

Site visit report for SAEA Society 2019

By Lakshmi Reddy

I had the opportunity to visit the school on April 26th of 2019. I have been visiting this school for the past 8 years along with my sister, who lives in Oklahoma City. We spent one week in the village of Gaddipalli, where Sri Aurobindo's Educational Academy and society is located.

Sri Aurobindo's Educational Academy and Society, a non-profit registered society was formed in 2010 with the aim and commitment of improving and upgrading the quality of education in the rural schools of India. The school is dedicated to following the philosophy of integral education and to helping children become productive global citizens. On one hand they are not sufficiently developed intellectually to pursue higher education and on the other they do not acquire the skills required to be employed productively.

My sister prepared English curriculum for pre school students through 4th grade and trains teachers during visit and via conference call regularly. She is writing customized story books, workbooks needed for the students. This is an English medium school and English is their second language. They use phonics, flash cards and games to learn the language.

English – Unlike most other schools in India where English is introduced through the mechanical memorization of the alphabets Sri Aurobindo's School teaches it through phonetics and phonemic awareness. Children are also taught vocabulary and spoken English beginning from Nursery. This has made a big difference to their ability to read and understand English. First and second grade students write letters to their pen pals in St Louis, which helps students to practice writing skills, learn about other cultures and world views.

Over all school is progressing in the right direction and teachers are working hard to learn and implement principles of Integral Education.

New Initiatives

This year, two grades were added; the 6th and 7th. They plan to get official permission from the government to further extend the classes till the 10th grade.

A dance class was introduced this year. A teacher from a nearby town comes to the school twice a week. The students are enthusiastic and involved. We plan to appoint a music teacher also.

School administration took a bold step to set up a hostel for boys. The facilities are rudimentary and basic because of limited budget but the experience gained will help us to accept more boys next year. Parents will gain confidence in our capacity to run a hostel.





Programs Conducted

1. A one day awareness program on the environment and tree planting session conducted by Vanajeevi Ramaiah, a well known environmentalist and Padma Sree awardee who planted a million saplings during his life.





2. Three day educational workshop by three teachers from Auroville.



School started herb











With generous grant from Asha , the started planting herbal plants as part of their hands on learning method. They planted few plants in February and could not complete planting due to weather.

All the upper class students learned about benefits and usage of few herbs that they planted. They plan to complete the herbal garden as soon as rainy season starts.

As part of physical education school has appointed part time karate teacher.

Teachers along with few students visited Pondicherry for teacher training in April of 2019. They are going to appoint two new teachers for 2019.

Students are happy to come to school and engage outside classroom, for sports, dance and hands on learning opportunities.

Teachers are motivated to work hard and further learning opportunities for themselves and students.