

## Jeevan Vidya Site Visit Report 2022-23

**Visit Date:** May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

**Visitor:** Shilpa Karve

### **Visit Goals:**

Communicate with Jeevan Vidya with the project partners, coordinators, and support staff

- to get an overview of the progress since our last virtual site visit in 2021,
- interact and identify current conditions, needs and challenges

**Project Name & Address:** Jeevan Vidya  
Near MHADA Colony, Korit Road, Nandurbar, Maharashtra 425412

### **About Jeevan Vidya:**

Jeevan Vidya provides housing and food for tribal girls from nearby villages for secondary education from grades 5-12. Jeevan Vidya provides lodging and boarding facilities in Nandurbar for about 90 tribal girls. The girls come from villages located around 40-50 kms away. These girls attend schools close by to the boarding facility.

**Supporting Chapter:** Seattle (<https://seattle.ashanet.org/>)

### **Site Visit Notes:**

The site visit was conducted in May, 2022. We received a warm welcome from the project partners, Jacqueline Rumao (Director) and Neela Pateliya (Superintendent and Nurse), along with three other friends who are associated with education. The meeting lasted for approximately 2-hours from 1PM to 3 PM IST.

**Interaction with Resident Students:** Unfortunately, we were unable to meet the resident students as the schools had not resumed. Our site visit was planned so that we could meet the resident girls when they were scheduled to visit Jeevan Vidya to pick-up their previous year's academic results however, the pick-up day got advanced by a day due to extreme heat that week.

**Interaction with Staff:** Jacqueline Tai and Neela Tai showed us around the building and the campus where various activities are conducted. The building and the premises were kept well organized and clean. Currently, the facility boards about 95 students. We were told that they were expecting more students in the coming year as things had begun to resume post-COVID.

We started at the ground floor that housed office spaces for the administrative staff (accountant, visiting Vaidus (doctors), visiting teachers), and a waiting area for parents when they visit. They showed us the computer room which houses approximately ten PCs.

We visited the assembly space on the first floor. This hall is used for homework, learning to sew, and for various other organized events. There is a sleeping hall with bedding for the residents, and a locker room that is used for storing their personal belongings. Next to the sleeping area are three bathroom stalls for their convenience during night time. The main toilet and shower facility is located outside the building.

We visited the medicine room where they administer Ayurvedic medicines for most ailments. The dried powders, tablets and kaadhas are prepared on the premise. Most of the medicinal plants are grown on-

campus in green houses. They teach the girls about local, herbal medicines so the girls can continue to apply the knowledge later in their lives.

Outside the main building, there is playground for outdoor games and cycling, a greenhouse, a well and an area for washing clothes. The greenhouses use drip-irrigation for cultivating the medicines. There is extensive space for gardening that was developed and kept well. The girls are taught the importance of composting. The vegetables are mostly grown on-campus, the girls also learn to garden and cook, skills meant to make them future-ready and independent. We visited the kitchen and storage space.

We visited the fairly new outbuilding for toilets and shower facility. We were told that Asha funding was used to compartmentalize the showers so that it could accommodate more girls at rush hours in the morning. The quality of the partitions could have been better in the material used and the installation.

We met Sonal who lives in the local tribal community, a past resident of Jeevan Vidya, and now works on the staff as a helper as part of her teacher training. She wants to continue teaching at Jeevan Vidya in future. She has learned office administration in Vidyadeep community college. She assists Neela Tai in training girls on using computers, and on software programs like MS Office programs like Excel, typing and also helps with English tutoring.

Towards the end of the site visit, we were welcomed to the staff quarters where Jacqueline Tai and Neela Tai reside. The staff quarters have an additional room for guest teachers, each of the rooms have a separate, attached bathroom. There is a separate staff kitchen and attached common room where we were treated to local fruit and buttermilk which was just right to beat the extreme hot weather.

**General Observations:**

- The staff and project partners are motivated and vested in seeing the girls become self-sufficient and independent in society
- The Jeevan Vidya site visit was followed by Jan Seva Mandal site visit. We experienced that both the boarding schools had good coordination and support from each other.
- We did not meet any student residents, so there is no feedback
- The facility is well maintained and kept clean.



*Facilities: Medicine Room*



*Facilities: Assembly Hall*



*Toilet/Shower Partition Installation*





*Facilities: Greenhouse*