

Site Visit Report: Senchiamma School, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu

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I picked up Shanthi's father S. Yegna Narayanan from West Mambalam and started the travel towards Thiruvallur. We left around 1pm and it took us about 1.5 hours from the city. We met Mariamma Teacher's husband at the intersection of the highway and the mud road leading to the village Senjiagaram. We followed him for about 15 minutes to reach the village. Since it was a Sunday, pretty much all the families from the village had gathered near the school. Teacher and the kids warmly greeted us and the kids sang the Tamil Nadu state song 'Neeraadum'. Teacher and the maid showed us the class room and the kitchen in the school. Lunch wasn't prepared on that day since it was a school holiday. They said that they have been providing porridge with milk in the morning around 9:30am, small fruits like dates around 11am and lunch at 12:30pm. Every day lunch is rice with vegetables or greens and eggs are provided once a week. The classroom had charts of alphabets, animals and birds.

28 students (9 girls and 19 boys) are enrolled for the current school year. 1 girl and 5 boys graduated from the pre-school last year and have moved on to the Government Elementary School nearby. Quite a few older kids who are in middle and high school were also present at the school and the teacher said that they visit the pre-school whenever possible and help the little ones. We had taken 50 Marie biscuit packets and 50 notebooks and pencils. Kids were happy to receive them.

Teacher and other village elders took us to the borewell and showed us the progress. The drilling is complete and they hit the water table. The next phase of fitting the hand pump is expected to get completed within couple of weeks. It was a very hot day and so we spent about one hour at the village and left back for the city.



