

Project : Kamalakar trust
Location: Nagole, Hyderabad India.

Half yearly update: Priya

The school has been running in a rented building so far (all the classes from nursery to 10th were running in that building) Due to space issues Ms. Bharathi devi who runs the school leased another building just in front of the school in May 2011. Now the classes run in both the buildings. Preprimary and primary in the new school building and middle and higher schools in the old building. Apparently there is an increase in annual budget of the school but we are keeping the funding limited to the teachers salaries. The proposal is for funding the recurring cost of the annual school operation. The school has classes from kindergarten through 10th standard and a student strength of over 200.

Apart from regular school activities the school like every year encourages its students to participate in various extracurricular competitions like elocution, essay writing, painting, singing, drama etc. The students are doing pretty well in those competitions not only at the school level but also at various city level competitions in which kids from (costly) private schools participate

Performance wise the students are doing fairly well in examinations. Last academic year all the students who appeared in the 10th grade board exams last year cleared the exams with good marks.

Here is a list a short summary about their half yearly results in the year 2011- 12.

In the 10th standard the average is about 55% out of 9 students. From my site visit last year I came to know that most of the students are slow learners in the 9th and 10th grades and need lot of training in the basic concepts. There are only 2 or 3 students in these grades who are curious to understand the concepts and raise questions. In science and math students in primary grades have an average of 60-70% but by the time they enter middle school until high school their marks are almost less than average. This helps us understand that there is a need to work on the basic middle school concepts for most of the students.

Improvements and Plans for Future:

1. Ms. Bharathi Devi is on a lookout for good teacher training programmes/workshops which will enhance teachers teaching quality in the school.
2. In the new school building Ms. Bharathi devi is planning to expand the current library facilities to the students.
3. A mini van was donated to the school by a local bank late last year so the school now has a vehicle for transportation around the city though the gas and driver cost will be present.
4. Two helping assistants are appointed by the school for maintaining the restrooms and school premises clean and neat everyday.
5. I will try to work with Ms. Bharathi devi and of course the school teachers to find ways to improve the quality of teaching in Vikas Bharathi school.

Overall, I believe the school is doing a pretty good job of helping the kids from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds. There can certainly be improvements made in the quality of education when looked at it from a holistic perspective. The teachers were receptive to suggestions made and it would certainly be helpful to provide the teachers with some teaching aids and / or teacher training.