

Ghaghidih Observation Home Workshop

30 November, 2022

Juvenile Observation Home, Ghaghidih, Jamshedpur

On November 30,

The Let's Make A Difference Family visited the Ghaghidih Observation Home in Jamshedpur. It runs under the central jail facility. The age of the children started from as low as ten years, and some of them were staying in the remand home for over four years.

They interacted with over 80 students in a span of three and half hours. The team of 11 could also hold a group discussion with around 20 children in each group.

After a small session held by Mr. Viral, the team could sense uneasiness in the students. When asked about if they felt guilty about whatever reason they were in the observation home for, they responded in unison with a 'Ji sir!' (yes sir!). It was during this time that the Let's Make A Difference Team introduced them to the idea of IofC. There wasn't a guarantee if the audience connected with it or not, but there certainly was curiosity about this way of life to become a 'good human being.' The team talked to them about how making mistakes is alright; being wrong is okay. But what's not okay is not learning from the mistakes and wrongdoings. Let's Make A Difference found a pure will of learning and change in the students. *They wanted to change, but they weren't aware of the opportunities to change.*

The class was then divided into six groups. They went out with two group leaders each, and spent a good amount of time conversing. However, it was not easy for any of the two ends to speak openly. The group leaders had to take care to not trigger any of them with words or actions, and the kids were feeling inhibited towards strangers. It took a while to build a rapport with them, but it was noticed that - once the students got a little comfortable with the volunteers, they just wanted to keep talking. One after the other, bit by bit they kept sharing. Their conversations covered an array of random topics from creating art to flying a helicopter. *They have big dreams. They have passion. They just don't have the right direction.*

To talk about dismay, the children expressed sorrow, a deep-lying sense of loneliness, a strong distaste towards their living conditions, and a state of being where they felt like they were 'talking to the walls the whole day.' One of the volunteers got a feeling that some of them might even be suffering from clinical depression.

Solitude, realization, retrospection, and regret was the scent of the atmosphere. None of them could keep their heads up while talking about the mistakes that they made. This can't be helped, supposedly. A mishap in the past which has no way of being revived, nor can anything be

repaired and the consequences do not change; if this won't eat up a human being from inside, then what even will?

As a fortunate event, the Jamshedpur Women's Club visited the home at the same time as Let's Make A Difference. They had come with a donation of apples and biscuits for the students. The Club's interaction with the students gave us the confidence that persistent and genuine efforts will pave a way for us to get closer to the students. In a strong rhythm they wished the teachers a good afternoon. They walked out together when they had to, and helped the management with logistical processes without being called for. Nobody would ever doubt that these kids have been caught for malpractice.

Innocence in their body language, humility in their gaze, and a way of being soft-spoken overall;

Everybody talked about how the consequential events took place in the company of their friends. Most of them also shared about the things that they did under the influence of substance. Some of the stories also included how their surroundings played a part in their actions. This puts a question to us - *how many of our decisions are taken by us, and how many of our decisions are taken for us?*



Let's Make A Difference at Ghaghidih Observation Home with the inmates (Image blurred)