

SEED Site visit

Date of the visit: Monday July 15, 2019

Visited by : Joseph Gollapudi

Visited three sites, all receive funding from ASHA but the sites 1 and 3 receive directing funding from STL Asha:

- 1) Utkootai – where high school kids have a school, vocational training and residential hall
- 2) ITI – vocational training also funded by ASHA
- 3) Sriperumbudur – elementary kids and ladies hostel (who go to government highschool)

First visit to Utkootai, Sriperumbudur around 10:15 AM



Visited the teachers and student at the students. The person on the left is Mr.Palinsamy. He is the founder and secretary of SEED. He is very pleasant and has a good vision and administration capabilities.

There were number of high school kids and their teachers. I was able to visit and talk the to the teachers and ask their opinion. The teachers were very positive and treated the kids with respect. Below is the headmaster of the school along with Mr.Palanisamy.



Kids showing their

1) computer skills



2) Carpentry skills



3) Handicrafts

(Greeted with the garland that was made by the kids)



4) Gardening

Kids work in the garden and produce some of their food. Surprised that the place had water and the palace was lush green when the whole state was experiencing drought and water scarcity



5) Marshal arts

Kids performed a silambattam, a well known village martial art and they were very good. It was really entertaining and if proper training to be given they will excel well.



6) Classrooms

I had a chance to teach a class for 5 minutes and kids loved it.

Building status:

- 1) The following building was in ruins and they requested funding to reconstruct – basically they want to use the finds that are remaining to use it construction if we are ready to fund the next year salaries.



2) ITI

The kids were moving to the newer place and hence did not get to spend time with them



3) Sriperumbudur – Main residential school for elementary and ladies hostel

1) Visited a elementary class room



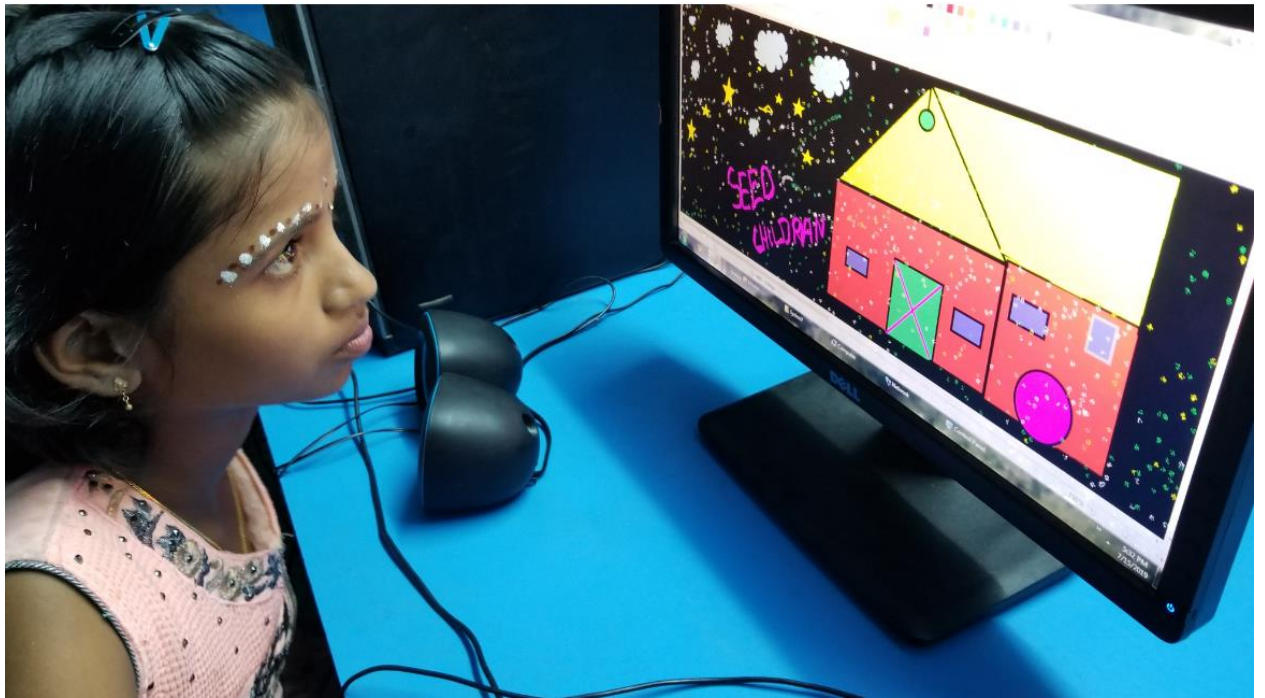
2) Headmistress of the elementary school (Salary funded by Asha STL)



3) Drawing class (with bare minimum – they were able to produce an amazing color combinations and complete free hand drawing. Most kids said this is the most relaxing class for them



4) Computer drawing



5) Sowing and knitting





6) Cultural program





Summary and Conclusion

It was an excellent visit. I spent about 8 hours with the kids, teachers and staff. Towards the end they showed me the finances and how they spend the funds. It appeared clean and honest.

Key Takeaways and suggestions

- 1) *Kids are happy and glad that ASHA is sponsoring*
- 2) *The teachers are working long hours and most staying at the same place with bare minimum necessities and they were looking for some hike in their salaries*
- 3) *The staff and kids are happy. The kids are extremely talented and the staff keeps them occupied with various activities*
- 4) *We could explore exchange programs for the teachers and kids if ASHA takes a few steps*
- 5) *Besides funding ASHA can explore other activities for kids – by way of collecting toys, games and clothing.*