

## **ChildLife Preserve Shishur Sevay - Site Visit**

*Done by: Dr. Padmanava Sen, Asha Bangalore & Central Team  
([padmanava.sen@gmail.com](mailto:padmanava.sen@gmail.com))*

*Date: November 23, 2013*

I have visited Shishur Sevay on 23rd November, 2013. It was a scheduled visit but I just scheduled few days back. I reached the Shishur Sevay around 3 pm or so. There was a security guard at the gate and a camera for surveillance which showed the extra care project partner takes for the safety of the girls in this home. I had a good discussion with Michelle Harrison regarding how she moved to India, the difficulties she faced while setting up the home, the hurdles she still faces in a daily basis while raising up the girls & how the girls became part of the Shishur Sevay.

Another NGO joined a bit after that and Dr Purba Rudra (an ex-Asha CNJ volunteer, now a part of shishur sevay) came back with one the girls after a meeting with speech specialist. Michelle and Purba explained to us the difficulties special kids at the home face and how they are trying to make things better. The kids go to regular schools nearby and slowly they are able to adapt to the environment. It is still a challenge for the teachers to be inclusive mentally at the formal schools with all their mental blocks.

Then we interacted with the girls and Michelle showed us the computers and other facilities they have at their home. The girls mostly stay at the ground level and there are few rooms upstairs for interns to stay as well. There are lady caretakers who were very caring for the girls and I had small chat with them. Given there are girls of different ages, I could clearly notice the feeling of a family where the older girls take care of the younger ones.

I had a little chat with Purba about the funding conditions and the fact remains Shishur sevay will be dependent on Donors' support as any Government support will be difficult to tap into. However, we were discussing how grant applications can be done to different child protection groups at Governments.

To summarize the visit, I had very nice time with the Girls and understanding the background from Purba and Michelle. They create a very good environment with singing, dancing and other events as well as create affectionate home where the girls would love to come back after their school. Any support from Asha for Education will go a long way for these girls.

Few snaps taken during the visit:

