

Anandalaya Virtual Site visit

Attendees from Chapter: Ashok Panigrahi [Project Steward], Chitra Telang Lobo, Lalitha Podila, Jerfy John and Kalyan Addala.

Date: Dec 11, 2022, Zoom call, 8 pm EST

Virtual on account of covid.

Attendees From site -

Vidyadhar (volunteer; prior Acharya; earns Rs. 2000/month

+ 2 acharyas: Anita, Grade 12 & Tapasi in 1st year undergrad; earn Rs. 1000/month

+ Susheel [Head of district - 18 Anandalayas]

+ seen (about 25 young children) aged 5 or under - 10 boys and 15 girls

Mode of communication - Primarily Oriya. Translated by Ashok.

From Anita and Tapasi:

- Today there are 25 kids present with a capacity of 32. Sometimes, kids don't listen to parents and don't attend.
- Mon-Fri she comes daily, teaches 7-8AM, followed by 8-9ANM by Anita and then comes back in the evening, 3-4p.

Motivation: Derive pleasure in teaching and get Rs.1000 per month. They were beneficiaries of Anandalaya. They both want to be teachers when they grow up. They communicate well.

Typical day - prayers, suryanamaskar, use text books to study.

Challenges - Site has disturbance and noise which gets in the way of teaching. Upon asking - this anandalaya has no drinking water and no toilet facility. They go outside. Overall, they spend only pre and post school here.

From Vidyadhar - challenges in current year: Parents are active in few anandalayas. School facilities are allowed to be used. In some villages, parents are not supportive. School facilities are not allowed to be used. If it conflicts with village meetings, they are unable to use the community hall. A big challenge is that the young generation leaves the community hall in a bad condition (drinks/smoking), making the environment unhealthy and not conducive to learning for little children.

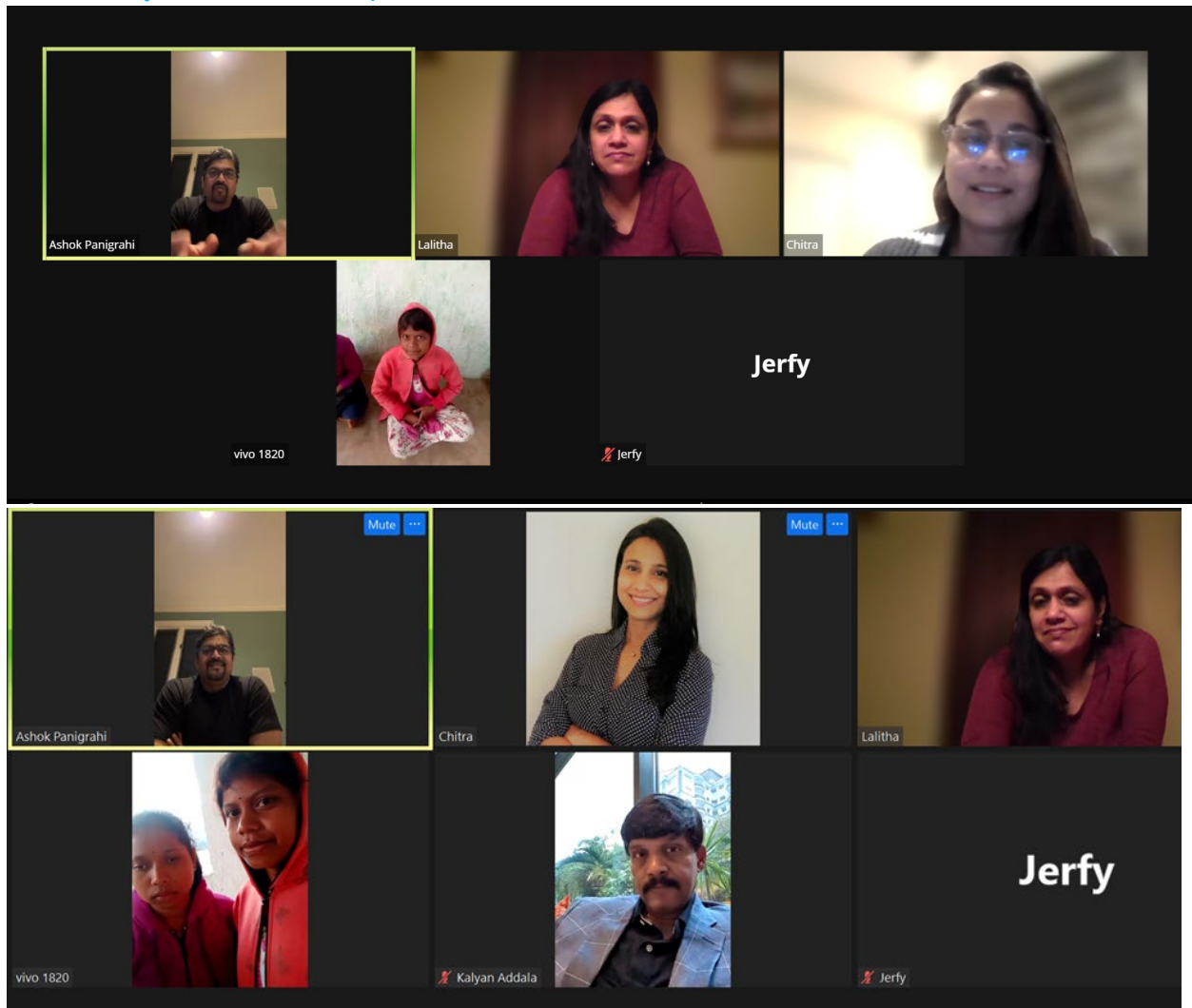
Efforts in community - he is an outsider; they build trust with villagers and mingle/help villagers in order to be able to influence the parents to send the kids. They have periodic meetings with parents.

Lastly, we met Susheel who is the head of 18 anandalayas.

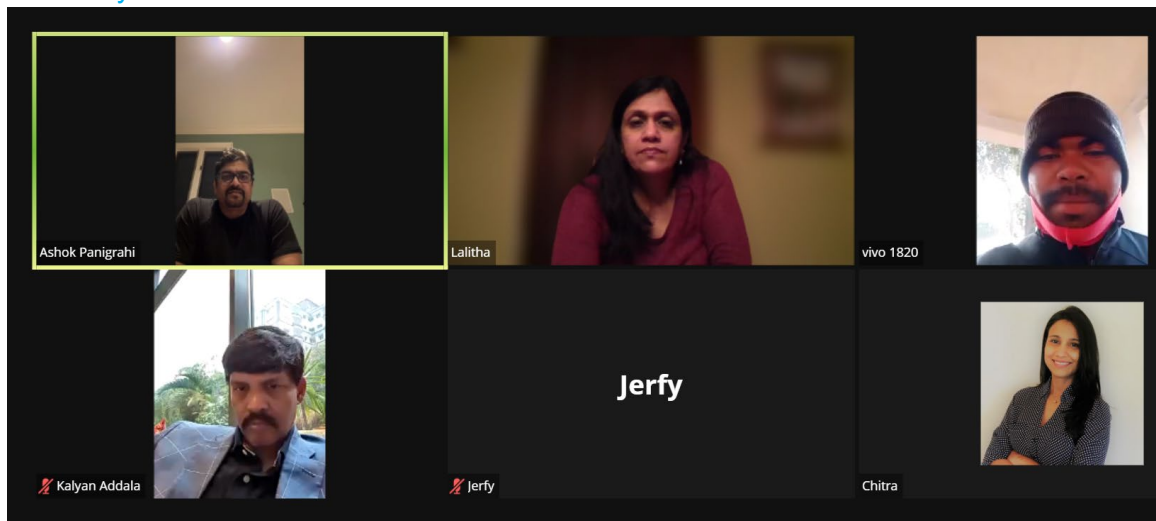
Children all stood up and said namaskar to us in parting. They were very well behaved and seemed eager to learn. A very positive experience for the chapter members to watch the

motivated Acharyas and volunteers. We strongly recommend continual of support from Asha for Education. Screen shots are below:

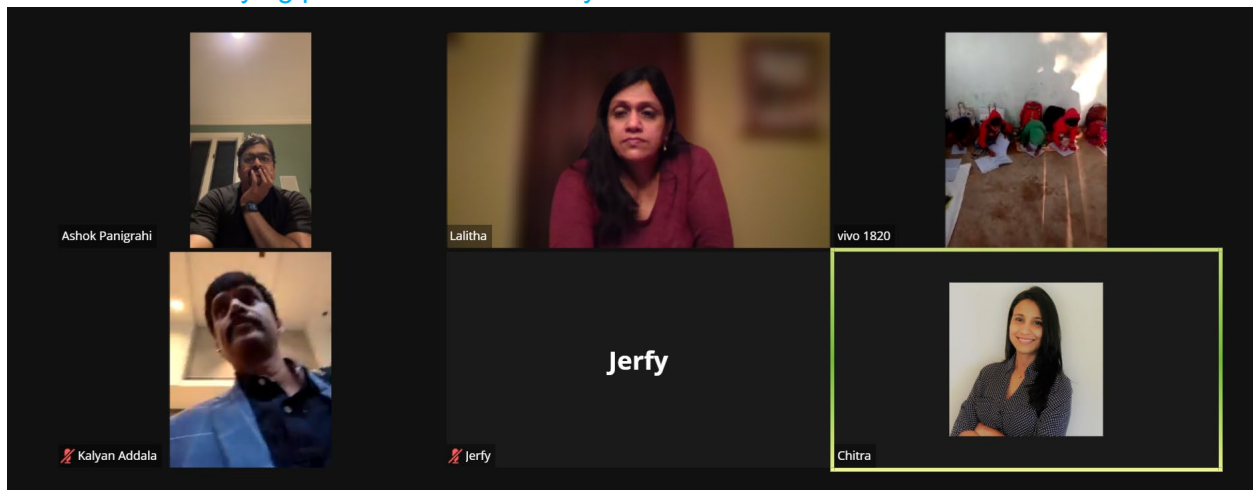
With Acharyas - Anita and Tapasi -



With Vidyadhar -



With children studying pre-school in anandalya:



With Susheel -

