**Site Visit Report of Jeevan Vidya & Jan Seva Mandal, Nandurbar**

**Date of Visit:** 16th and 17th December 2012

**Projects Visited:** Jeevan Vidya Trust & Jan Seva Mandal, Nandurbar, Maharashtra, India.

**Site Visit Team Members:**

1. Mr. Nikhil C. Jadhav, Webmaster, Asha Mumbai Chapter
2. Ms. Suchita S. Sawant, Volunteer, Asha Mumbai Chapter
3. Mrs. &Mr. Sadanand Sawant (Suchita’s Mom & Dad)

**Jeevan Vidya Trust (JVM) Information:**

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| **No** | **Name** | **Designation** |
| 1 | Ms. Margaret DBritto | Director |
| 2 | Ms. Martina Fargose | Boarding Superintend |
| 3 | MS. Laveena Farnandies | Administrative |
| 4 | MR. Azher Shaikh | Accountant |
| 5 | Mrs. Asha G. Valvi | SHG Animator |
| 6 | MR. Mansing M. Padvi | Herbal Animator |
| 7 | Mr. Uttam Vasave | Herbal Animator |
| 8 | Mr. Raising Kokni | Herbal Animator |
| 9 | MS. Nirma Valvi | Gardener |
| 10 | Mrs. Pushpa M. Valvi | Boarding cook |
| 11 | Mrs. Manda U. Vasave | Boarding cook |

**Jan Seva Mandal (JSM) Information:**

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| **No** | **Name** | **Designation** |
| 1 | Anthony Toscano | Director |
| 2 | Jeevan Mendonsa | Manager, Hostel |
| 3 | Nitesh Padvi | Hostel warden |
| 4 | Avinash Dandekar | teaches English to class 7 |
| 5 | Priya Metkar | teaches Maths to classes 6 to 9 |
| 6 | Pratima Metkar | teaches Maths to class 5 |
| 7 | Sandeep Kute | teaches computers to classes 5 to 10 |
| 8 | Sajjabai Valvi | cook |
| 9 | Kunda Valvi | assistant cook |

**Collaboration with Asha:** Asha Seattle chapter supports both JVT & JSM by funding the food of hostellites. Other expenses such as salaries, infrastructure costs are managed by some other organizations and well wishers. JVT & JSM charge nominal fees from students.

**Site visit Experience**

On a prying Saturday night we left for Nandurbar from Mumbai. Daily private luxury sitting/ sleeping night buses leave to Nandurbar from Mumbai. (Travel Contact: Manmohan Travels 022-23445575/76). We caught sitting bus (Swagat) at Chembur at around 10.30 pm as last stop of swagat bus was just 2 min walk from jeevan vidya Trust (JVT). Bus reached at 8am to swagat petrol pump, Nandurbar. We were warmly welcomed by Ms. Margaret, Director, JVT and one sweet girl of Jeevan vidya. We entered the JVT through marvelous flowers garden and at the front of the main door a very lovely rangoli were drawn to welcome us.

After entering the beautiful bunglow of JVT, Ms. Martina, Warden welcomed us and showed us our rooms. After delicious breakfast chapatti-burzi followed by hot tea we went to have a chat on the current working of JVT.

At 10am, Ms. Martina rang a bell to call all the girls in the hall. The hall was very big (more than 1000sqft) with marble flooring and had big cupboards at the walls to keep personal things of girls. Within 2 min all girls came to hall and sat on the floor. Nikhil took the charge and broke uncomforting environment in few minutes. We asked every girl to tell her name, village she came from, and what she likes to do. Many girls told that they like helping others, dancing, singing, drawing and playing various outdoor games like Kho-kho, Kabbadi, Cricket and Cycling etc. Many girls want to be doctor, Nurses, Police officers, even one wants to be a CID officer. During the session, we observed that all girls have a good mutual bonding with each other and they all have a great co-operative and helpful nature. Girls informed us that they feel like a paradise in hostel and their parents too. Parents become stress less when their daughter get admission in JVT campus as team of JVT contains all women; it ensures security of girls. Ms. Margaret told us that it is very painful to deny the application of any girl due to inadequate funds and facilities. (They have admitted 71 girls- up to their max capacity). We spent nearly two hour with girls. When we came out of room, Nikhil heard some sound and went again to the hall. Girls were singing prayer (girls pray in morning, before lunch & dinner) in local language (Bhilli) and Nikhil took good video of it.

Ms. Margaret & Ms. Martina took us on a tour of the premises. Jeevan vidya is a big bunglow with immense open space behind it. First floor has massive multipurpose hall, three guest rooms, Computer room (with 10 laptops), team member rooms with common kitchen and dining hall. We first went to the big multipurpose hall. Hall walls had some attractive craft and posters painted by students. The hall is used for parents meeting and students’ cultural program. Ratan tata projects supports JVT and use the hall for meetings of anganwadi (Preschool) teacher trainings. The ground floor has office room, study room for girls, store room and big hall where girls keep their personal things in cupboards. JVT has constructed one more small room for girls to study. Kitchen, common bathroom and toilet facility is out of bungalow (Two bathrooms are kept in bungalow to use in night). JVT has solar water heater but it fulfills requirement of 30-40 students; remaining hot water for bath is prepared with wood. We went to the back side of the bungalow- a big open space. Jeevan vidya has used this space properly with two big green houses for green vegetables and herbal medicines, lots of fruit plants and big ground for girls to play outdoor games and cycling. In the first green house, students planted vegetables like brinjals, potatoes, tomatoes etc. under the guidance of Ms. Margaret. In the other green house they planted herbal medicine plants, with written board of their usage. Students and Ms. Margaret explained us the usages of plants very well as well as how they planted all the plants and other gardening methods too. Nikhil guided the students with useful technical information related to [cheap roofless green house project](http://www.google.co.in/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=4&cad=rja&ved=0CEUQFjAD&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.stanford.edu%2F~cbauburn%2Fbasecamp%2Fdschool%2Fhomeproject%2FGreenhouse%2520%282%29.doc&ei=rWTZUJafD8PVrQe2wIDQCw&usg=AFQjCNGMahAElC04r0z8NPikUhGRu). Some students, who like gardening, had prepared a good Science project with the own efforts. They had participated in school science project and won prize too. Some students were preparing and painting dandiya very artistically to participate in dandiya dance in the school Ms. Margaret told us that girls should know how to cook? Every Sunday, Thus they hand over the kitchen to the students to cook food. We were very happy to see girls enjoying lunch and supper under the tree like “vanbhojan”.

After finished our premises tour, we had the delicious lunch and some rest too. At evening, we we had a full of flavor of a tea with stirring chat with Ms. Margaret, Ms. Laveena and Ms.Martina. At the same time we were waiting for fr. Jeevan. When fr. Jeevan came, he took us to visit Jan Seva Mandal. We were excited to meet young boys of JSM-a 10 min walk away from JVT. When we went through greenery and eye-catchy welcomed rangoli was drawn for us by boys. They used not only rangoli colors but also the green leaves to make it more attractive. The entrance of the premises at the left side had one water purifier given by Nandurbar Jilha Parishad as a gift to JSM and beside that had a hall and Avocado tree.

Fr, Jeevan took us on a tour of the premises. A separate room was kept for 5th std boys and other big room was for others (6th to 10th std). Boys’ stuffs were kept around the corners. Each boy is responsible for his stuff. Kitchen was at ground floor in separate room behind the main building. Kitchen and rooms were dusty may be due to open space and wind. Rooms were dirty compared to jeevan vidya but it is ok as girls always like to keep their rooms clean. We went to the first floor, which had two very big rooms, with charts, pictures all across. One room is used for training of anganwadi (KG teachers) teachers. It works as small income to JSM. When we entered the other room- a multipurpose room for teaching, studying and reading,- all the students (around 43-45; Jeevan told us some went to home for personal work/ health) welcomed us by godly ovation. Then we all went to ground floor for interacting with children. Nikhil took a charge of a training room and within a second all atmosphere of a training room converted in to homely nature thus all the students joint us without any fright. Children responded very well. They showed their talented performances and proved their “Bindhast Attitude”. Some were forthcoming and some were shy, which was expected. They showed their drawings to us that they had in the school and in the hostel. Some of them were absolutely fantastic. One interesting task we saw there: students made groups with bollywood movies titles like a “Ek Tha Tiger Group” ,Robot Group” “ Agnipath Group” and “Raowdi Rathod Group” . Even they had healthy competition among selves. Each group came and performed very well. One of groups showed their “Bucket music” skill. It was really newly version we had seen, on that rhythm they sang and danced very well. Some children talked about their studies in school, some were singing, joking and acting play in their local language (Bhilli,Varali). One of the students was walking on his hands it was looking really surprise scene to all. Some children shared their lifestyle in the hostel and home. As per that, Mr. Nikhil told the students to note down their traditional songs as well as cultural activities in the book to keep culture safe in future. He also explained some tricky methods related to the maths subject. After finishing the JSM premises tour we went back to JVT at around 7:45pm. When we entered JVT we were surprised from the students- they managed special programs for us. They had well costumes for presenting acts and dance including Bhili dance. Nikhil shared his thoughts with girls. Then suchita performed a classical dance explaining Saraswati Mantra. She also showed new steps on same dance girls performed on. Ms. Martina also contributed her words.” After all performances, all students started bhilli dance and we did not miss the opportunity to enjoy. We all enjoyed the moments a lot.

Ms. Margaret informed us that most of the girls after passing out go to college; dropout rate is very low as compared to other hostels Nandurbar area. They either take up teaching or even go for police training. There had been one external teacher coming for tutorial every day, for Mathematics. It’s quite noteworthy that all girls and boys in the hostel they know 4 languages – their local language Bhili, Marathi,Hindi and smattering of English. On Monday, we saw all girls started a day, early in the morning at 5.30 am with Yoga then they were doing their daily routine as per time table.

At the last day of visit 17th dec 2012 at evening we met one great guy Mr. Anthony- a pleased personality. He contributes for JVT and he is a well snake friend. Mr. Anthony had caught many kinds of snakes including cobra in nearby area and sent them to forest. He comes to JVT hostel for showing the snakes to girls to teach them how the nature works besides us.

At the same night we left for Mumbai we caught the bus at 8.00 pm from the same stop (swagat petrol pump). All the girls came to send off us till gate. Ms. Margaret and Fr. Jeevan both came at bus stop to say us bye. We reached Mumbai at around 5 am with all great remembrance.

Jeevan Vidya Trust and Jeevan seva mandal are working very well and we wish great success to these projects and their wonderful children!

Love,

Ms. Suchita S. Sawant