost every group activity that happens at KSV from early morning yoga/breakfast to late evening concerts/performance/meetings etc. So having this building in good shape was extremely important.



We sat down in the new Yogashala building for the delicious lunch. Some wardens, volunteers joined us for lunch.



We had the opportunity to look at KSV library and meet some teachers who were getting ready for their classes. They showed us how they plan for their classes. Similarly dorm wardens were busy getting dorm rooms ready to welcome back students.



We also ran into 2 past students who passed out from KSV and are attending college at neighboring towns but still live at KSV. KSV supports their students even though college, if they need.

Art was in abundance at KSV starting with the beautiful warli paintings.



To keep the campus clean, dustbins are placed at strategic places which will be easy for students and staff to use. Everyone seems to be pitching in for keeping the campus clean in a very natural way.



Adam mentioned that not having enough funds and not every child having sponsorship is the biggest challenge right now for KSV. He also mentioned how thankful he is for all the help KSV has received from ASHA Boston/MIT.

I feel like, if we can get our website running a little smartly, we might be able to get some more child sponsors.



The best thing that me and my friends noticed was that there is harmony, peace and respect at KSV. The environment created by Adam, Agathe, Rekha, Sudharm and all of the staff, volunteers at KSV is

commendable. There is a unique sense of satisfaction one feels after visiting KSV. All of my fellow visitors have confided this to me after the visit.

Thank you for your hospitality and time KSV.

