Site Visit Report
Visit on July 07 2019 by Madan Appiah
Project Coordinator + Project Steward

Rural Development Trust
Thiruporur, Kancheepuram District
TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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About Rural Development Trust
Rural Development Trust – (RDT) runs a group of makeshift schools around the construction corridor in Chennai for the children of migrant laborers from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Asha Seattle has supported this project since its inception in June 2005.

The area between Chennai and Mahabalipuram is dotted with many IT companies and real estate development projects. Behind all those huge buildings is the work of the construction workers. There is a huge demand for low priced labor and the laborers from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are more than willing to satisfy the demand due to poor conditions and no means of livelihood in their home towns. Many of these families live in sheds provided by the construction companies near the sites. Their living conditions are poor and the children are left behind when the parents go to work. These children are not taken into the local government schools because they know only Telugu and not Tamil. Also, they don’t have Tamilnadu based nativity or residency certificates or ration card that will make them eligible to free schooling in the state.

RDT is set up to help these children. The school aims to wean children away from construction labor jobs and juvenile delinquency by providing them with formal education opportunities. To this end, it serves as a bridge school, enabling children to study through classes 1-8 in Tamilnadu, eventually helping them to continue their education in Telugu schools once their parents return to Andhra Pradesh.

Conducting Middle School for the Children age of 11 to 13 years
This is a new venture of Rural Development Trust after spending 13 years with the migrant children. Children had a feeling that they could not continue their studies once they completed their primary education. RDT has taken efforts to mitigate this challenge and with the support of good hearts, the new school has come to function. RDT has already identified 47 children who completed their primary education in the schools run by the organization. All these children will be educated in either Hindi or Telugu. Two Teachers have been already recruited to guide the children in the new school.

The new School will be conducted from 9.15 A.M to 4.15 P.M. Children will be given lunch in the School. This will be prepared by a cook in the school campus. RDT has planned to commemorate all the national important days and common festivals. Children will be educated with new technical tools like Computer and Projector. Children will be supported to enhance their development through drawing, music, dance both western and folk and other arts. Children will be trained in extracurricular activities in all the holidays and weekend. They will be given food during the activities.

This new school will also cater to the needs of youth and women. Tailoring training will be given to unemployed youth and women. Present RDT office also will function in the new building. This will cut down the costing of the organization. All the special classes will be conducted in the new school. New plans designed will be conducted in the new school.

Photos and Videos
https://1drv.ms/u/s!AlrvO5VxoBGPmMJnnjKhICFQH9NE9A?e=d9YBxW
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