



Sardar Patel Institute Of Technology
Institution's Innovation Council

Bhavans Campus, Old D N Nagar, Munshi Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400058

Event Summary Report

Program driven by: Self Driven Activity

Program /Activity Name: Social Drive - Visiting the Slums

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Venue: Sardar Patel Institute Of Technology, Bhavans Campus, Andheri West, Mumbai

Date: 30th December 2019.

The E Cell of SPIT organised a visit to the slums of Mumbai namely Versova with a motive to educate the people. The selection of the slums took place on the basis of the population of people residing there to reach out to a larger audience. The students were divided into groups and were sent to the assigned location with the aim to spread awareness amongst them. It was so strange that a place just a few kilometres from our institute seemed like a completely different world. While India's economy continues to boom since the last so many decades and Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan (Clean India Mission) entering into its sixth year, it's 360 million poorest citizens remain among those living in some of the most dilapidated conditions in the world.

So the awareness drive started off with the students talking about the important element of a healthy life that is sanitation. The students could see dumps of garbage everywhere in the slum. The residents explained that the dumped waste emanates foul odour and at the same time becomes breeding ground for flies and mosquitoes which carry several diseases with them. Also their children play near the garbage dumps oblivious of the fact that they may get infected with some fatal disease. The students educated them on waste segregation. They explained to them how to dispose of waste in two different dustbins that are dry and wet.

The children were educated over how they could contribute in making their locality clean. They were taught how to throw wrappers, waste, paper and all sorts of garbage they find on the roads in a dustbin. Slogans and attractive posters made by the students also helped in conveying the message amongst them. They spoke extensively about biomass as a cleaner fuel and how their waste generated could help in the generation of biomass. They highlighted the fact that

biomass isn't only 'clean fuel' but also cost effective in a longer run. This was a complete novel concept for the slum dwellers.

After concluding the sanitation session the students decided to conduct a mini math class amongst the children of the slums. On asking whether they received any formal education they said that they went to a government school in their vicinity. On asking which subjects interest them the most, only a handful of them said math. The students started off with highlighting the importance of maths. They spoke of how maths was a subject used in every sphere of life. Whether it is making quick calculations in a grocery store or it is calculating the distance and time required to reach a place, math is a subject of utmost importance. They also made the children see the beauty of this subject how having a command over math can prevent them from being cheated and help them making calculations without calculators. Also the importance of math in higher studies for aspiring engineers, bankers was highlighted. The students aimed to kick out the fear of a subject most of them dreaded.

Then came the most fun part of the drive, a game for the children of the slums planned by the students of SPIT. Various mathematical real life word problems were asked to them involving basic maths and rewards were given for answering it correctly. To our astonishment children aged 10 knew tables upto 15 and could easily make lightning quick calculations in their heads. Behind the torn tattered worn out clothes there was a hidden genius in every one of them. The enthusiasm shown by the children made this session even more fun. The students deeply understood the importance of maths and made it a point to study this subject with utmost dedication and devotion.

Next a few individuals were picked from the audience for a small interview. On being asked how they find the session they spoke of how informative it was and how they learnt so many new things which they haven't heard about at all. They also expressed gratitude towards the students for educating them and their children. Next they were asked whether basic amenities and facilities are provided to them. They answered in the negative and spoke of how tough life is as there isn't a proper drainage system and the entire slum is a mess especially in the rainy season. They spoke about their slum lacking a proper waste collecting mechanism thus the playgrounds of their children has become a dumping site. Also regular water cuts add to their hardships. On being asked what they expect from the government they spoke about having a few government clinics and a hospital for the sick. They also spoke about sending sweepers and trucks to collect the garbage to help them clean their area. They also expressed a desire to have a good drainage system to ensure sanitation.

The kind of affection and hospitality shown by the residents and children was overwhelming for the students of SPIT.

As a Nation we talk about Clean India Mission but how it could be achieved when a huge proportion of our country continues to live in such inhuman conditions or are we just trying to cover the reality that the worst side does exist?

To make and keep India beautiful, first of all, we need to improve the living conditions in Slums. It's a humongous task and would require humongous efforts from the Government as well as active and equal participation from communities.

The students of SPIT enjoyed this visit to the slum and got to know about the conditions in which the less fortunate segment of the society live. Entrepreneurship isn't only about running a business successfully but also an entrepreneur is the one who gives it back to the society.