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Site Visit of project “SAHARA ANATHALAYA PARIWAR” By Gajendra Jadhav, Asha Mumbai

Project Steward Information (Asha volunteer responsible for the project at the CO chapter):

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Project Contact:

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Site Visitor's Information:

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Date: 1st-2nd June, 2013.

Name of Project: Sahara Anathalaya Parivar

How to Reach Sahara Anathalaya Parivar:

Sahara Anathalaya Parivar is near to Georai Bus stand. Georai is 100 km i.e approximately 3 hrs drive from Aurangabad and 5 hrs from Pune. If Georai buses are not available then, one can reach Beed. Good frequency of buses is available for Georai from Beed.

Need:

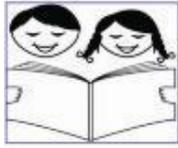
We are losing our kindness, humanity, social sensitivity, love & affection towards poor, orphans, old & unsupported people. We all know about the needs and requirements of a normal child being nourished in a supportive & healthy environment in his family. Every child has natural right for her/his joyful childhood. Somehow few children miss their childhood because of some accident or mistakes. It's our social responsibility to stand by them & support them for a better & bright future.

Planned or Surprise Visit:

It was plan visit.

Project:

It is orphanage.



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Background and Commitment of People involved in the organization:

Santosh Narayan Garje born in the family of a poor sugarcane labour in Maharashtra's remote village Patsara located in taluka Ashti, district Beed. He lost his elder sister in her delivery leaving behind an innocent daughter. Santosh & his family however survived all odds with bonds of love. The one year baby inspired Santosh at the age of 19 years to think about all those kids in the society who became orphans for any reason and evoked him to start "Sahara Anathalaya Pariwar" in 2004.

Sahara Anathalaya Parivar is managed by Aai Foundation created by Mr. Santosh Garje. AAI Foundation also arranges seminars, regular health Check-ups, Self-employment training and Akshardhara book bank-Library of various syllabus & other books for rural students.

Santosh has been awarded with many awards including Mahamanav Baba Amte Manvta Puraskar, Outstanding Achievement Award (Youthkranti), Samajik Puraskar, Sakshama Puraskar etc. for his contribution to society. Media has pointed up his great work and published many articles on him. Besides AAI Foundation, Santosh is associated with organizations like Sangad, Snehalay etc.

Administrative structure of the organization:

Founder & Head of AAI Foundation is Santosh Garje. AAI foundation's Staff consists of five members. Sahara Anathalaya Parivar consists of five people including Santosh and his wife- Preeti who decided to involve in this noble cause on seeing Santosh's attachment towards these ignored innocents. Three paid staff member help them to complete management work, prepare food for children and other small activities of AAI foundation. Many times Santosh visits other places to get funding for Sahara Parivar and thus Preeti manages all work at Sahara Parivar with help of other associates.

Motivation:

Santosh Narayan Garje born in the family of a poor sugarcane labour in Maharashtra's remote village Patsara located in taluka Ashti district Beed. He lost his elder sister in her delivery leaving behind an innocent daughter. Santosh & his family however survived all odds with bonds of love. The one year baby inspired Santosh at the age of 19 years to think about all those kids in the society who became orphans for any reason and evoked him to start "Sahara Anathalaya Parivar" in 2004. Today, 44 kids of age group 4 to 18 are enjoying their childhood in this family along with their school education. The great legend Baba Amte's work in Hemalkasa is always been an inspiration and encouragement to Santosh and his team for serving the society.

Volunteers:

There are some unpaid volunteer with the project .

My Experience at Sahara Anathalaya Parivar

I started my journey from kalyan Junction through Devgiri express. I reached Auragabad station in early morning. I had some personal work in Aurangabad in morning. I completed the work and caught the State Transport (ST) bus from Aurangabad ST stand. Bus took nearly 3hrs to reach Georai. Santosh had come to pick up me at bus stand. Sahara parivar is near to bus stand. It is basically rented house.

Children welcome us with their great smile. After some refreshment, I talked with team of Sahara Anathalaya Parivar. Sahara Anathalaya Parivar consists of five people including Santosh and his wife Preeti who decided to dedicate herself for this noble cause on seeing Santosh's attachment



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towards these ignored innocents. Three paid staff member help them to complete management work, prepare food for children and other small activities of AAI foundation. Many times Santosh visits other places to get funding for Sahara Parivar and thus Preeti manages all work at Sahara Parivar with help of other associates.

After meeting the staff member, it was time to meet our lovely children. Children were active and independent. They do all their work themselves. I started talking with children. Some were very open and some were shy. I requested them to say their name, what they like, and perform whatever they want. Obviously, I invited open students first. Children are from 4 to 18 year old. Some performed dances on latest hindi songs, some sang beautiful local songs/poem. Two children performed break dance also. By the time, all children were comfortable with me and then I called shy children one by one. Some of them were very shy and not ready to perform anything. Their friends obviously knew the secrets and I asked them what children like to share. We encouraged the shy children. The experience was really great for Sahara Parivar also. They also didn't know the some abilities and inherent talent of children. It is always great to spend time with children.

With this lovely experience and lot of activities all of us were feeling hungry. All children prayed before the dinner, and I think- It was only me who didn't know the prayer! After the dinner all children washed their dishes themselves and went to sleeping hall.

Children woke up at 6am and started doing yoga as their routine activity. All children took bath with cold water (and thus I too! Water was little cold!) It was Sunday and children were in relaxing mood. They were playing outdoor games. After the breakfast, I took permission to leave Sahara Parivar with wonderful experience. I caught bus for Aurangabad from Georai ST stand and then train to reach kalyan.

Children:

During the session, I observed that all children had a good mutual bonding with each other and they all had a great co-operative and helpful nature. Elder children seem very caring towards kids. Today, 44 kids of age group 4 to 18 are enjoying their childhood in this family along with their school education.

Schools:

All children attend government school.

Administration:

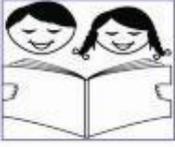
Santosh and his team are managing the Sahara Parivar very well. Santosh travels a lot to collect funding from well-wishers and supporters. The activities and care of children are managed by other team members well in the absence of Santosh.

Infrastructure:

Sahara Parivar is in rented place and has basic amenities required. They are in search of support.

Finance:

Sahara Parivar spends around Rs. 1800/- per months for each student. It sums around 10 lac annually for 44 students. It will be great if Asha supports this great work as proposed and funds half of food expenses worth Rs. 1,83,502/- (\$3337/-)



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Thus, I strongly recommend Sahara Anathalaya Parivar.

Regards,

Gajendra Jadhav