

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FOUNDATION COURSE
REPORT ON
Learning by doing: Reaching out to NGOs – Old Age Home, Orphanage,
Special Homes, etc.
Academic Year 2017-2018

Goal:

To develop & understand the problems faced by different sections of our society.

To inculcate a sense of responsibility & sensitivity towards the less privileged members of the society.

The Context:

The subject of Foundation Course is a Skill Enhancement Course with Two Credits for the Boom Course of University of Mumbai. one of the objectives of the subject is to develop a basic understanding about issues related to human rights violations, ecology and urban-rural disparities in access to health and education. The major topics covered under this subject are: Overview of the Indian Society, Concept of Disparity and the Indian Constitution., Human Rights, Rights to Health & Education. The project/assignment in the subject as per the university norms can take the form of street-plays/power-point presentations/poster exhibitions and similar other modes of presentation appropriate to the topic. But theoretical understanding of such crucial issues is not enough. In order to sensitise our students towards such crucial issues in ways that will create a long lasting impact the teachers of Foundation Course encouraged students to visit NGOs, specifically those working with orphanages, old age homes and special homes.

1. The Practice:

Students divided themselves in groups and visited these NGOs. They interacted with the inmates of these homes in a variety of ways: playing games, by donating gifts & foodstuffs, celebrated birthday, danced & sang, helped them in cooking, etc. By closely observing them, they carefully studied the situation in depth and these experiences were then noted down and presented in groups in the form of PPT presentation and photographs were compiled. The entire FYBCOM & SYBCOM classes were involved in this project.

2. Evidence of Success:

The students were extremely happy to share their experiences as they understood the hard facts of life and problems of a variety of sections of people at close quarters. The first-hand experience they gained at Old Age Homes made them reach out to the youngsters and urged them to take care of their elders so as to never sending them in such Homes.
Pahladrai Dalmia Lions College of Commerce & Economics.

3. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

The motivation of the students and their enthusiasm was the only investment required in this venture. The students spent their time with the inmates of the homes run by the NGOs, they even shared few items such as chocolates and biscuits with them.

The challenges faced by the students in the process were:

The students were not sponsored.

→ They themselves contributed for the entire activity.

The students had to convince some of the NGOs since they were not permitted easily.

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