

Basic information

Date of the site visit: 5th July 2019

Name of the Project: Divya Jyothi Charitable Trust

Name of the Organization Running the Project (if different):

Was your site visit announced? Yes, it was planned

	Project Contact's Information	Site Visitor's (Your) Information (Volunteer conducting the visit)
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Affiliation to project		Project Steward
Affiliation to Asha		Atlanta volunteer

Site Visit

I visited Divya Jyothi Charitable Trust at the Bapuji Children's Home premises on 5th July 2019. I was met with enthusiastic children and the staff, including Mr. Shivaprakash, who is the founder of Divya Jyothi. There were about 20-25 boys and girls in the age group of 16- 20. During this visit, I had the opportunity to visit their current premises, interact with the kids and visit their new building that serves as a hostel as well as the training center. The kids also put together a small cultural show with lots of performances including singing, dancing and a few plays. All the students participated in the event and truly seemed to enjoy being there.

This space was donated by Bapuji Children's Home to Mr. Shivaprakash to establish the training center for the visually impaired. It was a small space with a large hall that served as the study hall, library as well as practice room for all cultural programs. The library has a good collection of textbooks in Braille. These textbooks are printed in-house and also distributed to local schools and libraries. The center also has a computer room with a few computers where the students learn to type, use basic computer programs like word, search the internet, etc.

Mr. Shivaprakash and his staff have created an atmosphere for all-round development for the kids. Throughout the year, there are cultural events organized in the center as well as other locations such as Rotary Club. Along with computer training, the kids undergo vocational training for job interviews, etc. They are also encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities such as sports, singing, dancing and plays. They have given state-wide performances, participated at chess competitions at the state level.

All the kids at the training center live in the hostel run by Mr. Shivaprakash. They are admitted after their 10th board exams and are enrolled in local Pre-University colleges in Mysore. They are provided with food, accommodation and transportation. Divya Jyothi has a dedicated pick up and drop off service for not only for their students but for other visually impaired students around Mysore.

I had a great time interacting with the kids. They were eager to show off their English reading and writing, computer and other skills. When asked what they wanted to do next in their future, many said they wanted to perform abroad, complete higher studies and find a good job. It was wonderful to see how passionate they were about their hopes and dreams.

Divya Jyothi plans to move to their new hostel building by early 2020. They have received generous donations from RBI, Mahindra, and many individual donors for the construction of the new building. Additionally, the Government of Karnataka also provides wheat and rice for 30 students, and the remaining food cost is covered through individual donations.