

Hariksha Trust Visit Report

I visited Hariksha Trust on 5th of September 2014. They picked me up in their school van from Melmalayanur. The school building looked like a house. They have received me with a beautiful bouquet. Mr. Ravi gave a brief about the Trust.

I checked their staff attendance. Right now they have 10 staffs working in their school. Their attendance was maintained meticulously in their attendance register. When we had looked through their audit report, there was some confusion regarding honorarium and the salary. Some of the people were paid an honourarium and some others a salary. I talked to Mr. Ravi regarding this. He is giving honorarium for special educator (his wife Mrs. Sujatha is the special educator), and to children who are above 18 or have enough ability to paint , to make some craft items which can be sold in the market. These children get Rs 500 honorarium a month.

I have visited the class rooms. I truly appreciate their work , They are providing a very good environment for the children. After the children develop their ability to read and write to some extent , they are teaching them from the books like normal children. I personally feel the children should be given vocational training to sustain their rest of their life. I don't understand how the exams going to help them in their life. If they are very good in education, they have ability to write a exam and ability to survive in given educational system then it is worth doing it. Otherwise I feel they should focus on the vocational training.

They have four different group in their school, first level very small children who need help for all the time and they are totally dependent on adults. And second level can manage their personal needs for some extent. In education wise they are at basic level. Third level children are able to understand a story and express it in their own way and the Forth level children are needs wise fully independent, they are the children who are reading and writing and preparing for the exam. I met the teachers. They are looking young but have a feeling for the children and they are able to hold their own reactions which is good for the children.

On the whole I am impressed by the project. It was a nice trip for me on a teacher's day.

K. Paripooranam.

Volunteer, Asha Chennai