

Site Visit Report

Project Name: Ekalavya Foundation – SmartLabs Adilabad.

Project Type: Impart fundamental computer literacy to Zilla Parishad High School students.

Date(s): August 23rd/24th, 2025

Supporting Asha Chapter(s): Dallas

Type of Visit: Announced, on-site

Site visit conducted by: Ravi Kandikonda (Asha Dallas volunteer).

Introduction

In the tapestry of rural India, Adilabad stands out with its vibrant culture, challenging geography, and a disadvantaged community striving for progress amidst a complex set of social realities. Recently, I had the opportunity to conduct a site visit across several schools and other community support centers in Adilabad, delving into the heart of educational initiatives and community support mechanisms that shape the lives of children and families in the region. This report chronicles my observations, interactions, and reflections from the visit, highlighting both the achievements and the areas where renewed focus and resources are required. The site visit has been conducted as part of Asha for Education's requirement for onboarding new projects or continuing support to existing education and empowerment projects in India.

Leaving for Adilabad

The journey to Adilabad started on the morning on August 23rd, 2025, when Madhukar ji, the CEO of Ekalavya Foundation (EF) and Prashanth ji, a member of the EF chapter in Adilabad picked me up from my home enroute to the district. They were kind enough to arrange the Ekalavya vehicle on short notice when my earlier plans did not materialize due to schedule challenges. We set off on a 5hr long journey with an expected break about halfway through the drive.

Adilabad is well connected to Hyderabad through the national highway 44 (NH44). As we travelled on NH44, it was evident to me that the State of Telangana has made tremendous progress in the last 10-15 years on highway construction projects easing travel for millions of people who use these roads every year. The highway was mostly a 4-lane road each way, sometimes 6-lanes, flanked by lush forests and undulating fields on each side. The district, situated on the border of Telangana and Maharashtra, is known for its tribal populations

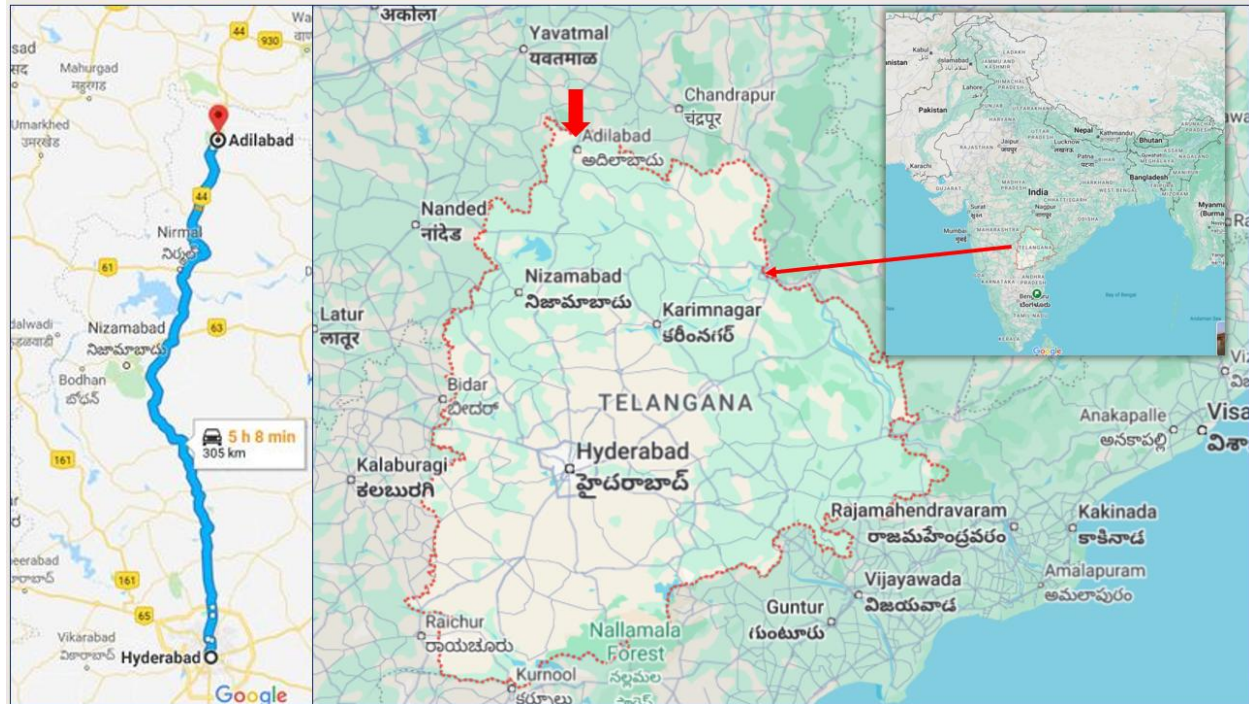


Figure 1: Adilabad town is about 305 kms and 5 hours' drive away from Hyderabad.

and rural settlements. My agenda included visits to a couple of government schools, private tuition centers in the middle of the settlements as well as some existing beneficiaries of some projects implemented by EF.

During our journey to Adilabad, Digamber ji, a Trustee of EF, joined us along the way near Nirmal to accompany us on the site visit to the schools. Along the way, I had enlightening conversations with Madhukar ji, Prashanth ji, and Digamber ji about EF's various projects in 7 districts of Telangana and 5 districts in Andhra Pradesh. It was inspiring to hear about their achievements in these remote areas and a reminder of the progress still needed for the people in areas like this.

After reaching Adilabad, we went past the main (down)town to reach a small settlement called Ada, where we can find nestled the government school that will become the beneficiary of Asha Dallas support. Ada is a very tiny hamlet with about 100 houses in a very rural setting and was very quiet when we arrived. That quietness turned into a chorus of elementary students repeating after their teachers sitting under a sheltered open-air platform. The school must have decided to seat the students there instead of the classroom as the weather was very nice and friendly that day. The school has a total of about 60 children attending from within Ada and surrounding hamlets where the parents of the children have realized the benefit of sending their children to Ada even though it is a few kilometers away.

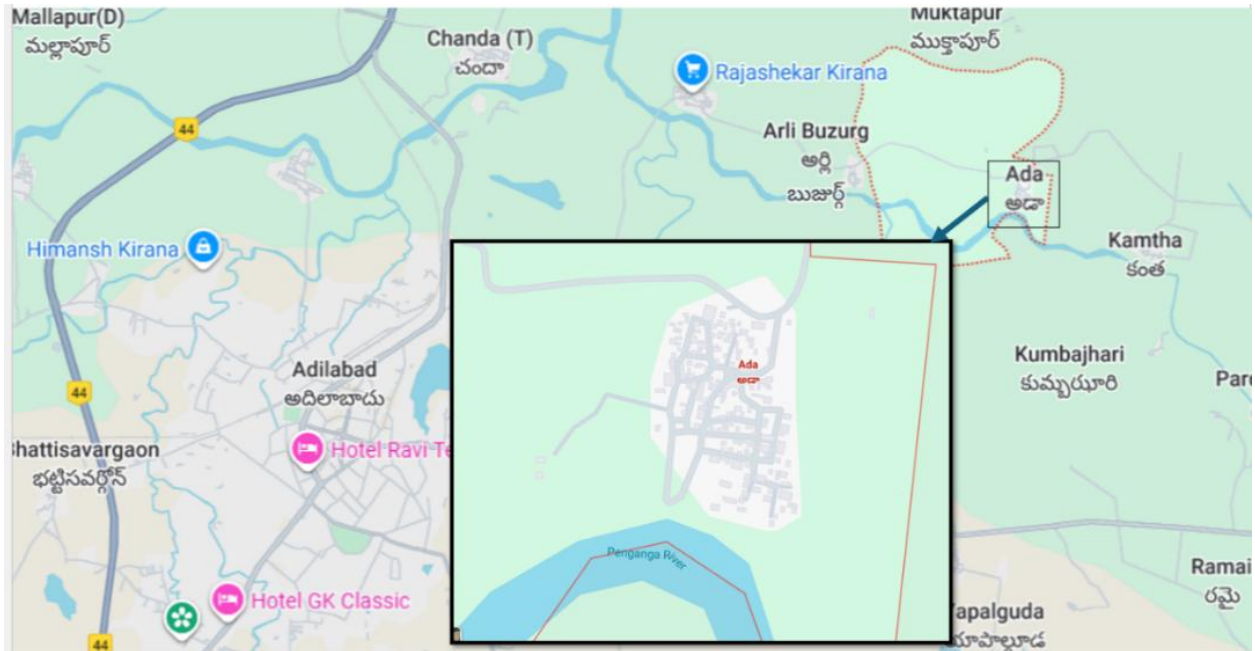


Figure 2: Ada hamlet in relation to the Adilabad town.

Ada school

The school grounds are modest but well-kept with a stage to allow students and teachers to organize group activities. I was welcomed by the English teacher, **Mr Srinivas** who took me and the other EF team members around the school to show the progress made since



Figure 3: Students and teachers from the school who will benefit from the Smart Lab project funded by Asha Dallas and Implemented by Ekalavya Foundation

their last visit. I had a chance to interact with the students from Grades 8, 9 and 10. The children, though a bit shy at the beginning, were very enthusiastic and displayed their knowledge of the operation of the large 32-inch touchscreen monitor that was permanently attached to the wall behind the removable blackboard. One student was called upon to demonstrate her skill of using the screen to open lesson plans and study materials.



Figure 4: A warm welcome message is written on the smart board by a student young student as teachers observe in a classroom setting.



Figure 5: A teacher explained how the students are very self-sufficient in accessing the lessons using the digital screen



Figure 6: A short interaction with students in the classroom encouraging them to pursue higher education and set ambitious academic and career goals.



Figure 7: The computers for the Smart Lab will be housed in a separate room located behind the classrooms

The computers for the Smart Lab will be housed in a separate room located behind the classrooms as seen in Figure 8. This room is currently unoccupied and will be dedicated

toward the Smart Lab activities. Students would arrive here from their classroom in shifts with 3 students per computer and jointly access the lessons.



Figure 9: Future Smart Lab in Ada school

There were two rooms that were being set up to house the computers along with the tables and chairs that will be provided with Asha Dallas' funding. It was strikingly clear how access to basic computer literacy, combined with well-designed educational programs and



Figure 9: Taking a quick tour of the river that flows just behind the school building. The river was flush due to the recent heavy rains

skilled teachers, can dramatically transform learning outcomes. The students demonstrated impressive creativity—presenting lesson plans, math problems, charts and models and engaging in animated discussions.

The primary challenge faced by the school, as articulated by the staff, was access to more computers as the current students-to-computer ratio is very high, teaching materials and resources, especially for math and science. Access to internet is available but without a good educational training program, one can get easily lost while navigating the internet. There was a sense of hope, eagerness to learn, and pride in their achievements to date. The teachers also expressed a need for additional support in terms of computer infrastructure and co-curricular programs.

I'm very glad to have come across this project and consider myself to be very lucky to be able to visit the project in person and interact with students. This project aligns with Asha's education-focused initiatives, and I support the chapter's decision to fund it.

I was also able to visit another Smart Lab project implemented by Ekalavya Foundation in a government school in Adilabad. The pictures on the next capture the Smart Lab in action as the students use the computer terminals to view science lessons and answer quizzes. It was also very interesting to see the students demonstrate their self-defense skills.

Figures 10/11: An existing Smart Lab implemented by EF in Adilabad government school.

Figures 12/13: Watching over the students taking a visual lesson and answer related quiz.

Figures 14/15: Students demonstrating the self-defense skills being taught at the school

Figure 16: The school staff that was available on the day of the visit.



Fig 10



Fig 11



Fig 12

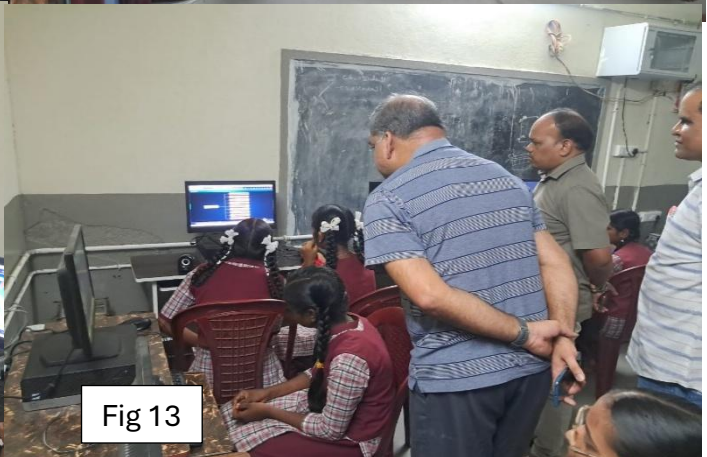


Fig 13



Fig 14



Fig 15



Fig 16