

# Antyoday Anath Ashram

Khagendra Sishu Siksha Kendra (KSSK)  
and Vocational Training Unit (VTU)

Virtual Site Visit Report

8th August 2025

Attendees:

Subhangi Ghosh  
Subra Nathan  
Rangakrishnan Srinivasan  
Mohit Sood  
Anita Deshmukh  
Kavya Venkat

Virtual site visit started with Manoj introducing Antyodoy Anath Ashram's founder Sri Balam Karan.

Shri Balaram ji appreciated and acknowledged Asha Austin's partnership, support and contribution towards the growth of Antyodoy, and invited Asha Austin's members to visit the Ashram.

As an example of the advantages of Asha's partnership, Balaramji told us that when HPL arrived at the Ashram, Asha Austin's banner gave credibility to the work that Antyodoy is doing, and that is assisting them in making contacts that will hopefully lead to partnership.

Subhangi reminded them that the Antyodoy-Asha partnership is in its 6th year now, and typically support is given for 7 years.

The Asha Austin team then received a tour of the school, and talked to some of the teachers:

### **KSSK:**

- Ms. Aloka spoke. She told us there are 190 students. And students are happy. They have regular computer class, classes, and dance class once a week, and the kids enjoy midday meal.
- Ms. Rakhee Maity spoke about her wonderful experience in KSSK. She is closely bonded with the little kids that she teaches.
- Uma Mandal, grade 2 teacher, showed her class that was in progress. They were learning about animals.
- Chandan, grade 4, showed an English class in progress. He was teaching grammar and sentence construction.
- Headteacher Ms. Aloka gave us a tour of the KSSK Computer Science class. Students were enthusiastic about learning. There are about three students per machine, and 6 machines in total. These students were in grade 3 and 4. All the computers here were purchased with funding from Asha. On this day they were learning how to make art.

### **VTU:**

- Subra madam showed her class. She instructs the tailoring class. She shares a great relationship with the girls. She teaches cutting, tailoring and makes a wide range of clothes. She and her girls showed off the various products that they make, like petticoat, nightie, school dress, frock, men / boys Indian wear.
- Saurabh teaches computer science in the digital class room in the VTU. We saw the students learning, one student at each machine. They learn hardware, as well as software, Microsoft office, HTML, Networks and photoshop through interactive display. The display works as a blackboard, or a screen to show pdfs or notes, or test students.
- We met the Jute instructor and saw production of Jute bags. Jute bags are ordered here by different corporations, and their branding / organizational logo are put on the bags. We were shown how the logos were printed. At this time the 200 bags were being manufactured for an order for the rakshabandhan festival. We also were shown how the bags were manufactured. Each bag is handmade.

- We also got a tour of the Beauty School, and saw a test bridal make up. The beauty course includes hairstyling, eye makeup, facials among others. Two kinds of courses are offered - Basic (6 month course), and Advanced (1 year course). The girls in the beauty course are from Snehashaya, or from the surrounding neighborhoods. They are 15 years or above.
- VTU students are at least 14 years to 45 years of age. Many students who are not meritorious learn a skill here. Women from surrounding neighborhoods come to learn a vocation. The goal is to find employment and be self-sustaining after graduating from VTU.
- There are many success stories of students who have found employment, and moreover many students, particularly from beauty school or tailoring school are self employed, or opened their own business. Computer / Jute trainees find placements in different places of employment. Antyodoy has LOIs or Letters of Intent with various companies to give placements to their VTU students and therefore VTU ensures a 100 percent placement / employment.

#### **Library / Outlet:**

- The Asha Austin team also got a tour of the library / VTU sales outlet. We saw the VTU students doing art work / handpainting on the menswear / garments that were produced in the tailoring unit of the VTC, or bought from outside. The handpainted ethnic wear is sold around INR 700.
- Some handmade household items that they sell were shown like phenyl, incense sticks, art pieces, jewelry, jute products.
- Antyodoy's well wishers make purchases here, generating revenue, and also as a recognition of the work done by the various sections in the VTU.
- The revenue generated here, or from orders places, or from stalls, is poured back into the operations of the VTU.

#### **Others:**

We also heard twin sisters Anushka and Taniskha and Banerjee sing a song for us. They used to be orphanage residents, and are talented singers. We had heard them when we had our last virtual visit years ago. They are now Khejuri college students, staying in a hostel, studying English Honors, with support from Antyodoy. They are success stories of Antyodoy.

Lastly we got a view of the campus, their pond that provides their fish diet, and garden. We saw the front campus, the solar panels that were established with Asha's help, their residential blocks and dining area.