

NICE Visit, 15th Aug 2011:
Giri Kolanupaka

I started 14th Aug night at 10:30 PM from Dilsukhnagar and reached Narsaraopeta at 5:30 and then reached NICE by 6AM. I have been picked up from the main road by

I saw that all the children are already awake and some of them are involved in cleaning, some of them are doing their own routine work.

I did complete my morning formalities and I was taken around to show the new girls home, which is opposite to NICE boys home. There is also staff quarters built next to girls home and girls home seem to have a better security and well planned for ventilations etc.

There is also a generic meeting hall in the same building for girls home. We then had breakfast. All the boys assembled in the dining area and made prayer before starting to have break fast. All the children picked their plates in a very disciplined way, ate after prayer, without any food waste, washed all their plates and glasses, kept them back in kitchen and left to their rooms to get ready for 15th August Independence day celebrations. Some volunteers (boys) came to general meeting room and decorated the room and aranged the room for the program.

The program started at 9 AM with 3 more guests and made me also as one of the guest. There was a Saraswathi Devi statue which was garlanded and worshiped to start with. All of us gave a 3 to 5 minutes "bhashan" and then there were prize distribution to all toppers in class and winners of competitions held. After all that there were excellent performances by various children, both boys and girls. Some of them are really good and it seems some of them are composed and directed by themselves without taking any help from teachers.

Later we had lunch at 12:30 PM and then I took a small teacher training session to all the teachers (Introduction to Jeevan Vidya) and admin staff there for about 3 hours. All of them seem to have liked the session and they are now keen on attended full Jeevan Vidya shivir when it happens next in IIIT or any other place.

I have also talked to few of the students there and they are all very sharp and eager to know lot of things. Even though they are hesitating to talk initially, they picked up and started getting involved very fast.

I then left to Guntur and then to Hyderabad at 7 PM.

Overall, it was a nice visit with wonderful experience for me as well, especially when I was able to deliver well about Jeevan Vidya to all the teachers and making them realize the importance of it. I felt really happy that I could satisfy them and it gave me some happiness as well.

Even though I could not check the account, but all the money that NICE gets is very well seen in the way the look of the organization itself. This is no way less than any coporate school with all facilities like library, computer lab etc.

Some of the photos that I clicked are at:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/118399438370528747211/NICEVisit15Aug2011>