

Fig Tree Learning Center - Visit Report

By Simonil Kakalia, 7-Apr-2026

What: Informational visit to Fig Tree Learning Center (TFTLC), Bangalore, a grantee of Asha for Education

Hosts: Jane Sahi and Gousia, of Fig Tree Learning Center

Who visited: Simonil and Sohrab Kakalia

When: 7-Apr-2026, for a couple of hours

Visit Report:

The Fig Tree Learning Center (TFTLC) provides supplementary education, remedial literacy work, and library services to three government primary schools serving low-income children on the outskirts of Bangalore.

Sohrab and I visited The Fig Tree Learning Center headquarters (simple structures built on the plot of land where Jane Sahi's house is). We did not visit any of the primary schools since it was summer holiday time. We were impressed by the sincerity of effort, and the good quality and well organized educational materials that we saw at the center. It is apparent that TFTLC has strong relationships with the government primary schools, since they get 1 period of classroom time every week with the students, to do their activities. TFTLC has also developed strong ties with another NGO called Nature Classrooms. We saw the written material and the art and project work produced by the children, and it is clear that the education provided (for example on pollinators, insect and spider lifecycles, trees and their matching seedpods) was interesting and entertaining, but also scientifically sound and relevant to the children's lives.

Judging by the Team Asha report, and from the material produced by the children on display at the Center, it is clear that the government primary school children have benefitted from the additional educational inputs provided by The Fig Tree Learning Center. The founder, Jane Sahi, and the educator, Gousia, are wonderful people who are extremely dedicated to the cause of education, natural history, science, and literacy. Their work in this area, over the decades, has been sincere, thoughtful, tireless, and, as far as we could tell, very effective.



The Fig Tree Learning Center main structure, which houses the books, art supplies, teaching materials etc that are taken to the Government Primary Schools where the teaching takes place



Books and supplies in the Fig Tree Learning Center. The books all had color-coded labels indicating level of reading. Artwork produced by the children was on display on the walls.



Gousia displaying a poster on seed pods produced by the school children, with wonderful attention to detail.



Jane Sahi, the founder of The Fig Tree Learning Center, on her small farm that serves as her home as well as the Center's headquarters. The farm, with its greenery and flowering bushes,

was an island of peace in the surrounding area of Bangalore outskirts that that is now developing like crazy, with the resulting traffic, non-stop construction, and congestion.



A table for screenprinting and block printing



The Fig Tree Learning Center's buildings are all very lovely, with traditional material like tile roofs and red-oxide walls, and cuddapah stone floors. The indoor+outdoor space design makes the structures integrated with the natural surroundings and very beautiful.