

Maitri Shaala In Person Site Visit

Dec 03, 2025

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Maitri Personal: Ashwini Dharmadhikari (Project Coordinator), Shobha Kelkar (Maitri Pune)

Site Visit Highlights

Secondary School Abhyas varga

- Visited secondary school (Ashram Shaala) at Jarida around 10:30 am. The school was celebrating the constitution day where school teachers talked about Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and how constitution was written and important provisions within constitution mainly about social justice for all and opportunities of social mobility through education. Observed students participating in various cultural activities.
- Attended Abhyas varga of class 10th in the afternoon for two hours. A Maitri teachers were conducting training for students (around 30 students) to explain banking and related information like different kinds of accounts (checking and saving), check writing (using dummy checks), concepts of credit and debit, use of ATM cards (showing a sample ATM card), importance of OTP and password. Students were very curious, interested and eager to learn. Participated in the session and suggested to the Maitri teacher to conduct evaluation before and after to understand if the training is effective. Talked with students on different topics including what they would like to do further after 10th and their biggest challenges, how they plan to overcome. It was a very fulfilling and rewarding experience.
- Stayed at the training center in Chillati with Maitri Project Coordinator Ashwini Dharmadhikari and another Maitri Volunteer Shobha Kelkar. Asha funds some repair work and infra building (e.g. toilets) in Chillati Center. Inspected and found it as per the proposal.

Primary School Abhyas varga

- Next day visited 3 primary schools at villages Karanjkheda, Sumita and Salita and met with Gav Mitras (Tribal Executors) Vilas, Sonaji and Laksmi as well as Ashok (Tribal Coordinator). Attended before school classes where Gav Mitras teach students using various activity based learning games and tools. Conversated directly with children and asked many questions such as their name, family, what they like about school, what they want to become when they grow up.
- Had a meeting with Gavmitras at Chilati training center and asked about challenges and what they would like to improve. All of them expressed interest in having more trainings in teaching techniques.

Overall Conclusion

Maitri is doing a remarkable work with a robust model of empowerment in the remote tribal area of Melghat. They have well-defined metrics to guide them against which success can be evaluated. They have identified some gaps in their program and trying to overhaul the program to include pre-school (Anganwadi) apart from conducting abhyas vargas in primary and secondary school programs. We should continue to support them going forward.

Photos from the Visit



