

Meeting Minutes, Q&A etc.

Project: Jeevan Gnanodaya

Chapter: Urbana-Champaign

URL: <http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=84>

**March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Discussed answers received from Mr. Devarajan to questions raised in one of the earlier meetings**

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**This is a reply to questions regarding the ITI.**

On 16.04.2007 15 more students with hearing impairment have joined in ITI for the academic year 2007 – 2009. All of them are grown up children in the age group of 17 to 22 years. They had earlier studied in Government school for the Hearing Impaired. And, including them we now have a total of 30 students with hearing impairment in Jeevan Gnanodaya Industrial Training Centre. They are given training centre. They are given training in Fitter Trade. To teach them I have appointed two more Technical instructors and I am here with reading the relevant details and information for your questions emailed on 26.04.07.

**How long has the ITI been functioning? How many students have graduated? If none, when will the first batch graduate? If there any arrangement for placing the graduating students into industry? Please give us specific information's for when the ITI construction was finished, when the first batch of students joined, what is the normal completion time of the course in ITI?**

Jeevan Gnanodaya industrial training centre has been functioning since 2004. This training centre is run solely for students with hearing impairment with a view to enable them stand on their own legs and lead a life of dignity. In August 2006 7 students have successfully completed this course, as the First batch of Jeevan Gnanodaya ITI. As this is an industrial training centre being run solely for students with hearing impairment, and as we did not know for sure as to how the students would fare in the exams, we could not send as many as 18 the total number of students allowed by the government, to appear for exams. But the seven students who comprised the First Batch to write the ITI exams did well, and so, with renewed hope we have admitted 18 students for this academic year of them, we have six female students in the whole of Tamilnadu this is the first time six female students with hearing impairment are given admission in ITI Course. Many private concerns have come forward to offer them job as soon as they finish their course which we feel very significant.

Above all, I would like to give you're the details of the various initiatives that I set forth with regard to Jeevan Gnanodaya ITI.

Before twenty years when I brought into being Jeevan Gnanodaya School for the deaf, I had three objectives. They are

I should enable at least 100 children with hearing impairment get education academic as well as technical and also make possible suitable job opportunities of them. **Some companies in chennai comforward to give job for the deaf students.** It was my dream and I have been striving hard to realize this dream of mine against all odds. I have also planned to provide my students job opportunities too from 2009 onwards. And for this purpose I am endeavoring hard to finish constructing Jeevan Gnanodaya spinning mills before the close of 2009 and as a first step provide jobs for 50 students with hearing impairment. And I sincerely hope that my endeavor in this direction would bear fruit in 2009.

The construction of ITI was started in the year 2002 and completed in 2003. In 2003 itself we had applied for approval from the government of India. Further inn the same year it self we had bought all the tools and accessories required for the training centre and also applied for approval, to the govt. of India and received the G.O. for the same year.

In industrial training course is for two years. For example the students who have joined this year will be completed the course in the year 2009.

**How are students chosen for the ITI? Is it compulsory for all?**

This is not compulsory for all. I make it a point to visit the schools for the visually impaired in Tamilnadu. And I admit those students alone whose parents are interested in enabling their children have some technical training which would prove helpful to their future.

**How many of the children at the school right now need hearing aids? It will be good if you could explain why exactly behind the ear type is best suited for children particularly those from ITI?**

At present there are 110 students in our school. In industrial training centre there are 32 students. So, altogether there are about 140 students with hearing impairment.

As on date (29.04.07) for the 30 students of ITI we require behind the ear hearing aids and for these students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> std we need 32 packet type hearing aids. Totally 32 packet type hearing aids and 30 behind the ear hearing aids we require. For the students of ITI Behind the ear hearing aids are necessary for the packet type has wires which would get entangled in the machinery, causing them harm. So, behind the ear type is required to ensure their safety.

**What is the average lifetime of hearing aids both box type and behind the ear type?**

Depending on how the children use them both types would be functional for 7 to 10 years comparatively behind the ear type would last a little longer.

**Cost of the hearing aids both box type and behind the ear type.**

ITI students.

**(Behind the ear hearing aids)**

Number of students	Price	Total
30 Nos.	Rs. 6400 x 30	<b>Rs. 1,92,000/-</b>

**(Packet type hearing aid)**

32 Nos.	Rs. 3600 x 32	<b>Rs. 1,15,200/-</b>
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**April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007: JG covered, minutes:**

Attendees:

Jessica, Sheila, Fakhrudin, Anshu, Vinay, Rekha, Jayashree, Juhi, Ramesh, Saumya, Kiran, Arvind, Krishna, Nagraj, Shankar, Karl.

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Jeevan Gnanodhaya proposal for hearing aids

1. They require two types of hearing aids, behind the ear type costing Rs 6400 and pocket type costing 3500. The behind the ear type is for ITI students.
2. Mr Devrajan has approached other chapter, Seattle, Cornell and Atlanta with various other proposals. These are for the ITI, project running costs and van.
3. They haven't heard from any other funding sources so far.
4. The students found only menial jobs after finishing school for various reasons. Hence the need for ITI. No students have graduated yet from ITI so far which is a fairly recent thing.
5. 4 computers were also asked in the proposal. This is because Tamil Nadu board requires mandatory computer education after 8th grade.

6. Questions for Mr Devrajan.

- a. How long has the ITI been in function? How many students have graduated? If none, when will the first batch graduate? Is there any arrangement for placing the graduating students into industry?
- b. How many of the children at the school right now need hearing aids? Can all of them hear with hearing aids?
- c. Can you send us a proposal giving us exact requirements for hearing aids? Price etc.

**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007:**

**JG on agenda, answers to questions discussed. Posted online.**

**Minutes:** Went through the Q&A regarding Jeevan Gnanodaya - one of the questions raised was whether they had approached local companies for donation of computers to the project.

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(based on the talk Shankar had with Mr. Devarajan over phone)

Q. What happened to the 6 students who graduated from ITI?

A. The 6 students from ITI have found jobs where they use the skills learnt from ITI. However, Mr. Devarajan did not play a very significant role in finding these jobs for them. For the next batch, Mr. Devarajan is actively talking to companies and trying to arrange for campus interviews etc. The ITI currently has 18 (junior batch) + 18 (senior batch) students.

Q. The life of hearing aids is more than two years, the normal time spent by a student at ITI. Do they take it along with them?

A. No. They are passed on to the next batch.

Q. Has Mr. Devarajan approached IT companies in Chennai for his computer proposal?

A. Yes. Unfortunately, they only managed to give him old computers with which his students are unable to learn anything.

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**May 5<sup>th</sup>: JG initial approval poll online, approved 14 yay, 0 nay.**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 15<sup>th</sup>: extended process of allocated funds to various projects. The result of which was that JG would be funded \$6300.**

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