

Ghaghidih Observation Home Follow Up

Observation Home, Ghaghidih

12 May, 2023

After a three-day intensely powerful workshop held in the Juvenile Observation Home at Ghaghidih, Jamshedpur in February this year, the LMAD team decided to follow up the inmates to rejuvenate them with the energy & values we had offered them in the second visit. A 5-hour workshop was conducted on 12 May 2023 in the Ghaghidih Observation Home.

The rationale behind the third visit was our belief & understanding that these inmates need recurring hand holding & support that they lack. From our last two visits, we realized that they have big dreams, they have passion, they can change, they are full of energy but they lack the right direction. February to May, the LMAD team was virtually in touch with the caretakers, the warden of the Obv home & the JWC team for feedback on the conduct & response of the inmates. After addressing in depth, the values of Honesty, Discipline, Compassion, Self Introspection, Family & various serious issues during the last two visits, this time we primarily wanted to focus on Anger issues & Unity among the inmates as we assessed few instances of ragging & violence inside the Juvenile.

The day started with a positive response to the question posed by Viral Sir, "How many of you are practicing the Quiet time & penning down your introspection?" To which a unanimous response erupted. We were happy to see a reduction in the number of inmates from 93 last time to 65. There were many new faces & majority were former kids. The initial interaction was positive as they were happy to see us back again. Viral Sir then recalled & provided the Quiet time inputs allowing inmates to reflect on their lives and contemplate their actions. This serene environment sets the tone for self-reflection and personal growth. Following Viral Sir's inputs, coordinators took turns discussing various topics, addressing issues relevant to the inmates' lives. These discussions covered aspects such as personal relationships, family, unity and the impact of hate on loved ones.

After receiving inputs from the coordinators & Viral sir, the inmates were divided into four groups. The interactive group discussion provided a platform for open dialogue & self expression. The new inmates shared their stories & how they feel guilty about their past actions. They were quite moved with the inputs shared & we could see that they wanted to change. The inmates

T : (02168) 240241/2 | E : IOFC.LMAD@GMAIL.COM | W : WWW.LMAD.IN / WWW.IN.IOFC.ORG

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who have attended the last two workshops shared how they are into the path & putting consistent efforts to bring about a change in their behavior, move out & start their new journey. Previously, they felt trapped & suffocated inside, finding wrong ways to get out but now they were calm & have accepted the consequences. Within their respective groups, the inmates explored the significance of family, shared stories of individuals they loved and discussed instances of hate and its potential to cause harm to their loved ones. Through these group discussions, the inmates gained a deeper understanding of the impact their actions could have on the people they cared about. It became evident that hate not only hurt others but also negatively affected their own well-being.

Following the group discussion, the atmosphere shifted towards introspection and personal accountability. The inmates settled again in the classroom and Viral Sir addressed issues of Unity & Ragging before them. Example of Tom & Jerry was set by one of the coordinators as to how Friendship is the best gift ever, Tom could never see Jerry suffer & vice-versa. We encouraged them to help & motivate each other in this path of self introspection & growth, rather than becoming a hindrance, you must be of support. It is to be a team & unite, Tom & Jerry always made an effort to unite & stand up against their enemy, in your case it's your anger. We conveyed them to build trust among each other & live like a family.

The inmates reflected on their past mistakes, acknowledging the pain they had caused to their friends. Guided by the insights gained throughout the day, the inmates took a brave step of apologizing to their friends for the harm they had inflicted. They willingly came up to the platform & apologized. This takes a lot, to break your ego & bow down. This act of taking responsibility for their actions showcased the inmates' willingness to grow and change. Apologizing allowed them to bridge the divide created by their past behavior and take the first steps towards healing and reconciliation. The visit provided a safe space for them to confront their wrongdoings, fostering an environment of forgiveness and understanding.

The visit to Ghaghidih Observation Home concluded on a positive note, as forgiveness and smiles permeated the atmosphere. We ended the workshop with a prayer, "Itni Shakti Hamein dena data" and offered the inmates with refreshments. The day's activities encouraged them to embrace empathy, repair damaged relationships and strive for a better future. The LMAD team's efforts in spreading love and making a difference truly made a positive and lasting impression on the inmates of Ghaghidih.

The workshop started with the LMAD team posing a question to inmates and ended with the inmates posing a question to us with a smile, "When is the LMAD team coming back?" To which we replied, "Soon"!

But deep in our hearts we wish & pray to visit again & see a big lock outside the juvenile; we want no kid to be inside! Until next time.....!

“फरवरी में हुए 3 दिन के उस कांफ्रेंस के दौरान, मैं पहली बार उस नरीक्षण गृह में उन बच्चों से मिला, जिन्हें देखकर मुझे काफी दुख और अफसोस हुआ।
कलम पकड़ने वाले हाथों ने, चलिम और तमंचों का इस्तेमाल करना सीख लिया था।

उनके लिए जदिगी बस अब शुरू ही होने वाली थी की गलत संगत, नशे की लत, लालच, या किसी भी रास्ते से पैसे कमाने की जल्दबाजी जैसी कई वजहों से, उन बच्चों ने अपनी मासूमियत और आजादी को खोकर, खुद को उस कैद के हवाले कर दिया था।

नरीक्षण गृह में लाए गए एक बच्चे की वजह ने मुझे अंदर तक झंझोड़ दिया। उस 17 वर्षीय लड़के ने सरिफ इस वजह से अपनी मां पर गुस्से में आकर हमला कर उसे मार दिया था क्योंकि उसे भूख लगी थी और उसकी मां ने खाना परोसने में देर की थी।

मैं सोचता रहा कि गुस्सा एक इंसान से क्या करवा सकता है।

उस लड़के के आंखों में अब सरिफ पछतावे के अलावा कुछ नहीं बचा था। वो अपने किए पर शर्मिदा था।

वहां से आने के बाद मैं सोचता रहा की, हर देश की सबसे बड़ी पूंजी होती है वहां की युवा पीढ़ी।

हमारी भी देश की एक बड़ी तादाद ऐसे ही कई नरीक्षण गृहों में कैद है।

जिन्हें अगर सही वक्त रहते, सखाया समझाया गया तो वह भी समाज के अच्छा नागरिकों में से एक बन पाएंगे।

LMAD, का इस तरफ बढ़ाया कदम वाकई सराहनीय है

मुझे गर्व है कि मैं LMAD के कार्यकर्ता के रूप में युवा पीढ़ी के इस वर्ग तक पहुंच पाया, उन्हें मिला पाया और जदिगी की एक कड़वे सच से बहुत कुछ सीख पाया।” - Sonu Arora, Coordinator, LMAD

****Translated from the original Hindi***

“During that 3-day conference in February, I met for the first time the children in the observation home, seeing them I was very sad and sorry.

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The hands holding the pen had learned to use the chillum and the tamanchas.

Life was just beginning for them. Due to various reasons like bad company, drug addiction, greed, or haste to earn money by any means, those children, losing their innocence and freedom, surrendered themselves to that prison.

The reason for a child being brought to the observation home shook me to the core. That 17-year-old boy had attacked and killed his mother in a fit of rage just because he was hungry and her mother had delayed serving food.

I kept thinking what anger can do to a person. There was nothing left in the boy's eyes except remorse. He was ashamed of his actions.

After coming from there, I kept thinking that the biggest capital of every country is the young generation there. A large number of our country is also imprisoned in many such observation homes. Those who, if taught and explained at the right time, would also be able to become one of the good citizens of the society.

The step taken by LMAD in this direction is really commendable.

*I am proud that as a worker of LMAD, I could reach this section of the younger generation, meet them and learn a lot from the bitter truth of life.” - **Sonu Arora, Coordinator, LMAD***

“LMAD’s series of visits to the remand home have been historic for so many reasons. While over more than two decades, LMAD has connected with and positively transformed youth from diverse backgrounds, this was the first time, LMAD had reached out to young individuals connected by the misfortune of breaking the law. And while LMAD’s visits made a tremendous impact on the young residents of the remand home, this was a deeply personal and defining experience for me.

I was deeply moved just by sitting in their presence. I was triggered into intense introspection about myself and life itself. Observing the boys at close quarters made me feel connected to them on so many levels. I was touched by their sincerity and authentic behavior. I could sense that some of them were coping with pain and regret of the actions that put them in the place they were.

I also observed that they listened to Viral Bhai with a keen sense of wonder and received the core message of IoFC with hope and were positively curious about the concept of quiet time and the importance of relationships in our lives. It was initially hard for me to absorb the reality that I was

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sitting in a room full of individuals who were on the wrong side of the law. But then I realized that in some ways, I was no different from them.

*I introspected deep within about the wrong things I had done, the times I had been dishonest and the people I had deeply hurt with my words and actions. They were all there, atoning for their sins. But what had I done to atone for mine. Listening to them share their sense of regret and desire to change their ways and find renewed purpose when they would eventually be free, was an inspirational cue for me to do the same even as I continue to enjoy the privilege of freedom. I was grateful for this experience which was as real as life itself and as deeply impactful as any LMAD experience I will ever have.” - **Bhisham Mansukhani, Coordinator, LMAD***

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