

Grama Vikasa Saradhi (GVS) Upper Primary School Site Visit Report

Project Details

Grama Vikasa Saradhi society was established on April 25, 2000. The main objective of the group is the uplift of rural communities in remote villages near Anakapalli. As part of that, they founded a school for the children of these remote villages who otherwise don't have a chance to go to school. The attempt is to make the learning process more meaningful and impart basic education to these unfortunate kids who otherwise have to lead their life weaving baskets and brooms.

Volunteer Details

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Report

Background

The major activities of the GVS Society include SCODESC (Social Care of Destitute Senior Citizen), GVS Upper Primary School, supporting Self-Help Groups and conducting medical awareness campaigns, distributing seeds to needy villagers etc. The Upper Primary School, a brainchild of the then president, Mr. Rama Murthy, was one of the first projects of the GVS when one of the villagers donated land for the school and all the villagers came forward and constructed the school voluntarily.

Premises

GVS Upper primary school is located in kovilapalem village, Tattabanda mandal near Anakapalle. To reach the school, one has to travel 30 kms from Anakapalle to reach Tattabanda junction and then 5 more kilometers from there to reach the school. The school premises comprises a small red-tiled construction with four rooms (2 classrooms and 2 office rooms), staff quarters accommodating two teachers and ample space for a playground and garden. The school doesn't have electricity.



Children

The school provides classes I to VII with telugu as the medium of instruction (even though the curriculum includes the subject English). Classes I to III are taught in one room and the remaining in the other room. The children are basically from kovilapalem and nearby remote villages. Each village consists of not more than 40 families. Almost all the families make a living out of weaving baskets using sticks collected from nearby hills and from making brooms, which they sell in the Tattabanda market. These families generally migrate to other places when the hills get dried up and they couldn't get the raw material for weaving. Most of the children, after their school hours, help their parents in weaving baskets and collecting sticks.

Classes I-III



Classes IV-VII



School Programme

School timings are from 9 am to 5 pm with a one-hour break for lunch. The school doesn't collect any fee from the students. The students are provided books and a school uniform free of cost as well. The way the classes are conducted is quite different from that in regular schools. One teacher handles all the subjects for classes I to III and the second teacher handles remaining classes in the other room, though the administrator and project coordinator take classes at times.

The school children statistics are as follows:

Class	Boys	Girls	Total
I	3	1	4
II	1	6	7
III	3	1	4
IV	4	4	8
V	2	2	4
VI	6	7	13
VII	1	1	2

In total, there are 42 children in 7 classes (20 boys+22 girls).

Methodology

The school follows State Syllabus. We have to note here that, the school is not recognized by the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. They couldn't go for it due to lack of funds. They use a learning model using cards and other teaching material for classes I to III. Each child is given individual attention and is taught keeping his/her inclination and capabilities. This obviously makes the teacher's role greater than one of just imparting information. They monitor each child separately. Parent-teacher meetings are also conducted regularly. During lunch break, some of the children eat from their own lunch boxes and others go home. The seventh class children are made to write their public exams through a Govt. school located at a nearby village, Seethaiyyapeta. One very interesting fact about this school is that, students, after completion of their seventh are followed up and made to continue their studies in nearby govt. schools. Another important point to note is that the children are made to recite ***Bhagavad gita slokas*** in an attempt to get rid of local slang and make them speak in a better accent.

Teachers/Staff

There school has two teachers. They stay in the school quarters and are available all the time. The school has an administrator who takes care of the school and a project coordinator from GVS who regularly visits and checks the school activities.

Project Coordinator	: Mrs. K. Prabhavati (M.A)
School administrator	: Mr. S.V. Ramana (B.A)
Teachers	: Mrs. S. Balamani (B.A)
	Mrs. Ch. Satyavathi (B.A)

GVS Upper Primary School Team



Impressions from the visit

- Overall, the school is quite impressive and the cause, genuine. It is quite evident that the existence of the school made a positive difference to the lives of the people of that village.
- The school is in dire need of funds for its day-to-day functioning. The funds for the GVS society are pretty much individual contributions that are getting distributed across various projects.
- At times, the teachers' salaries get delayed because of lack of funds. The teachers say they are willing to stay as long as they get their salaries in time.
- The school plans to start new activities provided there are funds, like establishing sections for kindergarten, nutrition programme for children providing 2 eggs per week per child and an honorarium to the project co-ordinator.

Other Snaps







