Site Visit Report

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 On August 1st we visited the Sirisha Rehabilitation Center in Vuyyur, Andra Pradesh, India. Mr M.Someswara Rao a deputy engineer for/in the railways, founded the rehab center. He is very committed to the cause because of his daughter, Sirisha. She was physically and mentally challenged, but unfortunately did not survive. This motivated Mr. Someswar Rao to create this rehab center for other children with the same needs.

 Currently there are two centers in two different towns. Each center has approximately forty to fifty students each. Their age ranges from as young as five years to sixteen. Many kids attend the rehab center as their school, and return home after their learning for the day; their transportation is provided. In addition, orphan children are catered to as well. The rehab center organizes accommodation, so the orphans receive the attention they need. All the children are fed breakfast, lunch and dinner as necessary.

The center completely consists of volunteer staff. The teachers are the parents of the students at the center. They were recruited because they know how to best take care of the challenged children, and they are most dedicated to the improvement of their kid’s learning. The parents were trained specially in order to give the children a better chance for improvement. Additionally, some parents volunteer as cooks and cleaners of the center.

When we arrived we were given a warm welcome from the children and the staff. They were very excited to meet us, as we were them. The eagerly displayed their artwork and creations such as murals, pottery, and etc. We were then given a tour of the building which was well maintained. There were a couple of physiotherapy rooms that consisted of various machines to train the kids. A therapist helps the kids operate the machines. The dining room was also used as a bedroom, so during the day, the room was used to feed the kids, but at night the kids would sleep there.

Just like any public schools, the students at the rehab center participate in competitions. They engage in special needs competitions with schools and students who also are challenged. There are district level and state level competitions in which the students earn trophies for wining. In attempt to make these children self-sufficient, they are taught several life skills such as operating machines, creating ecofriendly home cleaning supplies, and making Xerox copies.

Among the group of children, one girl stood out to us. She was around ten years old, but looked like a young toddler. It is incredible to see that even though her doctors gave up on her, she was able to survive through this rehab center. That goes to show how devoted the staff is to making the lives of these children better.

We are absolutely amazed by the efforts that are and were put into this organization to help challenged children. If they gain more support and resources, they will be able to improve the rehabilitation center, and enroll more and more students into their program. These children deserve an encouraging and loving environment.