**With tears in my eyes and warmth in my heart**

My seniors at college had organized a trip via the Rotaract Club ( a socially conscious club at NITK ) to an orphanage. The Rotaract club members visit this orphanage on a yearly basis, each time contributing as much as they can for the development of the young girls who reside there.

I didn’t have anything to offer, considering the face that I was broke. So, I decided to go along with the seniors and help out in the way I actually can. As a volunteer.

So the next day after we reached the orphanage, we were given a tour of the place by the director himself. Not only were the girls in the orphanage given healthy and wholesome meals, but were also enrolled into their own school, that gave them free education upto the tenth grade.

After this, we met the girls. There were nearly 250 of them, of the ages 4-15. We had decided to divide ourselves into groups that engaged the girls with a different activity for a period of time. We recited stories, played hopscotch , hide-n-seek, tag and many other games! Their innocent laughter made me wonder how fortunate we all are. They neither know their past nor their future. Yet they bravely face the present. I guess such values are imbibed into them by the teachers there to craft them into strong-willed human beings.

The best part of the visit was when we distributed the items that we had collected as donations. The amount of happiness that every one of them experienced when they received a gift from us was very rewarding .

It was one of those few moments in life that everyone must experience.

That feeling when one girl Shashi , 5,held my hand and said “Don’t go, I want you to stay.” was priceless.