

Virtual Visit for Aralu PPC

Organization Name: Aralu PPC

Type of visit: Virtual Zoom meeting

Date of virtual meeting: March 31st 2023

Name of the person who does the site visit: ASHA Chicago Chapter team

Contact person of the organization: Meril

Visit goals: Virtual site visit to get an update on initiative

Attendees of virtual visit:

- From ASHA Chicago: Archana, Mounika
- From Aralu: Meril (Organizer) and other people who help him along with students

Meeting Summary:

- Following people were present at the visit along with Meril:
 - Angamma has been working at PPC for 15 years
 - Rathnamma who cooks for children
 - Sunitha Madam: wife of Meril sir, she looks at accounts for both PPC and Belaku
- Aralu PPC was initiated in the Bidar district in Karnataka state in India.
- Children of parents who are mainly daily wage workers or construction workers needed education and a safe place to stay when parents weren't around during the day.
- PPC which is the primary care center has young children who will graduate from Aralu PPC and then go to a school which is half a kilometer away from Aralu PPC
- PPC time is from 9am-4pm
- Angamma: "Kids who go to this school are more active in government schools when compared to other children not part of this school"
- We spoke to 2 children (Sanjana and Amulya) who went to PPC 12 years ago but now are at a government school

- Sunitha Madam is in charge of talking to the gram panchayat and about educating more people on the rights of children. She talked to use about the drives she runs for the kids for education on different topics (safe/unsafe touch of all children, girl empowerment, etc)
- There are 30 total kids in the PPC program currently enrolled
- The ages of kids range from 3 years to 6 years
- From the entrance, there was a main room where all the kids sit together during the day and the room in the back is used for children who nap
- Rathamma who has been the helper for many years and lives right across the center Provides water, snacks and takes care of the children full time.
- There is a ground outside the school for children to play outside and a tree was recently planted to help provide children shade during the day
- The government recently installed a water hand-pump right outside of the school but is currently not working
- Meril sir said the enrollment of children is increasing every year due to increase in population and said they will not deny enrollment of children who are willing to come
- Children sing, dance, learn numbers, alphabets, Kannada words and have charts for fruits/vegetables etc.
- Government usually provides a babysitting center in different villages but there is not one near this current location, so PPC is convenient and helpful for many working parents
- Meril sir said the gram panchayat is supportive and have been responsive to his requests
 - Ex: They responded well to the electricity and water requirements requested by Meril sir



Google drive link for virtual visit's recording:

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/0BzETTuR-yJs7UIJVQ09mZXh0SWM?resourcekey=0-xYbl-Zk6ZxIIVQFRYa7_Mw