Locations: Primary School, Sriperumbudur and Industrial Training Center, Irungattukottai Conducted by: Vinod Kumar Venkatakrishnan (Asha Houston Volunteer and Project Steward) and family.

Date: July 22 2025

Visit to Mahatma Gandhi Primary School

First Part of Site visit was conducted to Mahatma Gandhi Primary School. At the school, the main trustee/project partner Mr Palanisamy, school teachers were also present with the residential kids at the school (Photo 1).

Asha St Louis provides funding for the basic education teachers at Primary school and high school, and Asha Houston provides funding for vocational training at high school and part-salary at Irungattukottai Industrial Training Center. Remaining part of the Irungattukottai staff salary is funded by Canara Bank trust.

At Primary school office, the current statistics of overall school was on the board (Photo 1). Since it was July summer holidays time frame, the numbers may be slightly lower than the steady state normal time frame. Current total across all three schools is about 100 kids supported.

The teachers and students were very motivated and the kids also sang songs and performed for a Tamil folk song (Photo 2). Discussions with Mr Palanisamy for the status of the three schools showed there was satisfactory progress with all three schools. Proposals have been submitted for 2025-26 and Mr Palanisamy explained the need and basis for the numbers in the proposal including the supplementary education new initiative (competitive exam coaching for underprivileged kids) that is a new proposal. Overall, the project is making good progress.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Visit to Irungattukottai Industrial Training Center

Irungattukottai Industrial Training Center was visited in the 2nd part of the visit. Here, they have vocational training in the following trades: Auto Mechanic (Photo 3a and b), Fitter (Photo 4a and b), Electrical (Photo 5), Electronic Mechanic, Engineering Drawing and Computer. We had some good discussions with the instructors, everyone seemed knowledgeable of their trade. There was a government education audit going at the school at that time. Discussion with the government auditor confirmed that the school's industrial training curriculum was in good standing. All the students were motivated and diligent in their work. They were provided free lunch/meals at the location. Overall, the project is making good progress and continued funding is recommended.



Photo 3 a and b: Motor mechanic lab





Photo 4: a, b - Showing Fitter trade room

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Photo 5: Electrical trade