

Gramya Site Visit

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I have visited two government schools in Chitriyala and Kampalapur, one Anganwadi centre in Chitriyala and gramya hostel in Deverakonda.

Government School in Chitriyala: This is part of Chandampet mandal of Suryapet district in Telangana State. The village is 26 kilometres from Devarakonda Mandal headquarters. This is a remote village and has only one bus service which runs early morning 6 a.m. Most of the families in the village belong to the Lambada community. All the families are into agriculture. Some of them own small land of their own and most of them work as agriculture laborers.

The school has five government teachers including the headmaster but they don't show up regularly. Only a contract teacher attends the school regularly. (Contract teachers are government appointed teachers who completed teachers training and assigned to schools where there are not enough teachers on a temporary basis. They get only honorarium, which is very nominal compared to regular teachers.) The contract teacher in the school has a very good rapport with the children. Gramya provided one teacher who helps the contract teacher and make sure that the children are well taken care of.

There are two private schools in the village and there are also some private school buses from Deverakonda come to village to pick up children. Most of the families who can afford send their children to private school. If they cannot send all their children, they will send the boys to private schools and girls to government schools. That's the reason for higher strength of girls over boys. Many of the students who we spoke to also go for labor work - Sheep rearing and/or cotton picking in the nearby fields.

Anganwadi in Chitriyala: Anganwadi is run by government for small children. It is like a crèche/preschool. The center in Chitriyala has one teacher and one support staff. Both of them were there during my visit. Support staff takes care of cooking meals and teacher plays/sings with the children. There are several toys provided by the government but they do not seem to be in use much. Currently there are 5 children attending the center. The center is open from 9 am to 4 pm. As this is the season for cotton picking most of the parents take the children along with them to the field as they may not come back home by 4 pm.

Gramya trained the teacher who is working currently in the government school to take care of children at Anganwadi. The plan is that the teacher works with anganwadi children till midday and afternoon takes care of after school program for the government school children.

Gramya Hostel in Deverakonda: The hostel is meant for the girls who are rescued by Gramya. There are girls who are rescued from trafficking, child marriages, family violence and some of them are also orphans. The hostel is meant for all age groups. Girls go to government schools. Elder girls who attend college takes care of younger ones with home-work and play the mentor role for them.

Government School in Kampalapur: The village is located 6 kilometers from Devarakonda mandal headquarters. Most of the families here also from the Lambada community and they are into agriculture too (some do agriculture in the land owned by them and some work as agriculture labor). The government school has 3 teachers and one gramya supported teacher. Teachers here are self motivated and the result is seen while interacting with the children. Compared to the children from government school in Chitriyala, the students here are very active and highly energetic. There are several private schools in the area. As it is only 6km from Deverakonda, several private schools located there pick up children from this village. Several families send the children to private schools and only who cannot afford it are sending their children to government schools.

Strength in both schools:

Name of the village	Girls	Boys	Total	
Chitriyala	I	23	28	51
	II	12	7	19
	III	12	5	17
	IV	15	3	18
	V	1	5	6
Kamalapur	I	4	8	12
	II	4	8	12
	III	6	5	11
	IV	10	6	16
	V	5	2	7

Conclusion Remarks:

I have visited the area several times part of my work related to farmers suicides. From my experience so far is that the region is very back ward. There are several socio-economical issues, which effects mostly the girl children. To help the community, intervention at different levels is needed. Gramya has been working in the area for several years and build up a good rapport with the community. Slowly people are trusting gramya volunteers. Through the education intervention of gramya, children will get quality education, which will open several opportunities for them and it will help the community to come out of social issues. Considering all this, I strongly recommend to support the project.

Photos and videos are sent separately.