

Nethra Vidyalaya Site Visit Report

Venue – Nethra Vidyalaya,

Address - 13-239, Bhimli Beach Rd, Chapaluppada Post, Mangamaripeta Village, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh 530045, India

Visit date: September 27th, 2019



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Report date: September 27th, 2019

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Executive Summary

Nethra Vidyalaya (Under the aegis of Jeeyar Educational Trust) was established in 2001 with 18 students in Vizianagaram. Eventually they moved to Visakhapatnam in 2013. The main objective of the school is to provide free and quality education for the visually impaired students who are mainly from rural and tribal areas in and around Visakhapatnam. Most of these children come from households where the parents are either daily laborers or fishermen with literacy rates below 30%. The instructors in the school focus on the overall development of the students to make them independent and successful in life with all the essential social and employment skills.

The School

The school is located about 20 kms from Visakhapatnam city center. This is a co-ed school and currently 112 students are enrolled in the school in grades 1 through 10. The ground floor of the building has all the classes, the computer lab, a staff room for the teachers, a small library with braille books. The first floor of the building has separate dorm rooms for the boys and the girls, a dining room, a kitchen and an open space overlooking the ocean. The area in and surrounding the school is extremely clean and very well maintained. Please see the videos in the folder to see the classrooms, surrounding areas of the school, teachers and student interactions, their computer lab, staff room, dorm rooms, kitchen and dining area.

A typical school day is from 9.15 a.m – 4.15 p.m. The children go to school 6 days of the week. The school follows State Board Syllabus. The students write their board exams with the help of scribes. So far the % of students who have passed the board exams is 100%.

Site Visit

On September 27th, I reached the school at 9 a.m. I interacted with the students, parents, teachers and the board members till about 12.30 p.m.

Since September 27th was the last day before the 10 days Dussehra holidays, some of the kids had left along with their parents the previous evening or early in the morning.

As soon as I arrived the kids had their assembly, and were lead by a couple of students. See pic below:



- children during assembly



They sang slokas, prayers and pledge of India in both Telugu and English. Then Mrs Baby Lakshmi introduced me and mentioned to the kids how Asha for Education donated money last year and will be doing it this year again. Then the principal gave instructions to the kids about what they should and should not do during the Dussehra holidays.



- principal talking to the children about the dos and don'ts during vacation

After the principal's instructions the children were dismissed and all of them went to their respective classes while the teachers signed in and then went to the classes:



- students holding each other's hands and going to the classes in a very disciplined manner.

Classrooms

Students sitting in their respective classrooms waiting for their teachers to show up and settle in the classrooms.



- students waiting for their teacher



- teacher settling in the class before she starts teaching the kids



she had saved her previous class on a device.

- Student showing the teacher about where



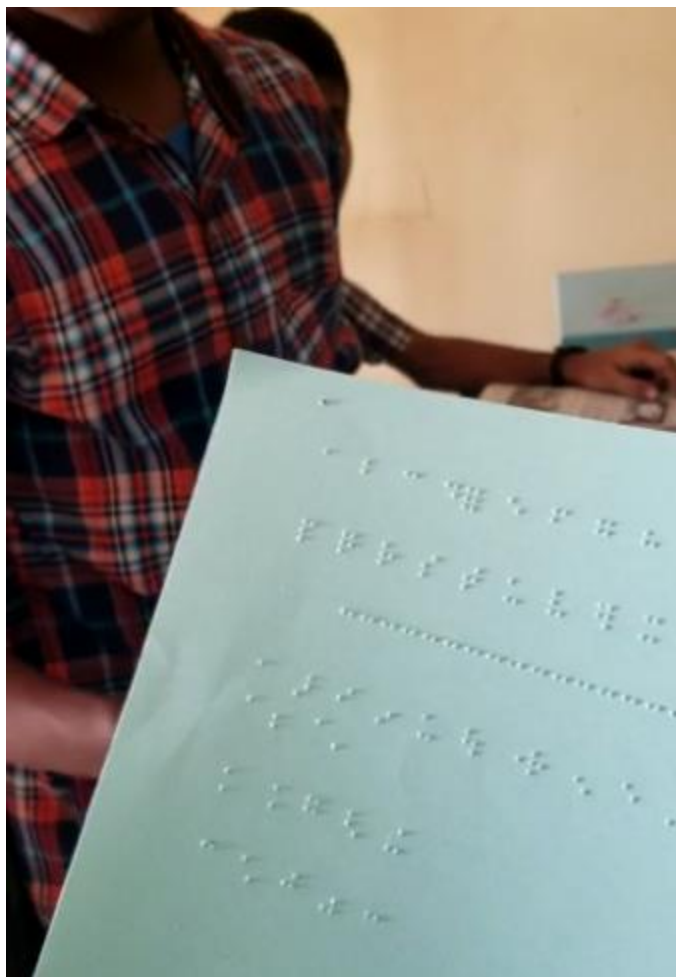
- teacher showing me how the kids take notes
in Braille in a book made of newspaper.



- insert papers in the Braille writer



- Then they scribble braille dots. They push all keys using the stylus to write a full braille cell and use the thumb to make space.



- end product in Braille. The top half shows letters in English and the bottom half is alphabets in telugu



- Students interacting with the principal before heading home with their parents for Dussehra vacation



- Lalli who is in 3rd class with her father who came from Parvathipuram which was about couple of hrs by bus. She talked about her friends and what she learnt like alphabets, numbers and rhymes.



waiting to pick up her child who has been here for the past 4 yrs.

- Another happy parent



- Student Swathi's father who lives 3 hrs away.



- one of the student with his mother who wanted to come back to the school soon since he was going to miss it.

School Staff

The school staff who were present to receive a symbolic check denoting the funds they will receive from Asha for Education. The picture was taken by the Jyothi newspaper.

There were articles written about Asha for Education supporting the school:

అనందపురం, సెప్టెంబరు 27: మండలంలోని రామవరం బస్టి ఉన్నత పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులు రాష్ట్రస్థాయి బీబీసీలో పోటీలకు ఎంపికయ్యారు. ఉన్నత పాఠశాలకు చెందిన ప్రై.ఆరుణ, జి.వారగరత్నం, జి.లోహిత, జి.రాధ, కె.హేమలత, జీ.సాయికుమార్, కె.తేజశ్వరత్, జి.గౌతమ్ ప్రతిభ కనబరచి రాష్ట్రస్థాయి పోటీలకు ఎంపికయ్యారు. ఈనెలవరంగా శుభవారం పాఠశాల ప్రిన్సిపాల్ జాకబ్ బేరేంద్రబాబు విద్యార్థులను అభినందించారు.

వారిజ నేత్ర విద్యాలయానికి రూ.7 లక్షల విరాళం

ధీమనిపట్నం, సెప్టెంబరు 27: ధీమిలి టీచింగ్ కాలేజ్ ఉన్న మంగనూరిపేట వారిజ నేత్ర విద్యాలయానికి యూఎస్ఎఫ్ఐ చెందిన ఆషా పర్ ద ఎడ్యుకేషన్ ప్రతినీధి స్పందన రూ.7లక్షలు విరాళాన్ని అందజేశారు. శుభవారం సంస్థ ప్రతినీధులు వారిజను సందర్శించారు. వారిజ సంస్థ అంధులకు దేస్తున్న సేవలను కొనియాడారు. వారిజ నేత్రవిద్యాలయం అధ్యక్షుడు పీఎస్ఎన్ రాజు మాట్లాడుతూ వారిజ నేత్ర విద్యాలయానికి గత ఏడాది కూడా ఆషా సంస్థ తరఫున స్పందన రూ.7 లక్షల విరాళాన్ని అందించారన్నారు. కార్యక్రమంలో విద్యాలయం కరస్పాండెంట్ శిరీష, పీఆర్సీ బేబిబ్బ, ప్రిన్సిపాల్ జయలక్ష్మి, వైస్ప్రిన్సిపాల్ రాధ తదితరులు పాల్గొన్నారు.



రూ.7 లక్షల చెక్కు అందజేస్తున్న దాత స్పందన



యూగ మహాత్మివారిని తగింపువలన సంత విడిదాని సతారా ఈనెల 29వ తేదీ నుంచి వచ్చేనెల ఎనిమిదో తేదీ వరకూ నిర్వహించనున్నట్లు అర్బుకులు తెలిపారు. ఆదర్శ నగర్ దుర్గాదేవి ఆలయంలోనూ ఈ ఉత్సవాలను నిర్వహించనున్నట్లు ఆలయ దర్శకర్త దేవీతల్లి తెలిపారు.

నేత్ర విద్యాలయానికి చేయూత

సీహెచ్.

తిమ్మా
పురం(గ్రామ
ఐదీమిలి).

స్వామిదే:

ధీమిలి టీచి

లోడ్డు మంగ

మారిపేట

చినజీయరు

స్వామి ఆశ్ర

మంలోని నేత్ర విద్యాలయం దివ్యాంగుల పాఠశాలకు అమె

రికాలోని ఆశా పర్ ఎడ్యుకేషన్ సంస్థ టెక్నాస్ రాజదాని

అక్టోన్ శాఖ చేయూతనిచ్చింది. సంస్థ ప్రతినీధి, ఎన్నారై

మల్లంపాటి వందన రూ.7.90లక్షల చెక్కును పాఠశాల కోశా

దికారి బేబీలక్ష్మికి శుభవారం

అందించారు. ఈ కార్యక్ర

మంలో వాల్మీ ఇంటర్నేషనల్

ప్రతినీధి డాక్టర్ కొదాలి వైజ

యంతీమాల, నేత్రవిద్యాలయం

అధ్యక్షుడు పీఎస్ఎన్ రాజు,

కరస్పాండెంట్ శిరీషాలత,

కోశాదికారి బేబీలక్ష్మి, ప్రిన్సిపాల్

జయలక్ష్మి పాల్గొన్నారు.

రూ. లక్ష విరాళం

అడివివరం: శ్రీవరాహలక్ష్మీ స్వసంహస్వామి వారికి చంద నేత్రమం రోజున చందన సమ ర్పణకు వినియోగించాలని కోరుతూ గుంటూరుకు చెందిన ముప్పరాజు శ్రీనివాసరావు,



నేత్రవిద్యాలయం అభివృద్ధికి చెక్కును అందిస్తున్న వందన తదితరులు



స్వామి కుట్ర
ముగింపు పల

అభి



- The articles were published in Eenu local

newspaper, Jyothi and Sakshi.

School Daily schedule

4.45 a.m - Wake up

5 -6 a.m - Yoga or Kungfu

6:00 - 6:30 a.m - Pratha:smaraniyam (Chanting slokas)

6:30 - 8 a.m – Bath and breakfast time

9 - 9:15 am - School Assembly

9.15 a.m - Classes commence

10:40 a.m - Break for snacks

12:30 -1:30 p.m - Lunch

1:30 – 4.10 p.m - Afternoon classes

4:30 p.m - Milk and snacks.

After that children play, or learn music, dance etc.

7 p.m - Dinner.

7:30 - 9:30 p.m - Study hour.

9:30 p.m - Bed time.

The Students

There are currently 112 students, (73 boys and 29 girls) enrolled in grades 1- 10. Most of them live in the hostels/dorms on the premises of the school. There are 14 students who commute (2 girls and 12 boys).

The students are extremely well behaved and disciplined. The day of site visit was the last day of school for the kids before they started their 10 day Dussehra holidays. They were supposed to come back to school on Oct 10th. All morning the parents who lived far away came to pick up their kids from the school. The parents were laborers in farms and typically lived 2-4 hrs away from the school. The students are very talented in music, academics and sports having won multiple awards in all categories both at the state and at the national levels. Below are the achievements of the kids for the school year 2018-19:

1. October 29th, 2018 - Andhra Pradesh Blind Sports 2018, Visakhapatnam
 - a. Gold medals – 18
 - b. Silver medals – 11
 - c. Bronze medals - 2
2. November 21st, 2018 – District Level Sports Meet 2018, Vijayawada
 - a. Participated in running, shot put, discus throw, long jump, chess and won various medals
3. November 30th – December 2nd, 2018 – State Level Sports Meet 2018, Vijayawada
 - a. Gold medals – 9
 - b. Silver medals – 7
 - c. Bronze medals - 3
4. December 10th – 13th, 2018 – 21st Usha National Athletics Championship, New Delhi
 - a. Gold medals – 6
 - b. Silver medals – 6
 - c. Bronze medals - 6
5. February 1st, 2019, Visakhapatnam – District Para Athletics, Visakhapatnam
 - a. 5 students were selected for state level in Eluru

6. February 23rd , 2019, Visakhapatnam – Essay writing, Elocution and Quiz competition, Visakhapatnam
 - a. Won various prizes in all categories
7. March 12th, 2019, Visakhapatnam – Science Exhibition, Varija Campus, Visakhapatnam
8. April 16th, 2019 – 3rd ATTF International Para Games, 2019, Srilanka
 - a. Gold medals – 9
 - b. Silver medals – 4
 - c. Bronze medals - 1

Since most of the students live on premises, they are provided with free food, primary health care and clothing.



The students are very competitive and help each other in all aspects. After completing their higher education these students have gotten jobs in banking, software, government sectors. Please see the embedded spreadsheet with the list of students who have successfully started working in the public and private sectors.

Funds Utilization

The following teachers were supported by Asha for Education:



From left to right: Martial Arts and Yoga teacher, Natural Sciences teacher, Math and PS teacher, Social teacher, English teacher, Braille teacher, Principal (missing computer instructor since she was on maternity leave)

Since Asha was supporting these teachers, the school decided to use the funds that was supposed to be utilized for their salaries on the following:

1. Developed playground by putting in mud about 1.25 ft thickness (1.25 lakhs)





2. They painted the walls since the kids use the walls to find their way around and did pest control to keep out termites, house flies (4 lakhs).



3. Took the kids to Srilanka for competing in International Para games (4 lakhs)
4. Added meshes to the windows
5. Hired a security guard



Future Infrastructure needs

The school has some infrastructure needs listed below:

1. Upstairs terrace needs taller walls for additional safety (4 lakhs)



2. Would like to have a roof upstairs for the terrace for the kids to move around during rainy season (15 lakhs)



- No roof on most of the terrace and hence they would like to cover it up for use throughout the year.

3. Would love to have a generator due to frequent power cuts. The computer classes gets affected. The cost for that would be 3-4 lakhs since it is equivalent to a generator for a 5 storied apartment complex.
4. Sterilization machine for utensils. Currently all the dishes are hand cleaned but would like a better method for cleaning them.
5. Additional hostel if more kids join (25 lakhs)
6. CC cameras for downstairs though lower priority

The New Teachers

In addition to the teachers who are already present, they hired 3 new teachers:

1. Principal
2. English
3. Part time teacher who is a substitute for the teacher who went on maternity leave

Earlier the music teacher only taught vocals but since then they have a new volunteer teacher who teaches Dholak, piano, harmonium and tabla on Sundays.

Also started a new drawing program for partially blind students. Plan to also start a dance class in the future. Currently it is very expensive (15K) to have a dedicated dance teacher come and teach on premise due to the distance of the school from the city center.

The interaction between the students and the teachers is excellent. The teachers I have met seem to be very dedicated and motivated to teach these kids. They encourage the kids to participate in various levels of sports and academic events and do accompany them for competitions in the state of Andhra Pradesh and around the country. The teachers do genuinely care for the students and the students also reciprocate in the same way.

New Programs

In addition to spoken English and sangeet (only vocal), now musical instruments like – Dholak, harmonium, piano and tabla have been added to the list of extracurricular offerings. Drawing has been added for the partially blind children.

Parent Teacher interaction

Usually the parents and teachers interact at the end of summer since they come from remote villages and transportation is very complicated. Most of the time the mother is the person they interact with. If both parents support their children, then fathers also show up to pick up the kids. Whenever the parents come to pick up kids for holidays which is 3 times a year (Dussehra, Pongal and summer) the teachers interact with them. The few parents whom I have interviewed seem to be extremely happy with the kid's progress at the school and the school itself. The parents whom I interviewed loved this school and the teachers in the school. They joined the kids because there were no good schools where they lived, or they thought Nethra teachers took good care. They were basically farmers who were not educated and did not have any knowledge to research about such schools nor had the ability to guide their children.

Happy parent – She joined her child about 4 yrs ago. Her child is born blind and she loved the school and the teachers and how they took care of the children.



Principal Teacher interaction

Usually the teachers and the principals talk everyday about the progress of every single child. There is no formal method of surveying the teachers or the parents other than the regular staff meetings.

The Living Conditions

The boys and the girls live in different dorms. Please see the pics below for kitchen, dorm rooms and dining areas:

Stairs to the upstairs living quarters



Kitchen



Dining room:



Girls' dorms





Boys' Dorms



Other Funders and Supporters

lease see the audit report and the donor list for details about supporters and the funds collected. Like last year where a major donor decided to spend 14 lakhs for all the girls (42K/girl child), they are sponsoring all the girls again in the year – 2019-20.