

Site Visitor's Information

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Visit Information

Date: 20th July 2006, Thursday, 6:30 pm

Name of Project: To Reach You

Name of the NGO running the project (if different):

Was your site visit planned and known to the project, or was it a surprise visit?

It was planned.

Primary Project Contact:

Name: Chandravel Chamy

Address: No 22 Beemeshwar Nagar, 4th Street Mudiychur, West Tambaram, Chennai
Tamil Nadu 6000048.

Phone Number(s): 044-9840937779

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Name: Raj Jeba Durai Navamani

He is an Asha fellow who took us to TRY.

Ph no: 9840340244

Email: jeba_com@yahoo.com

1. About the surrounding community

About how many families live in the area to which the project caters?

The project caters to less than 15 families or so, because right now it has 19 children under the shelter.

What do they do for a living?

Parents are either sex-worker and similar work.

What is their economic/religious/educational background?

They come from a very poor background since most mothers are sex-workers. Most of them seemed to be having Hindu names although we did not enquire. Educational background of families not known as we did not meet the families.

How do they view the efforts taken by the organization that runs the project?

Has the community supported the project (financially, donating land, volunteering, etc.)?

We do not have any idea about what the parents feel or think as we did not meet them.

2. About the project

How far away is the project site from the main town/village? How do children commute (foot, bus, etc.)?

The project is far from main Chennai but is close to the school that the children attend – a local municipal school. They commute via public transport i.e. bus.

The place is called Mudiychur, around 20 mins drive from Tamabaram main bus stand. Considering that Tamabaram is as busy as any other place in Chennai, this is not far from city circle. You get almost everything in the tamabaram main bazaar.

Please describe the infrastructure and facilities currently available to the project (e.g., furniture, toilets, midday meals, library, sports, residential facilities).

TRY had been an Asha WAH 2004 project through which it had raised funds to make a building to house the children. Due to shortfall, the building is incomplete. The children are currently housed in Chandravel Chamy's house where they take their meals. Chandravel personally attends to their studies and homeworks. He was not there when we went.

Are the buildings permanent or temporary constructions? What is their physical condition?

The new building is half done. The funds required will go towards the building completion. It has rooms for girls, boys separate and a kitchen and a common area. They are also planning to make commercial shops outside to raise more revenue.

How big are the classrooms? How many children per each room?

The children attend the local municipal school which we could not visit as we reached the place only in the evening.

3. About the teachers

Currently the project head, Chandravel looks after the children's studies individually as there are only 19 children. He makes sure they do their homeworks and eggs them on to study hard.

We had a look at a kid's math homework notebook. She had got everything correct, and the handwriting was neat, and the notebook itself was maintained well.

How many total full-time/part-time teachers/volunteers are involved in project?

What is the average age of these teachers/volunteers?

How many women involved in the project and what are their responsibilities?

Mr. Chandravel's mom seems to be taking of the girls there. We had a small chat when she offered tea/coffee for us.

How many volunteers/teachers are from the local community?

What is their level of education and professional background?

What is the motivation for them to work for the project?

How long they have been with organization/project?

Where do they live, and how much they travel to work here?

If paid, are they satisfied with their salaries?

How many teachers/volunteer have left the project in the previous year? How many new teachers/volunteers have joined in the previous year?

Does the organization train the teachers? If yes, how do they provide the training?

4. About the students

What portion of children from the local community attend this school? What is the age group? Boy/girl ratio?

Roughly 50/50.

What is the socio-economic background of students? (Are they first generation learners, what is the educational and monetary background of family etc.)

see above

What are their activities they perform outside of school hours?

They come home from school around 4 pm. Then they all do their homework together.

We asked them to describe their daily schedule. They tell us they wake up at 6am every morning, and get ready themselves to get to school. They all seemed to be very responsible, and happy about staying at this place. Also, they were excited to talk about their parts in the school annual day function.

What is their motivation for attending the school?

What is drop out rate among the students? What do they do after they leave the project?

Are the children charged fees for attending school?

What curriculum does the school follow? (State Board/ Central/ Alternative). What are the children taught?

What is the medium of instruction?

So far we don't know of any drop outs. The kids looked very smart and motivated to study. They learn in Tamil medium (state board). Marudhamuthu came first among all students from govt schools in that thaluk, in his 10th std board exams. That's quiet an achievement.

5. About the NGO

What is the main ideology of the organization behind the project?

To give stability to these children and to bring them into mainstream so that they don't slip into the world of their parents.

How old is the organization?

10 years old.

How and why was it founded?

Children of sex workers that are exposed to watching their mothers at sex work, and pimps selling Ganja (Marijuana) , Brownsugar(Opium), typically evolve into anti-social

elements especially in the teen age years. TRY is an organization founded in 1996 by R.K. Chandravel and other alumni of Madras School of Social Work to address the needs of such children of sex workers in Chennai vicinity.

What is their vision about the future of the project?

Finishing up the construction of the shelter for the children, meeting their basic needs etc.

Who are founders? Do the founders work full time with the project or do they hold other jobs as well? Are the

founders paid? Where do the founders live?

What were the initial challenges faced by the organization and by the founder in particular? How did he/she

over come them? Who helped them through the initial stages?

Has the organization ever approached the government for funding? If so, what was the outcome? If not, why not?

The founder is Chandravel. He lives nearby the proposed shelter and right now children are living in his house which is very spacious. He works full time with the project. His wife works in a high position in an MNC and she also supports the project. Chandravel has organized several fundraisers such as showing the latest Tamil movies in companies etc. he is also a script writer and involved with the movies, from which he also supports the project out of his own might. They received \$22k+ from Asha WAH 2004 and hope to receive more from Asha to finish the construction and meet the operational expenses of TRY.

What are the typical problems that they face?

Is the organization/founder involved with any other social issues/causes other than running the school?

Finishing the construction and getting the basic expenses

6. Financial Information and statistics

What are the different sources of funding for this project? (different agencies/government)

What is the annual budget?

Asha WAH, and local fundraisers. Any funding received from other sources is not known to us and was not mentioned during the visit.