**SES Site Visit – Feb 2018**

Went around 1:30 p.m. which is the lunch hour. First impression of school - looked inviting. It’s clean and neat. It had a healthy atmosphere around it. It’s situated on the ground floor of a two storied building, with the upper portion being used by others for residential purpose.

The school majorly draws students from children of urban workers who throng that area such as auto drivers house maids fruit vendors and such. The major reason for attending this school and not a govt school is “English Medium”.

**Gurukul:**

Though the govt of Telangana has launched the Gurukul system, the parents still feel that their children are better off here than in a govt school.

15 students did go to the Gurukul after class 5. However, most students came back. Reasons cited are lack of teachers, unclean and unsafe conditions

**School set up:**

It is a leased building - no permanent campus.

It is part of a residential building. The classrooms are packed and congested. Most of the classrooms are inter connected. So, to enter a class, you may have to pass through another class.

The staff student ratio is 1:15 to 20. The school said they had a total strength of around 250 students. The teacher strength as per the the management is 16 and 2 support staff.

Pass out students for last year - all 20 students cleared their 10th; 16 of them secured first class. I did ask about the past students and their current status - got vague answers(this is not to say that the old students are not doing well, it's just that the school might not be keeping a track of them).

In sufficient bathrooms. Current set up is 1 bathroom for girls(around 100), 1 bathroom for boys(about 150) and 1 for staff.

No playground. Also no room for indoor games. Though the school did say about having some indoor games like chess, carom, tennikoit, skipping etc.

Though the local municipality is offering playground on rental basis, the school does not use it as transportation is an issue.

There is no room for anything extra - like a small study room, staff room, computer room etc

School uniform is in place. The color is Grey, Mon to Fri with black shoes and White on Saturdays with white canvas shoes. Students have to buy their own uniforms and shoes.

**Health and Hygiene:**

All government mandated programs like polio drops, vaccination etc are getting implemented.

No regular health or dental checkup has been done in past 4 years.

Sathya Sai conducted an eye testing camp in Sep, 2017

No safe drinking water facility at school. Most students and staff get water from homes. They just have a cloth filtering system. Though many banks have offered free RO set up, management cites lack of space for declining that offer.

Mid Day Meals - Though most students are below poverty line, the school does not offer any mid day meal program, citing lack of space to serve and clean.

**Competitions and Celebrations:**

The school boasts of a lot of talent, especially in drawing and singing. 2 of it's current students(brother sister duo of Vaishnavi and Sivamani studying in 7th and 9th respectively) have won awards in Sarvodaya Drawing Competition.

Students have also won prizes in Sathya Sai Seva Samiti Singing Competition.

Pingali Venkayya(designer of the national flag) birth celebrations are held in school every year. Competitions are held in drawing, life of Pingali, etc and prizes are gives away

The usual celebrations of Republic Day, Independence Day, Teachers Day are done by inviting a local Samaritan with whom the children can associate with, like getting the local SP to speak who has come up in life from a very poor background etc.

Lions Club also conducts various events

**Classroom Activity:**

Each students gets a set of text books supplied by management(mostly handovers from last year). Class 9th and 10th students are encouraged to buy and English dictionary on their own.

Though it's and English medium school, the students still cannot converse in English.

**No after school program**

No extra classes for students who are weak in a subject or subject. Though extra attention is paid to them in class like making them sit in front bench, sitting next to a bright student, making them do board work, speaking with them constantly etc

Absentism is not an issue though the strength does drop after a major festival holiday.

**Safety and Security:**

CC camera monitoring is done for every classroom.

There is no corporal punishment. Also, the school ensures there is no physical abuse among students.

No counselling is available, especially for girl students.

No parent teacher meeting are held.