

### **Virtual site Visit- Adruta Children Home (Rawa Academy)**

- By Sree Geetha Dandapanthula (Project Steward)

**Date:** May13, 2023

**Attendees:** Geetha, Sridhar, Katie, Franchesca, Shanti, Shailaja and Project partners from various centers

As we could not do an in-person site visit, I decided to organize a virtual site visit to Adruta. I coordinated with Adruta staff and Asha Seattle Web team to arrange a virtual site visit on May13, 2023 at 7:30 pm PST (May14, 2023 8am IST) The meeting started on time. Few volunteers from Asha Seattle and project partners from 10 centers joined the call.

– There are 12 centers in Odisha for girls and for boys providing them clean and loving homes.

Children attend nearby private or Government schools. Children are encouraged to learn art, music, dance, chess, martial arts depending on their personal interest.

There are special teachers at various centers to tutor the children and also teach music, art etc.

- Kids who are abandoned are rescued and placed in a hospital and then a home. All adoptions are through Government Social Welfare services.

- All the centers are gated and secured buildings. They typically have a visitor center, office, kitchen, dining hall and dormitories for children.

There is a meditation hall for the children at each center. They have people from all religions. Kids wake up at 4 am to 5 am and start the day with meditation.

- There is few housekeeping for common areas in few centers, but children do most the tidying and cleaning.

-The medical help is provided at local hospitals and medical colleges.

- They provide vegetarian food at all centers. Children are not given old clothes to value their self-esteem.

At each of the following centers the project partners showed us the campus, kitchen/ dining, the dormitories and we also spoke with few children.

All the facilities are maintained very neatly. The children are humble and enthusiastic to talk.

#### **Angul Chapter:**

There is a SAA (Special adoption Agency)- Children from ages newborn to 5 years. The children are rescued from distressed situations, nurtured here and go for the adoption. There are 8 babies here. There is a child with cerebral palsy who needs special care. Last year, 22 children were adopted.

There are 2 buildings for girls. The buildings (G+2) were donated by Jindal Trust. There are 67 girls here. Three girls from this home participated in 2023 Republic day parade in New Delhi.

There is one boys' home. There are 53 boys here. Spacious homes with living space. There is a garden and playground too.

**Baripada Chapter:**

It is about 300 km from Bhubaneshwar, This is boy's Home. It is in a rented building. There is dormitory, kitchen, dining room, meditation room. Boys from 5 to 18 years stay here. The children are interested in dancing, singing.

**Bolangir Chapter:**

Boys Home. 32 boys at this home.

Suryananda is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and learns music. He sang a beautiful song for us 😊

Kids also learn cricket, chess and other sports.

**Cuttack Home:**

Girls Home. Rent free building someone provided. There are 37 girls at this center. Some children play district level table tennis. Girls also learn singing and dance. The girls are given free training in TT at Tendulkar stadium.

Dhenkal Home

The building is donated by VC of Utkala univ and construction was donated by ONGC. It's boys Home. There are 38 boys at Home. The boys are very talented chess player. Chief minister has given Rs. 50,000 to support their talent.

**Keonjhar Home:**

Rented building. This is a boys Home. There are 50 boys at this location. They have trophies in Debate, Art. There are some students studying B.Tech too.

Puri Home:

It's a boys Home.

**Sundargarh Center:**

2 acres land given by Govt. It's a boys Home with 36 boys. There is another building for skill development center where they can learn various skills.

**Bhubaneshwar Boys Home**

It's a rented home for Boys. There are 30 boys in age group of 6- to 18-year-old. Many kids are very talented in various arts and sports.

**Bhubaneshwar Girls Home**

This is a G+3 building. There is a bus to take children to schools. There is a Goshala with 8 cows and kitchen garden. There is a gallery room for the art work, library and computer room. There are 85 girls at this home.

One girl Akankhya from this Home went to Houston, US in April 2023 to participate in NASA Rover challenge. Their team won the social media award. She spoke about her experience. She also expressed

interest in setting up tinker labs in all Adruta centers. Another boy from Adruta, Om is also member of this team. They were appreciated by many officials in Odisha and New Delhi.

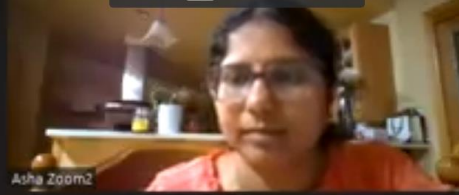


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