

WAH : SSS – Success Story -Vinu.

SSS is a school/rehabilitation center for differently-abled children located in Nagpur, a city in eastern Maharashtra.

On my site visit to SSS in November of last year, I met the entire staff and principal of the school, I witnessed the number of students being helped and the way they were being helped. SSS does not just provide education to differently-abled children, it ensures that all the needs of their students are met. SSS provides with education, rehabilitation, employment, all three meals of the day and in certain cases a place to live to the students in need of it.

One such student of SSS is Vinu, Vinu is a 40 year old man with down's syndrome at SSS, living in the hostel provided by the SSS campus. Vinu's chronological age is way higher than his mental age because of which he cannot live by his own in the society. After the death of Vinu's parents, he had nobody to look after him. SSS provided Vinu with a place to live, he is being provided with all three meals and inexpensive clothing and a dedicated staff member who lives in the hostel to ensure the safety of all the students in the hostel.

Vinu has also been taught skill-sets including creating files, wedding invitation cards and making *rakhis*. Although, almost all of these jobs could easily and inexpensively be done by machines, SSS has negotiated and convinced the local businesses to continuously provide the students with these jobs as a means of making students like Vinu self reliant. Vinu is an example of someone who was abandoned but now makes a livelihood because of the efforts taken by SSS.

SSS has been doing their part in helping these students since its inception and Asha should continue to provide funds to SSS for the sake of students like Vinu who have nobody to look after them and are never going to be assimilated in the society because of their unfortunate handicap.

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