

Site visit

Feb 27th, 2020



Jai Srimannarayana
NETHRA VIDYALAYA
School for Blind
(A unit of Jeeyar Educational Trust at **VARIJA**)



FOUNDER :

H H Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Chinna Srimannarayana Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamiji

Project Steward

Vandana Mallempati, Austin, TX

The site visit was conducted by Vandana Mallemapati in Visakhapatnam on Feb 27th, 2020. We arrived at 9 a.m just when the kids were at their assembly. There were 5 kids leading the assembly. One of the kid read the Headline News for the day which included politics, sports using braille.



After the news were done, they sang prayers and went to their respective classes holding each others hands.

The kids in the schools are mostly blind or visually impaired. In spite of their disabilities they have done extremely well due to careful attention given by their teachers. Recently at the Andhra Pradesh State level sports meet held in Dec 2019, they won 15 gold, 4 silver, 4 bronze medals and also won the best State level “marching” award.





The kids have won numerous awards in both academics and sports as shown below in the school display boards.







The school is very well run by experienced teachers and trustees. They are quite aware of the happenings around the world:

There are a total of 112 kids of which there are 80 boys and 28 girls from 1st – 10th grades and 4 boys in nursery.

FEBRUARY		NETHRA VIDHYALAYA	2019-2020
4 th		WORLD CANCER DAY.	TOTAL STRENGTH $\Rightarrow 112$ Total boys $\Rightarrow 80$ Total girls $\Rightarrow 28$ <u>High School</u> Boys $\Rightarrow 42$ Girls $\Rightarrow 17$ <u>Elementary</u> Boys $\Rightarrow 38$ Girls $\Rightarrow 11$ <u>Nursery</u> $\Rightarrow 4$
13 th		SAROTINI NAIDU'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.	
20 th		NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY.	
		And	
		DEATH ANNIVERSARY of Dr. RATENDRA PRASAD	
		<u>HOLI DAYS :</u>	
21 st		MAHA SHIVA RATRI.	

The distribution of the kids in each class are as shown below:

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
I	6	2	8
II	5	1	6
III	7	1	8
IV	10	6	16
V	10	1	11
VI	7	5	12
VII	5	2	7
VIII	10	3	13
IX	9	2	11
X	11	5	16
Grand Total	80	28	108

	Boys	Girls	Total
Primary Strength:	38	11	49
Secondary Strength:	42	17	59
Nursery:	3	1	4
Grand Total	83	29	112

The timetable for the kids is as shown below. Each class is about 40 mins. The kids have two 40 mins sessions before their morning break. Then they have two sessions before they break for lunch. They have again four 40 mins session in the afternoon with a break after two sessions.

Class/Period	1st Session - 8:30am - 9:15am	2nd Session - 9:15am - 10:00am	3rd Session - 10:00am - 10:45am	4th Session - 10:45am - 11:30am	5th Session - 11:30am - 12:15pm	6th Session - 12:15pm - 1:00pm	7th Session - 1:00pm - 1:45pm	8th Session - 1:45pm - 2:30pm	9th Session - 2:30pm - 3:15pm	10th Session - 3:15pm - 4:00pm
I	EVS G.P.	ENGLISH PSE	M. BRAILLE KTB	MATHEMATICS KTB	BRAILLE CHM	TELUGU SVI	BR - M.TU, W MID CS - TH, F, S PM	EVS G.P.	VALUE EDUCATION SVI x 1	GAMES PSE
II	MATHEMATICS MID	ENGLISH G.P.	BRAILLE CHM	ENGLISH DA	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU SVI	ENGLISH DA	BRAILLE CHM	TELUGU SVI	ENGLISH PSE
III	ENGLISH PM	BRAILLE CHM	CS - M.TU, W PM	BR - TH, F, S PM	EVS G.P.	BRAILLE CHM	ENGLISH DA	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU SVI	ENGLISH PSE
IV	TELUGU SVI	BR - TH, F, S PM	CS - M.TU, W PM	BR - TH, F, S PM	EVS G.P.	BRAILLE CHM	ENGLISH DA	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU SVI	ENGLISH PSE
V	MATHEMATICS KTB	TELUGU SVI	CS - M.TU, W PM	BR - TH, F, S PM	EVS G.P.	BRAILLE CHM	ENGLISH DA	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU SVI	ENGLISH PSE
VI	SCIENCE PSE	VALUE EDU. EVS	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID
VII	TELUGU EVS	MATHEMATICS KTB	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID	ENGLISH DA	BR. READING MID
VIII	PHYSICS RA	ENGLISH DA	SOCIAL SUP	HINDI BRO	SOCIAL SUP	HINDI BRO	SOCIAL SUP	HINDI BRO	SOCIAL SUP	HINDI BRO
IX	HINDI BRO	PHYSICS MD	TELUGU EVS	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU EVS	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU EVS	MATHEMATICS RA	TELUGU EVS	MATHEMATICS RA
X	SOCIAL SUP	HINDI BRO	MATHEMATICS MD	ENGLISH AJI	BIOLOGY GP	TELUGU EVS	BIOLOGY GP	TELUGU EVS	BIOLOGY GP	TELUGU EVS

Most of the kids live in the dorm upstairs. The girls and the boys live in different dorms. The lunch is prepared by two women:



The schools installed railings as shown below for the safety of the children with the money left



over since Asha paid salaries for 7 teachers.

Installation of the railings was ~INR 2.5 lakhs. They also bought a new device to help the younger children learn Braille. It is called as: Annie



Annie is the world's first Self learning Braille literacy device for visually impaired.

This device gives step by step instruction in English, Telugu about braille learning which makes it easier for the little kids to learn. <https://www.thinkerbellabs.com/annie>

The schools bought 6 of theses devices @ 60K per device.

The school teachers did a demo of the device and it seemed very easy.

I did get to talk to the principal and the trustees who agreed to send me a list of asks for the next year. Sent them a reminder to send me the list. Also have asked them to send me the funds utilization in the format similar to other Asha projects and have sent them the sample too. Waiting to hear back from them.

COVID-19 situation – The students were sent home on March 19th. The classes for 1st-9th grades will start after summer break sometime in June. The 10th grade students will return to take their board exams once the government has declared the date.