

Virtual Site Visit Report

Name of School: Little Stars School

Organization running the school: Rishi Pragatisheel Shikshan Sansthan

Date: 10:20 AM to 11:00 AM IST on February 9, 2022

Purpose: The Princeton Chapter of AfE has been supporting pre-primary education at the school since the financial year 2017-18. The last in-person site visit was in September 2019. A planned in-person site visit in 2021 could not materialize due to Covid. Therefore, this virtual site visit was organized in order to fulfill the requirements of supporting the proposal by PSSS for funding the education for the year 2021-22.

Person doing the site visit: Amrish Garg (from Princeton chapter of AfE in NJ)

Background: Little Stars School has the mission of providing quality education to economically disadvantaged children. Their teaching methods and curriculum engage students, and their total enrollment (for all the grades from pre-nursery to 12) has remained at about 900, which they consider to be the school's capacity. They have about 187 students in the pre-primary classes, which include Pre-Nursery, Nursery, Lower Kindergarten (LKG), and Upper Kindergarten (UKG).

Virtual visit: The participants in the virtual visit over WhatsApp video were

1. Ms. Asha Pandey, the leader of the organization
2. Four teachers/staffers in the building
3. Amrish Garg from New Jersey

Time of visit: 10:20 AM to 11:00 AM IST

Minutes of the visit: Ms. Asha Pandey was recovering from Covid but was in high spirits. She described the disruption caused by Covid. Tragically, there was loss of lives among the staff and the students during the severe outbreak last year in the Spring. Thereafter, the school played a key role in getting the students vaccinated and served as a Vaccination Center.

When Covid prevented the students from physically attending the school, the teachers tried to provide help through online instruction. But a big hurdle was the fact that the families of many children did not have internet access. Moreover, to engage little children through remote learning was an impossible challenge. The teachers rose to the occasion by making worksheets and delivering them to the homes of the kids.

The school was closed for the week due to a Covid outbreak among some students and staff members, including Ms. Pandey. The staff members were however using this time to complete administrative tasks.

I spoke briefly to Mr. Vijay Pandey, Mr. Praveen Mishra (teaches of physics), Mr. Ritesh Gupta and Ms. Poonam (nursery teacher).

Ms. Pandey proudly described the numerous events celebrated at the school. Some of which were:

Independence Day

Environment Day

Yoga Day

Teacher's Day

Gandhi Jayanti

Madan Mohan Malviya day

Bal Diwas

Christmas Day

Tulsi Plant Day

Republic Day

(she had been regularly sharing photos and videos of these events with us throughout the year).

Recommendation: Little Stars School continues to do effective work and meet its deliverables. AfE should continue its support to the organization.

Amrish Garg