

Internship at Arun Ashray

The Bishop's School and Junior School, Camp organized a two-week internship programme for Class XII Psychology students. Two groups of students accompanied by Mrs Shriparna Singh volunteered to intern at the orphanage, Arun Ashray in Pune, from 20th March to 28th March.

Arun Ashray is home to abandoned children in the age group of four to seven years. The students were introduced to Mrs Lynnette, the orphanage in-charge who gave us a brief background of the children in order to help us understand them better.

The internship required us to spend time with the children and to get acquainted with them. We were tasked with understanding their behavior patterns along with their emotional states and requirements.

In addition to this, we were also required to help them learn the alphabet and numbers. The children were more than excited to meet us and mingled easily with us.

The first hurdle the students had to cross was to deal with their short attention spans, resulting in a slower learning process.

They took recourse to activities like games, puzzles, and drawing to ease learning and keep the children engaged.



Our students noted that observational learning worked best with them. That is, they found it easier to follow along when one of us showed them what had to be done. There were occasional fights and tantrums but were resolved quickly.

After every accomplishment, however small, we praised and encouraged them. It made them eager to participate in more activities and perform better. There was also a visible rise in their confidence and self-esteem.

Another significant observation was that despite their young age, they exhibited a high level of emotional intelligence. Most of them were able to express their feelings openly.



They were also found to be aware of each other's feelings and highly empathetic. Each time one of them would cry or be upset, others showed visible signs of distress. While they did not know how to comfort the child they stood or sat close by with expressions of concern.

In conclusion, the children at the orphanage were found to be intelligent and ready to

learn. With the right tools and proper guidance, they had the potential to become valuable members of society.

The internship was an eye-opening experience for us. It made us aware of our blessings and also grateful for them. It also brought home the fact that as responsible members of society, it was our duty to help the less fortunate members so that we could all progress together.

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