

Virtual Site visit to Vivekananda Kendra Anandalaya

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Date: 09/17/2022

As international travel is still restricted due to COVID pandemic, I was not able to visit the site in-person this year again, however I stayed in touch with the Anandalaya kendra staff, checking with them from time to time how they are managing during this tough economically tough time. I did a virtual site visit on 17th September 2022, to one of the Vivekananda Anandalaya kendra which we are supporting since last couple years. I had asked one of the officials of the project partner to do a video call from the site.

I witnessed a good attendance of students, they were performing their usual prayers and followed by Surya Namaskar routine, played a number game which is one of the playful teaching methods the Acharyas are trained.

There were two Acharyas (Student Teachers) on the site, spoke to them about their experience teaching young children of their village and also about their own academic status. Ms. Pramila, one of the Acharyas, studying Bachelors of Arts in Women's college, Keonjhar. She is in her final year of college. She told me that she was and is a beneficiary of the Vivekanand

Anandalaya's support for her academic career and she now wanted to help other your children of her village to get the benefit. So, she makes sure to stay engaged with the children and motivate them to come to school every morning before the usual school timing to play and learn.

Ms. Pravati Priyadarshini, another Acharya who is a 1st year student of Bachelor of Arts, women's college, Keonjhar, echoed the same as Ms. Pramila. She is also a beneficiary of Vivekananda Kendra Anandalaya system and now with our support she, like all other acharyas are getting financial support to carry on their own academics while helping young children in their respective villages.

I found both the acharyas, very dedicated and excited to be in that role and they feel that they are giving back to their community.

I am looking forward to my on-site visit sometime next year. Below are some pictures from virtual site visit on 17th Sept 2022.





Prahallad