

Two years after our last site visit to the Rishi Valley Rural Education Center, we could see the results of initiatives started in our last visit, along with the continuing effects of their older programs. They were working with a new computer lab, a gardening program, had completed the construction of a girls dorm, and had just taken part in a physical education program run by an organization in New York.

470 students were educated at RVEC rural schools this year, and many thousands more used the RIVER curriculum. The single teacher schools continue to educate and develop their unique and rural education focused RIVER curriculum, described in the previous report. This program, focused on creating a curriculum adapted for rural students, has recently been recognized both by the Indian Government and NGOs. The Rishi Valley RIVER curriculum was awarded as one of the 100 best global NGOs by the magazine The Global Journal, and the Rishi Valley Education Center won the Jindal Award which provided for a fund to help support the schools. New work is being done with the New English materials are being demonstrated to the teachers and are beginning to be implemented - students have also been trading letters with students in Germany in sports and all students created and shared their original stories in a book writing workshop. At the same time, RVEC continues to operate very efficiently.



RVEC has been continuing to develop its focus on conservation. A new curriculum in middle school has been introduced, to teach science and conservation through activities and experiments. Middle school students have been learning from Mr. Suresh Jones, an expert on the local environment and have been on field trips to understand water and soil conservation. Students have started small kitchen gardens this year, which have been providing vegetables for their midday meals.

Entering Rishi Valley, we entered a rare forest in a rocky and arid area of Andhra Pradesh. The Rishi Valley Rural Education Center consists of 12 satellite schools in local villages, and one central facility and residential school. We visited the residential school. Children excitedly showed us their new gardens as they watered the plants.

When we had last visited, there was only one dedicated dormitory and the boys were sleeping in the kitchen. This time, the girls hostel had been completed. It was a very nice building. This will hopefully make more girls comfortable at the Rishi Valley Rural School.



We visited the new computer lab. Local children, not all students of Rishi Valley, were learning about english as well as technology through the use of the donated computers. The words for instructions and computer parts in telugu and english covered the blackboard. The Rural School continues to find ways to reach communities.

The Rishi Valley Rural School continues to innovate and provide educations significant in their local communities and environments, as well as their students lives. They model new possibilities for rural education.