

Site Visit Report by Priya Nallan, Asha Princeton
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It was August 28 2008. I started the day trip from Chennai to Sittlingi (Thulir Center) really early in the morning by car. My goal was to spend at least a few hours with Anu, Krishna and the children.

After refreshing myself, Anu and Krishna walked me through the center explaining each room/area and its purpose.

The solar panels caught my attention and I must say that I was really impressed. They also showed me all the plants – vegetables and fruits that are grown there. They mentioned to me that they pretty much grow everything they consume. Sittlingi is located in a very remote area and that fact has not been a roadblock for them to set a very high standard for energy conservation and sustainability.



I then sat down with the older children - Rajammal, Devaki , Govindammal and Perumal. They went around and introduced themselves along with a few words about their family in English. They are learning many practical skills such as setting the agenda for the day. When they started setting the agenda for the day, they discussed all items as a team with input from Anu and Krishna. They are being trained on inventory control and management.



The children then showed me one of the bee colonies and a sample of their arts and crafts.

Overall I came away with feeling that all the children I met were quite motivated to be part of the Thulir Center. It was a very short visit for me because I had to get back to Chennai the same night but I am glad that I was able to make it.

