

A Visit to Annanagar Library

(Gershon Gurin Podlish – 14th Dec 2018)

Our car moved slowly. The road to Annanagar forced us to do so. The road was unpaved, uneven, and difficult to navigate. This, I discovered, as I rode with Rajaram Krishnan to reach this tribal village located some 50 km. from Chennai.

It is in this small isolated village of thatched houses, built precariously on a flood plain, that a beacon shines brightly both day and night. This beacon is a newly built library for the children of Annanagar. It is a library constructed with funds provided by Hyundai Glovis India and administered by Asha for Education.

On Friday, December 14, 2018 Rajaram Krishnan, Asha's project coordinator for Chennai, and I arrived in Annanagar. When we arrived, shortly before 5:00 PM (the library is open Monday-Saturday 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM) children were playing in the playground adjacent to the library. The playground was also built with funds provided by Hyundai Glovis India.



When the librarian arrived, a young woman, raised and living in Annanagar, a college graduate, and a person full of energy and patience for the children, all of the children rushed to the library entrance and to the world that opened to them inside this brightly painted and lit building.

The library is a warm and welcoming space. Colorful murals, charts, and a growth chart decorate the walls. Shelves line a wall filled with wonderfully written and illustrated story books in Tamil and in English. A video projector hangs from the ceiling directed at a large screen. Brightly colored plastic tables and chairs fill the middle of the library. State of the arts LED lights provide the lighting for the library. Light, Life, and Hope fill this special space.

The library is a paradise for the children of Annanagar. It is a place to gather, a place to enjoy the company of other children, a place to learn, a place to do their homework, and a place to explore the world so far away from this small and remote village. Rajaram and I saw all of these activities take place during our visit.



It is such endeavours as this library, funded by Hyundai Glovis India and under the aegis of Asha for Education, that the future for the children of Annanagar has brightened; that with the opening of their library a door a future with unlimited opportunities has also opened.

Thanks to Hyundai Glovis India and Asha for Education, a library in Annanagar is truly a beacon that lights the darkness, that illuminates the path to, as yet, an unseen future full of hope for the children of this village.