

Report on Kankanpur Chatralaya its Infrastructure and Activities:

“We have now 79 chatralayas and among them this chatralaya stands out as a model”, said Pujya Swami Dayanandaji as he recently visited Kankanpur Chatralaya and saw the well planned infrastructure and the seva activities carried out over there.

Shri Mayur Patel Chatralaya in Kankanpur village, Godhara Taluka, Panchmahal district, Gujarat which at present is a home for 65 tribal students is beautifully developed in a three-acre sprawling campus with well planned and laid out infrastructure which comprises of a building, a playground, Goshala (Cow stable), two Gober Gas (Biogas) Plants, orchard, land for farming, Vermi culture farming, servants’ quarters, borewell, Rain water harvesting and Solar street lights.

Building

The total built up area of the building is 5108 sqft. on the ground floor and 2930 sqft. on the first floor. There are 8 dormitories each with a capacity to accommodate 12 boys. Besides dormitories there is a multi-purpose hall which is used as the dining-hall, and the study room, a kitchen, a store room with grinding mill, wash area, toilets, a suite for the resident Brhamacarini, an office and other three rooms for warden, medical officer and guests. 5 computers are installed in one of the halls, where computer classes are held every Saturday and Sunday afternoon. There is an open courtyard on the ground floor where yogasana, assembly, indoor

games etc. are conducted. There is also a small temple and prayer area on the ground floor where there is a Shiva-linga which is named Baleshvar, and also the images of Durga, Ganesha, Anjaneya, Nandi and Kurma.

Goshala (Cow stable)

At present there are six cows and five calves in the Goshala. They supply fresh milk and milk products to children. Children have easy access to milk twice a day. The cowdung is used as raw material for Gober Gas Plants.

Gober Gas (Bio Gas) Plants.

There are two Gober Gas Plants with the capacity of 6Mt.cube and 10Mt.cube. They use cowdung and human waste to produce fuel for cooking and boiling water. The slurry from the Gober Gas Plants and also the weeds and kitchen organic waste are utilized for Vermi Culture farming which in turn provides fertilizer and manure for growing crops, fruits, vegetables and flowers in the campus. Thus the cycle is complete with zero organic waste. Surplus organic fertilizer is supplied to nurseries.

Pujya Swamiji was so pleased and impressed with this whole process and total eco-friendly program that he said, “Nothing is destroyed in the creation. All the three important karmas viz., srsti (creation), sthiti (sustenance) and samhara are one. Samhara is not destruction but dissolution and all the three are done by one Isvara. That these three are one, is the amazing truth. Eater

becomes the eaten and eaten becomes the eater. It is all one Parmesvara. There is no waste in this Bhagavat-srsti. In Tamilnadu and other southern states, people eat on bannana leaf. When it is thrown to the cow with the left over, the cow eats the leftover along with the leaf and then it gives milk and cowdung and so the cycle runs leaving no waste. Bhagavat-srsti is a meaningful creation and as long as we are in harmony with it we are in touch with Isvara. Otherwise we are alienated from Isvara. And therefore, we have to follow this scheme, this cycle. In other Chatralayas where land is available similar cycle which we find in this chatralaya can be introduced.”

Farming

Part of the land is used for growing fruits, vegetables and fodder for cows. There are also a number of trees and flower plants in the garden.

Playground

Sufficient area is left open as playground where a stage is also erected for cultural activities.

Borewell

Borewell in the campus ensures full-fledged water supply for the building as well as for farming. An overhead water storage tank provides uninterrupted water supply.

Rain Water Harvesting

Rain water is not allowed to flow away but is collected at one point and is charged to underground water.

Solar Street Lights

The entire premises is illumined with ten solar street lights.

Servants' Quarters

Comprises of three rooms.

Activities

Besides fulfilling their requirements of lodging, boarding, healthcare and educational expenses comprising of school fees, uniforms, books etc special coaching is given in subjects like Mathematics, Science, English and Computer. There is one student in std.XII and a teacher comes to teach him all the subjects. Expenditure of the chatralaya per month per boy is Rs.1500/- and per boy per annum is Rs.18,000/- . Along with academics, students are trained in yogasanas, art & craft, and sports. Brni. Pratibha Chaitanya who is the resident spiritual head, gives them lessons on values, ethics, chanting, bhajans and stories from the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Puranas. Every morning children do Gopuja (cow worship) followed by puja of lord Baleshvara. Again in the evening before dinner, Arati, Naivedya and chanting is done in the temple. Festivals such as Gurupurnima, Janmastmi, Navaratri etc are celebrated in the chatralaya.

Mobile Medical Van Service

The infrastructure built around the chatralaya helps in serving the residents of nearby villages. The Mobile Medical Van service is rendered to the nearby rural areas by charging a nominal registration fee. Six days a week the van takes designated route and visits predetermined number of villages enroute. Every week 72 villages are covered under this project. The van is equipped with a qualified doctor, a compouder and preliminary instruments. On an average, 73 patients are treated every day. More than 25,000 patients are treated every year. The excess of expenditure over

income on this service is Rs. 4,00,000/- per year.

Eye Camps

An eye camp is organized on the last Tuesday of every month. Ophthalmologists carry out eye checkup and eye-glasses are given at subsidized rates. Patients who need Cataract surgery are transported to the Ravishankar Hospital, Chikhodara where free surgery is performed. Patients are transported to their homes after recovery.

Women Empowerment Program

Recently a four month sewing course was conducted in the chatralaya for women. A batch of 30 women attended this course.

The total expenditure of the chatralaya along with Mobile Medical Van Service per annum is Rs.16,00,000/-, NRG assistance

that the chatralaya receives is Rs.7,20,000/- - Chatralaya has to generate Rs.8,80,000/- to meet the total expenses.

Pujya Swami Dayanandaji was very happy to see the way chatralaya has shaped. He thanked Mrs. Mina Shah who has donated the land for chatralaya in the memory of her late husband and also congratulated Swami Veditatmanandaji and the team of his students, involved in the project, for the wonderful vision and execution. Swamiji reiterated, "We would like to have this chatralaya as a model chatralaya and we will write about it in all our magazines and literature, so that not only our organization but other organizations too can emulate this scheme."

