

Jeevan Vidya Site Visit Report

Deepali Bhagvat

We did a virtual site visit of Jeevan Vidya on August 13th 2023 from 8pm to 10pm PST. Asha Seattle volunteers Deepali Bhagvat, and Shilpa Karve were present for the entire visit. Asha Seattle volunteer Vibha Deo joined for some time.

Director of Jeevan Vidya, Ms. Jacqueline Rumao co-ordinated the site visit. Other staff members - Neela Tai, Rosemary Tai and Laxmi were also present during the site visit.





The girls and the staff were eager to meet and talk to us. 11th and 12th std. girls attend a morning college and had to miss the meeting but 5th to 10th std.girls were all ready with their performances.

9th graders performed a play on environment



8th graders did an adivasi dance



5th graders performed a dance on an action song.

Jeevan Vidya has two cooks. Manda Tai who visits the boarding and takes care of cooking from Monday to Wednesday. Pushpa Tai covers Thursday to Sunday.



Pushpa Tai came to talk to us. She cooks all the meals for the 104 girls and 3-4 staff members. The breakfast includes tea and one of the dishes- pohe, sabudane, rava etc. Lunch includes chapati and some kind of sabji. Dinner includes khichadi and pickle. Groups of girls help with cooking. Sunday lunch is cooked by the girls completely. It is typically khichadi.

A girl named Deepali studying in the 7th std came forward to talk to us. She came to Jeevan Visya in the 6th std. She is from Shejava village which is about 20 kms from Nandurbar. I asked her how her daily routine is. She gets up at 5.30am, does yoga and breakfast with other girls. She then helps with some on-campus activities such as gardening for 30-45 minutes. Then the girls spend some time self-studying, eat lunch and go to school at 11am. They come back to the hostel around 6pm. Eat some snacks and have free time which they can use for either studies or playing. Then they eat dinner and study for some time. Deepali said that sometimes she studies till 11 pm.

Then we met Jagruti from the 10th std. She is from Bhandra village. She has her dad, mom, ajoba, and aatya at home. She likes extra tuition classes at the hostel.

Kareena who is studying in the 6th std came forward to talk to us. She likes to play cricket, football, lagori, langadi, kho-kho, chilli paati, palapali, hide and seek, cycle etc. She takes care of the on-campus chickens. She loves the meals at the hostel. Her favourite subject is Marathi.



We also talked to Varsha from the 10th std. and Shreya from the 6th std.
Other 6th graders came to say hi



Then the 7th graders came to say hi



And then came some 8th graders



There are groups who help with cleaning different areas of the facility such as cleaning rooms, campus, borewell etc. The girls get to see a movie once a month.



Jeevan Vidya has formed a bal-panchayat which has ministers for different types of on-campus work. An election was conducted to elect these ministers. These are typically 11th and 12th std girls. They lead groups of girls to get things done. They do it happily for half an hour to an hour everyday. Working as ministers teaches them responsibilities and leadership skills.

There is a committee of parents which consists of a lawyer, a cop (compulsory by govt) and other such professionals. It was founded last month and guides the girls on various topics.

Here is the main gate of Jeevan Vidya



And here is the main building.



We saw the room where the girls sleep and also has lockers for storing clothes, books and other belongings.



We also saw new lockers ordered for extra girls.

We saw the computer room that has total 12 desktops



We also saw the herbal medicine room. A vaidu comes to make herbal medicines and takes the help from the girls. These medicines are used to treat issues and diseases. The raw material for the medicines comes from the on-campus garden.

There was a store room and a grinding machine.

We also saw the office that is used by Azar Sir who is the accountant, Jacqueline Tai, Neela, and Rosemary. It has 2 computers for office use. Village volunteers also come to help.

There is also a small library that has story books, grammar books, English reading books. Sat-Sun 2-5pm is reserved as reading time.



This is a multi-purpose room used for studies, programs, and meals. More shelves need to be added in this room for books.



Kitchen



Clothes drying area



Washroom for young girls and other girls



A paver road was built recently to be able to walk across the campus in the rainy season.

We also visited the garde. It has a lot of different trees and shrubs such as - bananas, alu, cilantro, lemons, chillies, spinach, herbal medicine saplings, adulsa, lemon grass, aloe vera, jackfruit. There are class wise garden areas. Earthworm fertilisation is also done on-campus.



We also visited the flower garden and saw a room for the security guard getting ready. There is an on-campus car for going to the village, getting groceries, visiting a doctor etc. Nilesh is the driver.