

### Site Visit Report: Project Pride

Visited by Pradeep Jayaraman and Aparna Khare, Volunteers @ Asha Stanford.

Date Visited: 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Asha Stanford has been supporting this school since 2008 and I had visited the school during my last India visit in Jan 2009. (See report [here](#)). Aparna and I visited the school in December 2011.

The school seems to be functioning well and doing good. No surprises there. We talked to the principal, a few teachers at the school and to students in a few classes and they all seemed to be happy with the school. We also spoke to a couple of residents near the school and they had a positive impression of the school and it's functioning. More details are in prior site visit reports, including the recent one in [August 2011](#).

Even though the school is a Govt. school, there is a trust that is in-charge of 'running' the school. We went to the LVR trust school around the corner and met with the correspondent Mrs. Dhanalakshmi. Her son is also a trustee and he spoke to me later over a phone call.

The trust is unhappy about a 'lack of control' over additional teachers who are supported by Asha and feel that the teachers are not answerable to them. They would prefer it if they provide the paychecks to the teachers to have this sense of control. Since we were unable to do that (as the trust isn't an FCRA or 80(G) compliant nonprofit), the trust is moving papers along to derecognize classes VI to VIII at the school. They could revisit this if we assure them funding for atleast 3 years and find alternate funding arrangements.

Currently, Asha Chennai is supporting the additional teachers with Asha Stanford's help. But, since there are good, functional middle schools within a few kms of this school, we recommend that Asha Stanford revisit the necessity of the project at this point in time – even if this was required a few years ago. If classes VI to VIII are closed, and we help the students join the nearby schools, it might be a good conclusion to a good project. We definitely need to ensure that all students get help in enrolling and assimilating into their new schools if such a conclusion is reached.