

From my vantage point, the trip was very successful in reviewing the progress we have made over the last several years. With help from Nande and Sube I came up with the following, total for students for our program - Pollogolatte 61, Sarana Sewana 26, Singithi Sevana 31, plus OL and AL tutoring 35 for a total of approximately 170 students. Considering we started our first class two years ago in Sept, with 25-30 students, that is an accomplishment all associated with Pahansila can be proud.

At each venue, I reviewed the homework and study papers of the students, and found the student files to be in excellent order with accurate grading. (Wrong answers were marked wrong without mercy, to reflect the importance of diligence in learning Math and English.) The students in all classes appreciated the tutoring and efforts of the teachers, as they know all involved with Pahansila are making sacrifices to improve their lives. I was very impressed with the Pahansila model of providing tutoring for the neediest students of Sri Lanka.

After discussions with Nande and Sube here are my take ways and ideas for '08, and the rest of '07.

The Pahansila-Davis project in Kandy is probably at capacity at 170 students. Adding additional programs in '08 could bring dilution to the program. The focus on '08 should be to develop a system that helps us place the students into the proper vocational training. By middle of '08 all of us in one form or another will have invested in these students for 3 years. The key for success is not to lose that human capital we have helped to build, but give them the assistance and help they may need to turn that human capital into a vocation that may help them have a better life. It may not be money, but simply guidance from a knowledgeable person. Nande, Sube, and myself agree, growing to 250 students is not the optimal use of our resources. Focusing on our current base of students, as they "graduate" from our tutoring programs is the final step we must take, to insure our efforts are not wasted.

With the orphanages it will be very difficult to monitor progress for each student, as their domestic situation is very fluid. But we are improving their lives, they are doing better in school and very much enjoy the classes and individual attention.

### **OL and AL tuition class**

The progress of the students taking the OL and AL classes is easy to monitor from test results and school grades. It is so important in my view that they show us their school results and test results so that we may document the impact we are having on the academic skills. This feed back will be valuable for future fund raising efforts.

### **Polgollawatte School**

Pollogolatte administrators are very dedicated, with very limited resources. Per our conversation they only receive \$400 USD/yr for operating expenses for 150 students. My immediate task is to secure them a library. I think I can have all arrangements made in one month. I would like to have a delivery date set by Oct 31. Right now I think Room to Read will be the best source. I will arrange all funding. I will probably provide additional funding for the school in '08. For example, they have nothing in the science lab. Possibly get them a simple science lab.

### **Sarana Sevana Orphanage**

Last year we put septic tank into Sarana Sevana, this year a kitchen. I told one of the administrators to consider what project they would like for '08. He mentioned a room to segregate sick students. That's a possibility. Please inform Nande and Sube I will fund a capital improvement for Sarana Sevana for '08.

Again it was a very successful trip, I totally enjoyed meeting the Pahansila staff in Kandy, and look forward to visiting them again.

Kelley Davis