COMMUNITY WORK (F.Y.B.ED.) 2019-2020

SNEHASADAN – HOUSE OF LOVE

The Community work for the F.Y.B.Ed. students this year was conducted in Snehasadan centres managed by the Jesuits. The Snehasadan houses opted as Community work centres for this year were as follows house nos. 3&7(Chakala), 8&9(Jogeshwari), 10(Mahakali Caves), 11(Kondivita village) and 12(Amboli). Our aim was to not only focus on the academic progress of the children but also care for their mental and emotional health. In order to understand the CONTEXT of the situation, the staff coordinators visited the centre for Orientation as well as to understand the activities of the centre. They coordinated with Fr. Noel (Director) and Ms. Deepika (Social worker). The data were shared with the staff coordinators by the centre and a Plan was made for the Community work for the FYBEd.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM:

- To orient students teachers on the needs of the community and the context
- To sensitise students on the theme "Building a Hope-filled Future" and its sub themes in the context of community work
- To actively involve in the work allotted in the community
- To interact with the inmates in the community and share experiences
- To develop activities that can stimulate involvement of the inmates in the community
- To help students reflect on their experience
  To conduct assemblies to disseminate the learning.
- To submit report

STEPS FOR THE PROGRAM:

1. Orientation
2. Social Analysis
3. Discussion with the staff in charge
4. Preparation of teaching learning materials and plans (notional hours)
5. Community Engagement (1 week)
6. Assembly presentation
7. Report Writing

The Community work program started with 'Engaging with Text for Community Engagement', where students oriented themselves with the text on children's issues in society and got educated and sensitized. This was followed by a series of Orientation sessions by the staff-in-charges Ms. Kalpana Chavan and Dr. Vini Sebastian. The student groups were assigned to a staff in charge who guided them through the 5 days of Community Engagement.

Each house had a brief Orientation with the house managers and inmates of the centres. The teacher in charges helped the students to brainstorm on the activities that could be conducted in the centres. The main activity that all the students engaged in was teaching English and Mathematics and in some centres Science and History were also taught Other than these activities personality development activities like art, games and role play were also conducted.

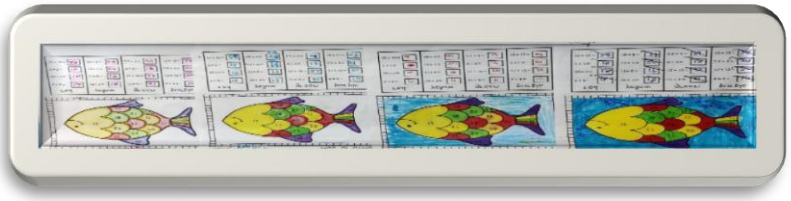
The students engaged in preparing customized teaching aids for the teaching sessions after much planning. These teaching aids were prepared from the available daily resources and used in a simple manner to make the interaction more concrete and two way. The teaching aids could be handled by the inmates and it was seen that they were more excited about the learning. A Daily schedule was prepared after the intensive planning session which was conducted everyday.

A personal interaction with each of the inmates is what SXIE has achieved, a bond made not only for educational needs but also a more deeper one for a sustainable interaction in the coming years to come.

More focus was given to what the students want to learn rather than what we want to teach. In this manner the context of the situation was given much attention when the experience was provided. At every stage reflection became an integral part of the whole process followed by an intensive evaluation at the next day's planning schedule.

The students also reached out to the inmates by a voluntary donation in kind from the students and staff. It was a satisfying experience which led to the transformation of the affective domain. All groups reported that they felt blessed with a lot of resources and would now use them responsibly.

A social analysis was conducted by the students while they were at work to understand the context they are in in an objective manner. This exercise also helped them understand the different dimensions in the context – social, emotional, economic and so on. The 'Engagement with Text' activity done before the community work service on the topic of social issue related to children helped SXIE students to reach out to the children at the centre in a more meaningful way. It helped them get a wider knowledge of the social situation and also develop empathy and devise ways to handle the situation.

REFLECTION :

SnehaSadan children were very friendly with insiders as well as outsiders . They were used to all adjustments. Most children have mild difficulties regarding attention and reading. They were intelligent and inquisitive and very easy to deal with. Children do all the works by themselves so they are more independent. Sharing things among themselves and also with others was seen many times. Whenever some outsiders come this kids wished them and were very well behaved. Overall this community service has made us all learn a lot of things in life and made us understand a lot of other things. Most student teachers resonated the feeling and quoting what one of the group presented, "The inmates were very understanding and loving, they adjusted to new things very easily. We observed they live as family. We also observed a sense of gratefulness among all our children. They were positive and resilient in nature. We will carry this experience close to our heart". Through this program, the student-teachers learnt to respect children with all kinds of learning capabilities and from all socio-economic groups. This would help them to be a better teacher in the future and be more understanding.