



NSS Volunteers visit Ganganagar slum in Kandivali

In a city like Mumbai, where house rents are among the highest in the world, slums provide a cheap and affordable housing option to those who migrate to the maximum city to earn a living. Census 2011 shows that more than 50% of the population in Mumbai dwells in slums. Many residents of the slums are second generation citizens, whose parents moved in years ago.

A slum is one unending stretch of narrow lanes with open sewers, often lacking basic sanitation. In a city facing acute shortage of land, the low rise slum spread, result in inefficient use of resources.

To understand the problems faced by slum dwellers, the NSS Unit of D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering teamed up with the Civil Society Organization (NGO)- Build, for a slum survey at the Ganganagar Slum, Kandivali (East) located near the Western Express Highway. A team of 15 volunteers participated in the exercise held on March 22, 2014. The survey included a questionnaire covering different aspects, such as sanitation, safety and various amenities in the slum.



Apparently, the Ganganagar slum lacked sanitation, houses lacked ventilation and overall living conditions were poor. But the living standard of people, did not appear to be all that hopeless. Even in the smallest of the huts, there was a cooking gas stove and all the dwelling units had continuous metered electricity supply. Most houses had television sets, mostly fitted with DTH, while some households even sported large LCD TVs. Almost every household owned a mobile phone. Most of the houses we visited were also kept reasonably clean, while some even had tiled floorings.

The problem however, lay in the outside. Water supply was through community tap, requiring residents to queue up to collect water required for their household use. There were only four public toilets for approximately 600 people. Imagine the plight of residents requiring to share one toilet among 150 people. Waste disposal was a major concern. The Municipal Corporation has neither made any arrangements for installing waste bins nor for collecting the waste. Result - unhygienic living conditions, threatening the residents with variety of diseases, including dengue and malaria.





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Safety of women was also an issue, especially with many men coming home late in the night in a drunken state. We also noticed a destitute old woman, left to fend for herself by her son. The visit to Ganganagar was an educating and eye-opening exercise for most of the NSS volunteers of DJSCE. The students were exposed to the realities of life, present in their own city.

We need to recognize that every citizen makes a contribution for the development of the nation, in his/her own way. Likewise, every citizen has a right to a dignified living. We need to address the problems of slums on a war footing and provide decent living conditions for one and all. Slum Free India should not just be a political slogan, but should become a reality. This is especially true for the city of Mumbai.

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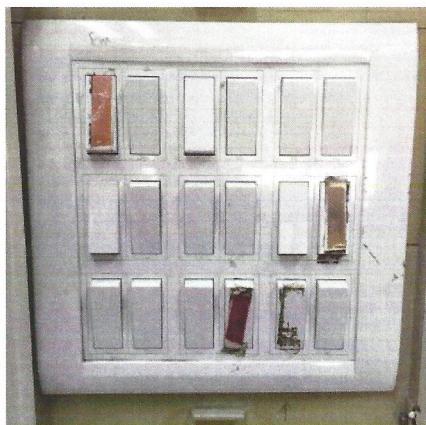
Colour Coding

If you knew there was a secret engine component that could make your car run faster and more efficiently and it was reasonably priced, how long would it take you to get it installed? No time at all, right? Well, there is a not-so-secret component that can improve your work performance and it's easy to use. What is it? Colour Coding!

Keeping this innovative idea in mind, the NSS unit of D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering took the responsibility upon itself to colour code the entire college.

Why Colour Coding?

Colour enhances function of a workspace when it has purpose. Often during the lectures, we wish to switch on one fan and not the others. Result, it is a trial and error method with a lot of time wasted. The purpose of colour coding is to communicate without speaking. These types of visual communications help us convey a message clearly and without misunderstanding. Verbal communications leave a lot of room for interpretation, whereas visual communications remove the emotion and interpretation that commonly result in errors. Communicating this information using colour standards helps us make decisions quickly and more efficiently.



The goal is not to be colourful but colour-purposeful. The NSS members worked together to ensure the fulfilment of this goal. Since people recognize colour much faster than they can read text, using colour as a sort of label is another opportunity for improving efficiency with colour. There were about 15 NSS members who were assigned this job. Charts of different colours were used. The charts were cut in prominent shapes such as square and circle and were taped on the fan. A strip of the same colour was stuck on the corresponding switch.

This work was carried by the NSS members with utmost decorum after the lectures were over and there was no disturbance caused in any lecture.

Let's go the Colour Coding way!

Adding even a little colour coding to your world is sure to improve not only function at work but is likely to improve your view. So save time and reduce the stress caused by misfiled information by using a colour code in your filing system.

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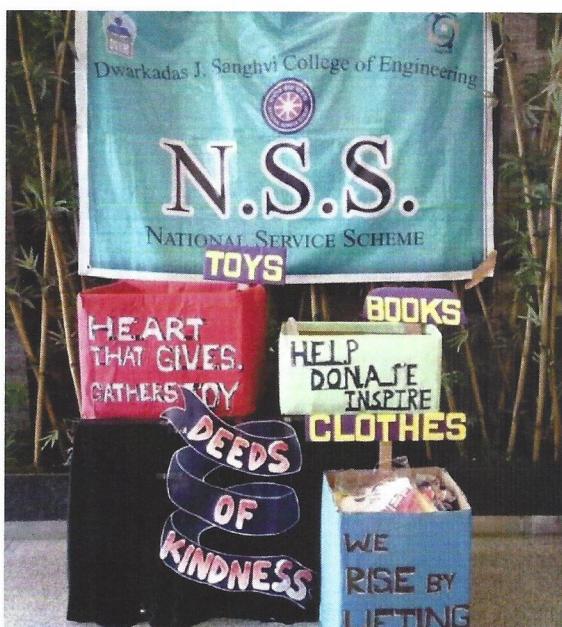
Deeds of Kindness

Looking at the increasing poverty rate in India, it is the duty of the privileged society members to put forward a helping hand and provide to the less privileged factions of the society. Therefore, the members of DJSCE NSS unit carried out 1 entire week for 'Deeds of Kindness'.

This event was carried out in the college itself. With the week starting off on 27th January, 2014, volunteers managed to spread the awareness among fellow students & faculty members. People were asked to contribute in terms of stationary, old cloths, un-used medicines, books, accessories and any other available items worth donating. These collections were carried out for over a week wherein students brought in small non-monetary contributions and deposited them in boxes kept in the college premises.

"Providing the needy with a sense of selflessness is an act, to which no one can put a prize. This shows that engineering students are not only academically orientated but can also work for the society betterment", says Priya Gaud, an active NSS member.

All these collections were then handed over to an NGO which distributed them to various orphanages and health care centres across Mumbai.



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Newspaper Collection Drive

It was time to exercise the age old phrase, 'best out of waste'. And what better way to acknowledge it than to make use of the old newspapers? The NSS unit of the D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering organized a newspaper collection drive on 29th September, 2013 in four places. These included Andheri, Dahisar, Borivali and Grant Road. The idea was not only to sell the newspapers, but to make use of the money earned in carrying out various welfare activities of the NSS.

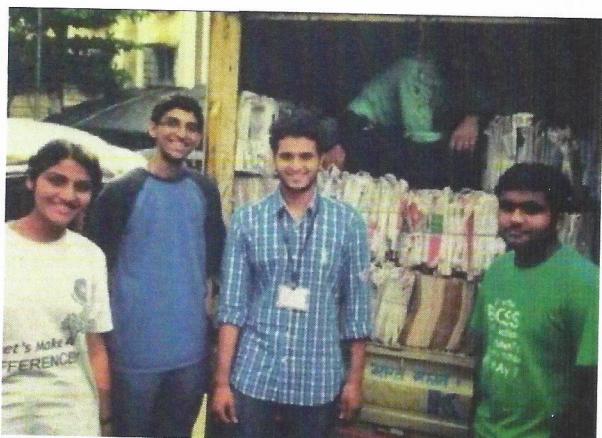


NSS unit of D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering successfully collected 3189 Kgs of newspaper.

There was a great work done by the Second year students who formed the majority. The NSS unit aims at conducting more such events in future which helps the society. There will always be happiness in service.

The event was held in the morning at 9 a.m. There were about 25 volunteers in each area. They went from door to door collecting newspaper. While there were few who did not entertain the volunteers, most of the people willingly gave all the newspapers they had, to support this noble cause. All the NSS members worked with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm, showing no sign of lethargy and boredom at any point of the event.

Once all the collection was over, it was time to sell the newspapers and to reveal the final count. The



Waseem Ritave
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Orphanage Visit

This materialistic world has made most of us epitomizing pessimism. Some of us don't have high end brands while there are some who crib about not having a brand new car. Then there is another section that has no craving for any of it. The orphans, who don't have any of these things, but still manage to find happiness in their city of joy. To understand the importance of having little to ask for, but a lot to thank for, the NSS unit of D.J. Sanghvi College of Engineering arranged an orphanage visit on Independence Day. This event marked the participation of many Second Year students who turned up in large numbers.

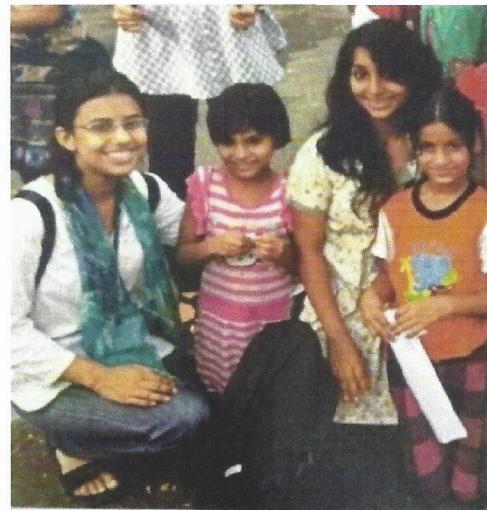


The event was held in the afternoon and was held at 4 different places:

1. Andheri
2. Andheri
3. Manav Seva Ashram, Sion
4. St. Joseph Convent, Bombay Central

The event was divided into three parts. The first part was origami. The students were taught to make houses, swan, etc using square papers. To the surprise of most of the volunteers, the young kids needed little

guidance and few managed to make a house even before the volunteers could finish the explanation. Next were the worksheets. The kids were given puzzles and made to solve elementary mathematics. The alertness and smartness of the kids left everyone in awe. The third and the final part of the event was indeed memorable for everyone. There was discussion with the kids about the immense and the immeasurable contribution of the freedom fighters. This part was conducted to ignite the young minds.



After the event was over, refreshments were given to the kids. There was singing and dancing and the enthusiasm and the energy of the kids knew no bounds. After these two hours were over, none of us wanted to go back. Everyone wanted to spend a little more time with these bundles of joy! Those orphans instilled a sense of positivity and compassion in us. It helped us in having an optimistic approach towards life.

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Blood Donation Drive

How much time does it take to donate blood? Just 20 minutes. How many lives are saved by a single unit of blood? THREE. Is it difficult to take out 20 minutes from your busy schedule to save three lives? Carrying the same notion forward, the National Service Scheme of DJ Sanghvi College of Engineering organized the blood donation drive on the 12th of February, 2014. The donation drive stretched for the entire day from 8 in the morning till 6 in the evening.

A prerequisite check-up about the hemoglobin level and blood pressure ensured that every single donor was fit enough to donate blood. The 29-bed setup in the technical drawing hall helped in circulating ever rising crowd. A complementary mobile cleansing desk was also set-up for the awaiting donors. A vanity van was placed outside the college entrance especially for the outsiders, so that they could skip the queue and donate blood quickly. After donation, along with refreshments each donor was acknowledged with a certificate issued by the blood bank.



Publicity about the campaign was the key as they had to convince people. "We had to clear various myths like people feel dizzy after donating blood; syringes used are not sterilized etc. Some are afraid of syringes itself. It's always a tough task to convince people for donating blood, but I think our team did a great job", said Darshan kotecha, Publicity head of the NSS unit, DJSCE Chapter.

Indeed, it was a job well done. A whopping 608 blood

units were collected in a single day and then dispatched to the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Mandir Blood Bank. Amid the engineering academic pressure, students of DJ Sanghvi College of Engineering turned up in hefty numbers and contributed something noble towards the society. Three cheers to the spirit of DJ Sanghvi!



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Computer Training

On the 10th of March, the NSS team of DJ Sanghvi college of Engineering visited a BMC school, 'Dixit Road Shala' in Vile Parle (East). The purpose of the visit was to help the pupils to know computers better. The students of grade 5th, 6th and 7th were taught various computer software like Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel and Paint. A programming language named Scratch, which helps developing basic graphical games, was introduced to the students of grade 7th. A total of about 30 volunteers turned up to support this initiative. This session lasted for an hour and half. This event highlighted the lack of computer awareness among the government schools. And the NSS Unit plans to not just reduce, but to eradicate the problem from its roots.



In this modern world, computers have become an inseparable part of our daily lives. It has become a necessary thing for everyone to have access to the world of computers. And that is what NSS Unit of DJ Sanghvi tried to do.



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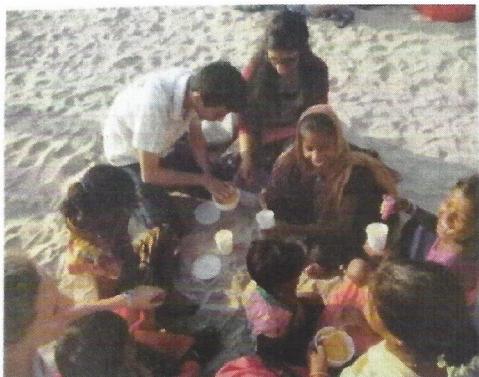


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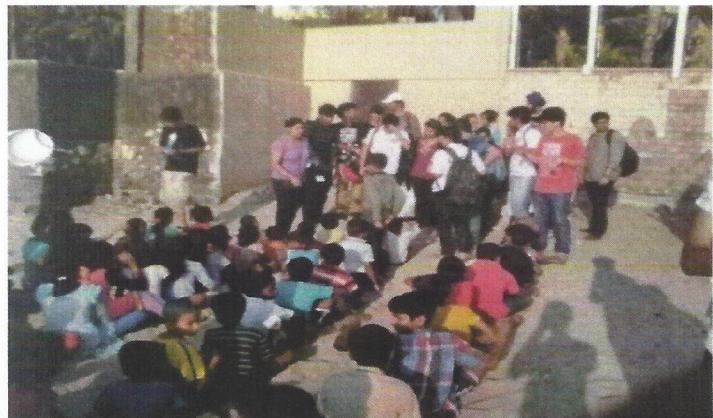


Safe Holi Awareness Event

With the ever increasing health hazards among Indians, the students of DJSCE NSS unit, decided to play a safe Holi. On the 15th of March, 2014 a group of 30 odd NSS volunteers along with the organizing members of an NGO named "Bigger Than Life" , planned a fun and creative 'organic Holi colour making' event for the underprivileged kids residing near Juhu beach. The event was held in the late afternoons on the beach itself. The volunteers taught the kids how to make colours from basic home-available items.



Yellow was made by mixing besan(gramflour) and haldi(turmeric). Also a few wet colours were made using available food colour, maida(corn flour) and some water. All the material was provided to the kids by us. After that we played with the colours on the beach. This carried on for two hours until everyone had their fill of colours. The leftover colours were distributed among the kids so that they could play with it on Monday.



Teaching the kids about the auspicious Holi and the mythology behind the bonfire was also held out. Snacks were also provided. We bade farewell to them with smiles on our faces and decided to carry on with such joyous and selfless activity again next year.

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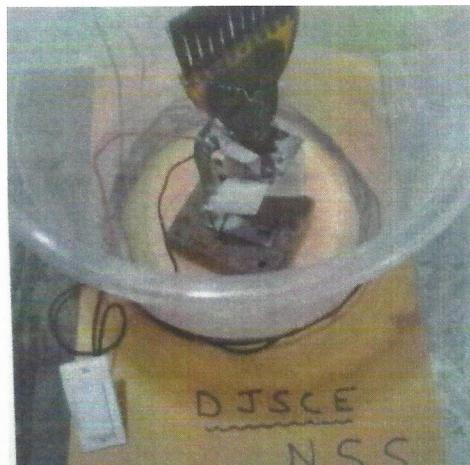
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Duster Cleaning

The innovative idea of cleaning the chalk powder on the dusters and then recycling it, so that it doesn't go waste was encouraged by the NSS unit of DJ Sanghvi College of Engineering.

The primary idea is to develop a system, which will ensure that all the chalk powder which sticks on duster comes to a common place. From this place, the chalk powder will be then combined to make new chalks. The prototype for developing such a system is ready and the team will install it in seven departments of the college soon.

This would help us in recycling the otherwise wasted chalk material thereby contributing towards greener world. Also, it would create an initiative to promote the phenomenon of recycling among the students and giving them an opportunity to contribute their bit to the environment.



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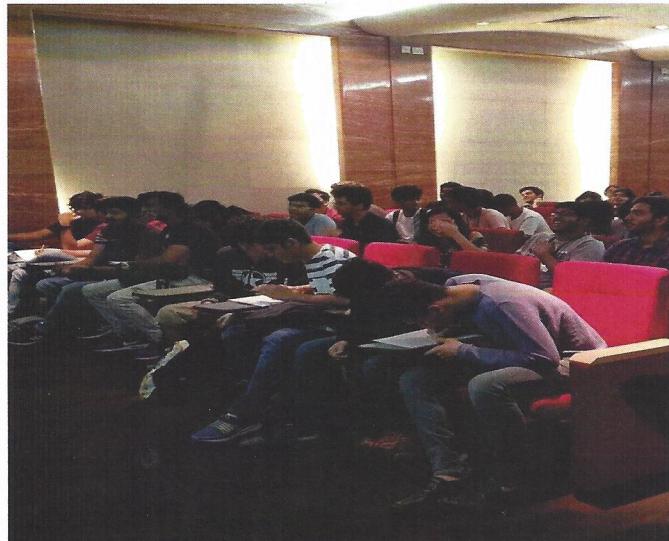


Voter's ID Drive

"Mera vote mera haq" campaign started by the NSS unit of Mumbai University in 2013. The main motive was to encourage youth participation in the fourth coming elections. Keeping in mind the fact that this election has a record number of neophyte voters, this campaign was held in DJ Sanghvi College during the week starting from 12th October 2013.

A desk was set up in the canteen area where the NSS members would help the students to fill their registration form for their election card. The primary goal was to spread awareness about the importance of voting. It also helped them to know about the happenings in the political sector of our country.

The drive was great successes with a whopping 800 registrations ready to vote in the 2014 elections. The Right to vote is also a duty of every citizen that should be fulfilled. The youth should be made aware about the importance of their votes. Hence, this event was a small step towards the goal youth awareness.



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Tree Plantation Drive

The National Service Scheme of DJ Sanghvi College of Engineering organized a tree plantation drive on the 3rd July, 2013 at Mumbra district in Navi Mumbai.



Keeping an eye on the growing cosmopolitan nature of Mumbai, the NSS unit decided to reintroduce the society to our roots by planting trees across the district. The NSS unit managed to plant 47 saplings in 40 days and hence, took a step forward in countering the population crisis in Mumbai.

But planting saplings isn't so easy task as it seems on paper. A shallow pit needs to be dug and then water and mud needs to be interleaved at each level of the pit. Not accustomed to bucolic lifestyle, engineers from our college may find this task a tad too onerous. This may not eradicate pollution completely from the city, but this is atleast it's a start. Hopefully, this will help to spread awareness amongst the youth and thus, drag the society towards the change!



Vivek

Rajeev

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Beach Clean-up Drive

Post Ganpativisarjan, around 40 students of DJSCE NSS unit gathered early morning at Juhu beach on 19th September, 2013 and took active part in cleaning up the beach. In spite of the heavy downpour students showed great level of dedication and huge amount of enthusiasm in helping the BMC to clean the coastal beach.



Huda Patanwala, the vice chairperson of the NSS chapter said: "This initiative is a good start towards making this festival eco-friendly. Awareness about the clean-up has spread widely. It is good to see engineering students believing in how the environment affects us. Local mandals should learn from this and take up the responsibility of cleaning beaches after immersions."

For more than two hours, the NSS team of DJSCE, armed with gloves and garbage bags, cleaned the beach of broken pieces of the deity, plastic cups, flowers and other offerings. With the NSS motto "Not me, But you" held high, the students promised to carry out this activity every year with growing efforts and without demeaning the standards and expectations of the society.



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Blind School Paper Writing Event

Ruia College of Arts and Science offer admissions to the blind and allow them to appear for examinations. Thus, to write their exams, DJ Sanghvi College of Engineering's NSS unit decided to volunteer. The First Semester English Exam for First Year Junior College students was being conducted by Ruia College on Saturday, 19th October, 2013.

Vighnesh Venkatakrishnan, Sneh Chheda, Karan Napanda, Sagar Vikmani, Kaustubh Nagar were the 5 members of NSS who volunteered to help them write the exam. Post a 10 minute interaction with the student the examination commenced at 2:30 p.m. The volunteers dictated the passage and the questions to the students and wrote told to them by the students.

This initiative taken by the NSS with the help of Ruia College would help the blind students' progress in life and achieve great heights in the future.



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NSS CAMP REPORTS 2013-14

DAY 1

The NSS Unit of D. J. Sanghvi College of Engineering organised the Annual 7 day Camp to its adopted villages, situated in the remote areas of Sonawale and Mulgaon in Badlapur, Thane district. A week packed with energy and motivation to do something for the greater good, it was scheduled from 28/12/2013 to 03/01/2014. The volunteers took off from several meet up spots in Mumbai, viz., CST, Dadar and Ghatkopar, at 7 a.m. sharp and reached their destination after a 3 hour long journey by local train followed by state transport buses. Volunteers were then allotted rooms in the Swanand Yog Ashram, after which they had their lunch followed by an hour's rest to settle in.

By 3 p.m., the volunteers were divided into two groups, each heading for activities planned for the day. Being the first day, the activities chosen weren't going to be energy extensive. One group headed to a big wall situated in the village for the Wall Painting activity, aimed at Village beautification and spreading of awareness through that medium. The other group went through the streets on a Cleanliness Drive. Filled with all enthusiasm, the volunteers worked hard with motivation from their seniors and the Programme Officers at all moments.

The activities continued till the sun set. At dusk, the volunteers returned to the Ashram, being content with the day's work. A day was done while 6 remained. Each volunteer hoped to work with all their might and equal enthusiasm each of the remaining days too!

Day 2

The 2nd day of the NSS camp commenced with an exuberant exercise at 5 in the morning. The exercise was targeted on loosening hardened muscles. After a rejuvenating breakfast at 7 am, the volunteers were assembled on the ground for their instructions. The day's target was to inform the



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community around them of the upcoming medical camp in their area organized by DJNSS. And later in the afternoon, the volunteers were introduced to the local schools.

At 9am, the volunteers set off for medical camp publicity. A rally was organized with posters and slogans informing the villagers of the medical camp. The volunteers went from door to door and street to street to inform and convince the villagers about the camp. They were also educated on the facts on why the medical camp was important to attend and how they would benefit from it. At 1pm, the volunteers retreated back to the campsite for lunch.

At 3pm, after lunch, the volunteers set out again for a primary school in the village. The volunteers were introduced to the school students and ice breaking games were played between the students and volunteers to create a connection and bonding. Each student was appointed one volunteer. Each volunteer was assigned to help the students solve a few mathematical problems and later teach them how to draw or paint. The volunteers went along their tasks efficiently but also made the children have a great time while solving. The volunteers taught the students how studying can also be fun. In the end the volunteers motivated the students to study and obey their teachers.

The volunteers departed with a bright smile and promise of visiting again.

DAY 3

The third day of the camp started at 5 in the morning with an hour of exercise followed by breakfast. The activities for the day included Medical Camp and Cleanliness Drive in the village.

DJNSS organized a medical camp for the villagers to give them an opportunity to have a free body checkup. There was a team of doctors that arrived from Mumbai for serving the purpose. The villagers lack proper medical facilities, hence organizing a free medical camp witnessed a huge number of people. Checkup included test for blood sugar, pressure, weight and height measurement, etc.

The medical camp was followed by a Cleanliness Drive in the village. The volunteers worked rigorously for nearly two hours that resulted in cleaning of one of the most uncleanly places of the village. Also, the volunteers explained the villagers about the importance of cleanliness and distributed gloves and masks to the them to make them aware about the diseases spread through unhygienic conditions.



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The volunteers then returned to the Ashram by 6:30 pm. The day ended with dinner at 9:00 pm and a short meeting to discuss about the next day's event.

DAY4

The fourth day of the camp began with the regular routine of morning exercise at 5:00 am. This was followed by a healthy breakfast to give the volunteers enough energy for the entire day.

The activities of the day included Shraam daan in the form of Tree plantation and an interactive session with the villagers. The volunteers enthusiastically planted a total of 63 saplings in the barren land of the village. The villagers also took an initiative to help the volunteers in this noble deed. The volunteers completed the task in 3 hrs and brought life to a barren place.

The volunteers returned back and had a wholesome lunch to refill them with energy. The volunteers had an interactive session with the villagers and tried to understand their lifestyle in a much better way. The villagers were very welcoming to all and were keen to share their village life stories.

The day ended with a short meeting to discuss about the events for the next day.

DAY 5

The 5th day of camp was on 27/12/2013 which was planned for painting all the walls. The only motto in painting walls was to prevent staining and cover permanent marks present on them. And most importantly, to spread awareness through the creativity.

The day started at 5.00AM in the morning, followed by few exercises, cleaning the surroundings and decking ourselves up for the rest of the day. Also, we had a heavy breakfast by 8:00AM which was enough to give a kick start to our beautiful day.



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The volunteers were initially divided into small groups, and were allotted tasks. Volunteers painted walls which gave awareness about cleanliness and also creativities which represented things to avoid alcohol.

It was an amazing time spent by all of us, also enjoyed thoroughly during this time. From drawing various sketches to quotes on them, volunteers transformed the dull wall into an attractive and catchy center.

DAY 6/DAY7

The day began with the perfectly scheduled 5 a.m. workout. Following the 8 a.m. breakfast, volunteers were briefed about the activities to be performed that day. After the instructions were given, volunteers left for the schools of Mulgaon and Sonawale, where Sports Day was arranged. There they divided students into groups and started playing different games. Later, volunteers distributed notebooks, pencils, erasers sharpeners, and crayons to the kids. Prize distribution was also done. The Headmistress of the school expressed her gratitude towards the volunteers for their efforts. As the day continued, volunteers were excited about the street plays coming up in the evening. The plays mainly aimed at topics like Education, Women Empowerment and Alcohol prohibition. The volunteers set off for Aanganvadi, Sonawale where they went around the village beating drums publicizing about the plays. Within half an hour, a huge crowd gathered and played keen attention to what was being conveyed as they even waited for a second round. The street play was an immense success as it struck a chord with kids, women and elders alike. This day ended with rise of many hopes, hopes of a bright future of the children, hopes of making their lives better, hopes of making their education little interesting.

Signature of the Programme Officers

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