Virtual Site Visit

Date: 21st Aug 2022

Attendees: Anusha Harish, Shyam Krishnan Venkateswaran, Sruti Bheri, Karan Taneja, Sushil Varma, Jayani Karecha

We are shown the open dining area - About 40 girl students are having breakfast before their classes start at 9 am. They have one cook now and they are looking for one more. Currently, the driver helps out with cooking. We are shown around the facility. They have a bus to take the students to college. They take students on a one day trip, usually once a month, to celebrate something like someone performing well in their exams.

They have a Braille printing press where they print books for the students, whether it's for their academic studies or any extra reading they would like to do. They also print braille books requested by other schools and colleges and give it to them for free. They have 2 dormitories (one each floor) to accommodate 20 girls each. The third floor has a computer lab with 35 computers. Each floor has toilets with easy access for the physically disabled. The facilities are maintained very well, all the areas appear clean and hygienic. The girls are provided with all the necessary cleaning and other supplies like toiletries, sanitary pads, access to washing machines, etc.

After their breakfast, we met with several students: Meghna, Mangalamma, Pavithra: Anusha asked many questions (answers summarized below).

Meghana: is a 2nd year PU student at a local Arts college. She has been with DJCT since last year. She's learning how to use the internet to browser, send emails and read news articles. She's also learning to use MS word and excel for document editing and data entry. She is very happy with everything at the hostel and her training. She talked about all the different food they serve in the hostel for breakfast, lunch, snack and dinner.

Mangalamma: is also a 2nd year student at DJCT. She loves her teachers and all the staff. She is very good at her computer training and helps out others when she gets a chance. She likes teaching and hopes to become a professor someday.

Pavithra: another 2nd year student. She is very happy with the facilities and the staff. She can't think of anything else they need more at the hostel.

After talking to us, all the students left for their college after singing a quick prayer. We then spoke to Mr. Shivaprapaksh regarding the budget for the upcoming year and about the overall project status. He mentioned that they had a few repeat donors who donate every month. But it's usually individual donors who donate food or money once a year to commemorate an important occasion like a birthday or death anniversary. Last year they won an award from the State Government of Karnataka for the “Best NGO”. Overall, all the students looked and seemed happy with the services at the hostel and with the computer training. The staff are motivated and dedicated to help the students, not only with computer training but also other aspects like English classes, music classes, etc. They also take students to perform (sing) in cultural events across the state, and sometimes across the country.