

Site Visit to Seva Chakra Samajam, Choolai, Chennai on 4th June 2006

By Kalyani Rajappa

Meeting the children

I took an opportunity during one of my visits to my hometown Chennai to spend some time with the kids at the Seva Chakra Home. The visit was coupled with taking pictures of the kids to provide updates to the supporting donors. Before visiting I spoke to Lakshmi Akka and was told that Sunday would be the best time as all kids will be around.

Around 80 kids had to be pictured so I asked my friend Parthiban to come along. We reached the home around 11:00 AM and were greeted to Welcome Signs on the black boards with colored chalks. All of them had assembled in one of the halls and were all smiles to face the camera.

All the walls in the home have been decorated by the kids with bright oil paintings showing birds and flowers.

I also joined the kids for lunch with a special treat of ice cream. Their smile, curiosity and affection left me rewarded.

All pictures taken during the day have been shared in an Album @ kodakgallery.com



Administrative Update

Velayudam Appa and Lakshmi Akka briefed me day to day activities in the home. They showed me the expenses and highlighted the balanced diet being served to the kids

1. Ledger showed that only INR 59,109.00 was balance to incur expenses for June.
2. With more than 25 days left in the month, they were very concerned about meeting the expenses. Currently around 90 kids are being taken care of in the home.

3. They wanted to know if we at Asha will be sending them money this month and our response to the Education Proposal.

Admissions

All kids and teachers made a trip to some parts of Kerala last month. A local donor sponsored the trip.

Girls and boys have fared well in the senior and higher secondary board exams. Lakshmi Akka has sent all details through the details Education Proposal and waiting to hear back from us.

Salomi is one of the most senior students in the group. As per Velayudam Appa (Founder) she is the next Administrator in the making. Salomi is very optimistic on her performance in the MBA Entrance exams and looking forward to her classes.

While trying admissions to colleges offering better courses some students faced the question "You cannot afford high fees being orphans...why not settle in for government colleges (for reasons of less fees)". Lakshmi Akka felt that still all kids are very optimistic.



Sathya lives in the home with her 3 siblings. Lakshmi Akka mentioned that she excelled in her entrance exam to join a new school for higher classes. She had prepared hard and would always come back with questions to her teachers in the home. She would only answer to my questions in English ending each sentence with a thank you.

Justin, Visitor from CA

Justin Cook from Ventura, CA was in Chennai on a business visit. He had expressed interest in visiting the home before starting to support a child. His visit was coordinated by Vivek (Co Ord, Seva Chakkara Samajam). He visited the home when we were around, talking to kids, taking pictures. He bought them baskets of mangoes, new clothes and sponsored one day lunch for INR 2000. He has been requested to hand over the snaps to Vivek upon his return to US.

I briefed on the SAC program and asked him to considering donating with the same.

