

Varadarajar School – Phase I – Completion Report

I Ravichandran Raghavan project coordinator from USA visited the Varadarajar School in Dindigul on Jan 25, 2010. The main purpose of the visit was to review and inspect the items that were approved as per the proposal by AIMS.

I met the local school authorities and visited the class rooms which had the desks and benches. The total number of desks and benches in Phase I, to the classes of 8, 9 and 10th std were 39 units. The costs of these units were Rs. 1,03,350/-. All the units were procured and set up in the classes successfully. The invoice for the same matched the approved amounts.

I visited the science lab and inspected all the lab equipments. The cost of the lab equipments were Rs.31,560/-. The details matched the items that were originally approved.

Highlights

- It was a delightful sight to see the children seated on desks instead of sitting on the floor.





- The school children, management board and the headmistress of the school sincerely thanked AIMS organization and all the fund raisers for providing the desks, benches and lab equipments.





- I explained in detail the hardships every fund raiser goes through during their preparation for the marathon and the great support we get from friends and families to support such noble cause. They appreciated all these details as they did not realize the work that goes behind raising this money.



- I could see the students of 6th, 7th and 8th students still sitting on floor and all the local board requested me to do the needful for the same.



- The school has good ground but does not have adequate sports equipment. Since Games and Sports form an integral part of education the local board requested me to do the needful for this as well.
- I could see other initiatives the school board has taken to keep the school running in spite of the limited funding available.
 - From local donors they have collected Rs. 3 lacs and used it in Namaku Namae Thittam and constructed a building worth around Rs 6 lacs for their nursery school.



- Since they do not have funding for 9th and 10th standard teachers, the board collects the money from local donors and pays the salary for these teachers every month. All the money they raise locally get spent on this and hence they require funds for other items such as desks, benches, Lab and Sports equipment.



- They have initiated the ABL (Activity Based Learning) for all the nursery school children which is a major change and this has improved the overall understanding and improved students participation.

