

UNDERSTANDING DISPARITY



Keeping the Christmas spirit alive in their hearts, the students of St.Mary's and Santa Maria contributed a variety of gifts for the winter collection drive. The children wholeheartedly immersed themselves in the spirit of giving and contributed in abundance. The idea of their gifts bringing a smile on the faces of disadvantaged section of society filled them with a sense of inner joy. This was quite evident in the way they had wrapped up the gifts and left a personalised Christmas message. The students of CSA Social Work helped in the collection and segregation of gifts. While sorting the sea of gifts, students expressed that the gifts especially the toys should go to the street children for they are the most vulnerable sections of society, and the warm blankets to the elderly. It was commonly felt among the students that the gifts should be given only to the needy !!

The distribution took place in several rounds. A bus loaded with gifts along with students of class 7th, 8th and 9th went around the city to distribute gifts to the underprivileged especially those living on the footpath, streets and nearby flyovers. The children were overwhelmed to see the happiness on the faces of people while they were distributing the gifts. When the bus arrived to distribute blankets at a pavement near Lodhi colony, the students interacted with the people while giving them some essential items. The students were moved after hearing the pavement dwellers narrate their stories of hardship and daily struggle on the streets. Many of the people living on the pavement had migrated years ago to Delhi in search of work and ended up living on the pavement ever since. The students questioned the idea of 'progress' after hearing these stories and wondered how the citizens and the government could be so ignorant of the needs of one of its own. The sense of true deprivation and the escalating disparity were understood in their real sense. The world beyond the four walls of their classroom seemed bleak and the gesture of distributing gifts filled their hearts with a sense of meaning. The participatory approach and the conversations with the marginalised gave the students a glimpse into their lives on the margins. The students reflected and discussed amongst themselves the reasons of marginalisation, poverty and the growing disparity.



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



The students of Social Work CSA group and the girls of vocational training programmes participated in slow food festival by setting up stalls selling books, handmade accessories and essential items .There was also a Mehendi and hairstyling stall set up by the beauty culture vocational group.The purpose behind the fundraising stalls was to help students develop fundamentals of resource mobilization.

CLASS 6th AND 7th CSA students during a community engagement and group activity~REFLECTION & DOCUMENTATION!!

