Background: Adruta Children’s Home is an effort of RAWA Academy of Bhubaneswar, Oissa to provide a home for uncared for girl children. Established on 1998, Adruta runs primarily on personal contributions and ad-hoc sponsorship. To provide for the home some of its patrons have incurred large amount of personal debt. As of Jul 2010, Adruta houses 100+ girl children, the oldest being in her early teen, and the youngest still waiting to see her first birthday. The children of school-going age are sent to local schools. Also they receive training in sports, athletics, yoga, meditation, drawing, music, Odissi dance and vocational fields from very competent trainers. Despite dire economic crisis the children have shown excellence both in academic field and in extra-curricular activities.

In addition to Bhubaneswar, they have opened branches in various parts of Orissa such as Puri, Bolangir etc.

Summary of visit: This is my 1st visit to Adruta. I visited Adruta on Jul/11th. I had chance to interact with their staff, functionaries and the children, taste the same food as the children, and be part of their life for some time. I had long discussions with Professor Mohanty about the mission, vision and present situation of Adruta.

Observations

1. Children are getting nutritious food.
2. Children have opportunity/excel in extra-curricular activities such as sports, music & Odissi dance and they have got prizes from various institutions including state government.
3. There are children from age 2 months to 15 years and good care is taken of them in spite of financial difficulties. It was very touching to see a small kid picked from the river side.
4. There are a few computers used by children to get started on computer learning.
5. Children are going to various schools (both public/private) regularly.
6. They have full time staff to take care of the kids.
8. Per my discussions with Mohanty, it seems they are observing a common birthday for all kids on a single day.

What are immediate needs of Adruta?

1. Currently Adruta runs on a rented house where rent cost is pretty high. A generous person has already donated a land. It would be very helpful towards their financials if they can get any assistance in house construction.
2. Since currently they have only one van to ferry kids to various schools, they have use other modes of transport such as auto or make multiple trips to drop/pick-up children. It would be helpful to save some money on 3rd party transportation by buying another van.
3. There is shortage in number of beds for the kids. Each bed costs around Rs. 10,000 and so they need some help in buying more beds.
4. Since number of children has gone up from 40 to 100+ now, it’s becoming very hard for Adruta to manage food, schooling, extra-curricular activities etc. with current level of financial assistance, personal donations. To help out on it, they want to setup a food processing plant (with full time staff appointed) and needs some financial assistance.

**Recommendation**
Being a native of Orissa, It was an eye opening experience for me to see such a well maintained children home facility I whole heartedly recommend that Asha Seattle continues to fund Adruta Children’s Home and if possible extend funding to their other locations in Orissa. Hopefully, we’ll be able to assist them in finding financing for their immediate needs.