

## **Virtual Site Visit Report**

### **Sahanivasa**

**August 27, 2025**

Sahanivasa serves Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh and a virtual site visit was conducted on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 to learn about the progress so far and understand the challenges they face. The visit was completed over ZOOM at 9 pm US Eastern time on Aug 26<sup>th</sup> 2025, with a recording as attached. This report summarizes the site visit.



#### **Attendees:**

Sahanivasa: Ms Suria Rajani, Mr Chennaiah Poguru

Asha Boston: Sadhana Kyathappala, Akshay Bhole, Bhavana, Anagha Devanarayanan

The meeting began with introductions and technical setup discussions, followed by updates on educational programs including student enrollment, teacher ratios, and pass rates across various school levels. The conversation covered changes in government school policies, particularly regarding English medium instruction and school restructuring, along with challenges faced by students in rural areas due to increased travel distances. The team discussed ongoing initiatives including teacher training programs, community activities, and campaign plans, while also addressing administrative matters such as site visits, metrics submissions, and fund allocations.

## Key updates:

- Mr. Chennaiah and Ms. Suria shared updates on educational programs, noting that primary school students from 1st to 5th class and high school students from 8th to 10th class are being taught by 15 and 30 teachers respectively. They reported
  - 75.15% pass rate for high school students in their first attempt, with 119 failures. This is significantly lower than prior years, but still better than the 65% pass rate at the state level. Although much of this was attributed to English language constraints, it is believed there may have been some interference / pressure by private school interests since the adoption of English medium of instruction in government schools impacted private school enrollments.
  - 98.2% pass rate in the instant exam with the help of preparation by Sahanivasa teachers brought the results back to prior years.
- They additionally shared the changes in school structures, merging some schools, and including the addition of new levels and hiring well-trained teachers.
- **Transportation challenges:** Many families with school-going children are experiencing transportation challenges in getting to school. Many children have to travel further, 2-3 kilometers further, due to some of the government school



mergers. This is making it difficult for parents in farming and labor communities to send their children to school.

- Parents' committees at some schools have arranged alternative transportation using autos for a fraction of the cost of private school buses, allowing children to continue attending classes closer to their homes.

- Out of 15 affected schools, 10 remained operational; tuition centers are operational in all 15 locations.
- **Safety challenges for girls:** They highlighted the challenges faced by students, especially girls, due to increased travel distances and safety concerns, leading to adjustments in school timings. They also shared about the collaboration with government teachers to address these issues and the use of community halls for classes where necessary.
- **Transition to English-medium:** All classes from LKG onwards now teach in English in addition to Telugu as a subject. The government conducted teacher training programs to help educators adapt to the change, with younger teachers showing more enthusiasm.
- **Teacher accountability:** biometric systems were implemented to improve teacher accountability.
- **Training for teachers:** They shared that with help from Rajeev Annaluru (who used to previously steward this project), they have made arrangements with Kirloskar (in Karnataka) to have their education experts to come to Sahanivasa and provide teacher training sessions in January during school holidays, specifically from Jan 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> during Pongal holidays. The training will be conducted in central school locations with a focus on innovative teaching methods.



Overall, the schools are going on very well. Despite some pressure from the private schools, the English medium of instruction remains in the government schools. The students and parents are very interested in retaining this. This has also motivated the teachers to improve their English. Mr. Chennaiah has also been spending more time in the schools than before, meeting with the government school teachers because of the past years results. They had found that previous engagement of the Education Officer visiting schools had been beneficial. Mr. Chennaiah is trying to get this engagement again. With all this, they hope the outcome would be better this year.