

Visit to SADRAG Vidya Ratna on 2 March 2020

After a joint lunch in the SADRAG office, Dr. Mala Bandhari (SADRAG founder), Manju Manak (Senior Programme Officer) and I set off strengthened to visit the Vidya Ratna scholarship programme in Village Nithari. noon.ch has been supporting particularly talented children of migrant workers in the Vidya Ratna programme since 2013 and enables them to attend a good school (Noida Public senior secondary school).

The pupils were already waiting for us curiously, they all had exams in the morning for the school year 2020. The exams are especially important at the end of the 10th and 12th school year, as the results count for the further school career (so-called "board examinations"). The pupils told us in which subject they had been examined and how they had fared. The atmosphere was relaxed, although everyone had to continue learning after our meeting, as the examination session was not yet over.



Eveline from noon.ch together with the pupils of Vidya Ratna Program at 2nd of March 2020

At the beginning the discussion was a bit restrained, but when I asked them about their career aspirations and future plans, a very interesting exchange arose. They told me about their future dreams and wishes, their hobbies and what they are grateful for and also that it is sometimes difficult to learn because they have to help at home and look after their siblings. You could feel the great motivation of all of them to give their best with the great hope to learn an exciting profession.

They showed me self-painted pictures, dance videos and were happy about the photos from Switzerland and the little "Zvieri" we had brought them.

Nithari is a spacious learning centre that is well equipped. Students can meet there after school to learn and deepen their knowledge with external volunteers. They are also encouraged according to their special abilities and talents, and the self-confidence and joy of learning that has been created is palpable in these young people!

Eveline Ryser, Mai 2020