



Experiential Learning Camp

Good Shepherd Convent School, Karjat

3rd to 5th November 2022.

“Learning is not the product of teaching; Learning is the product of the activity of learners.”

Experiential Learning is an engaged process through which students gain knowledge, develop skills and values from direct experiences, outside a traditional academic setting.

The Good Shepherd Convent School organized an experiential learning camp for the students of classes 9 and 10 on November 4th & 5th, 2022. The camp was conducted by the volunteers of J Team Ministries and students from Good Shepherd School, Chennai. Our hope was to inspire enthusiasm and curiosity about learning, preparing the 115 participants to be responsible stewards of the nation, and indeed, it was a great experience!

Day 1: Exposure to Bhiwandi



The team of Chennai volunteers including Ms Sashi Natarajan, 4 students and 5 volunteers from JTeam led by Mr Santosh along with the Karjat team including Sr. Amala, Ms Tulasi and 5 students set off to Bhiwandi in Thane District in Maharashtra. Though we went with the intention of interacting with the children at the shelter run by the Good Shepherd Sisters from Virar, the group were truly inspired and grateful for the experience. The positivity and courage of the children and the mission partners was truly encouraging to all.



Day 2: Welcome Ceremony

The students of Karjat welcomed the Chennai team in the true spirit and Indian tradition: aarthi, sweets, greeting cards, bouquets adding a generous dose of Maharashtrian culture with the 'lezim' producing the jingling sound, callisthenic moves, duly escorted by the RSP commanders.



We witnessed a mesmerizing cultural programme consisting of cultural dance, drama and folk song, honoring our guests.

After the icebreaking session, the students were divided into 6 groups consisting of 18 students. Each group took part in different activities such as Slack line, Magical flute, Indoor Human XO, Pipeline, Spider web and Archery.

1. **Slack line:** Slack line is a neuro-mechanical task involving achievement of functional independence while maintaining dynamic stability through balance retention. It refers to an act of walking, running or balancing along suspended length of flat webbing that is tensioned between two ankles.



After the briefing, some were ready to walk on the slack line and some were nervous. But with the team support and encouragement, all of them participated in the activity.



TAKEAWAY: Balance is the key to everything. Awareness of maintain this balance can help one to grow exuberantly.

2. ***Magical water Flute:*** It is a group task to transfer and fill water into the magical flute container. This calls for co-ordination and understanding, immense patience and support to fill the container which is constantly emptying out through the holes.



The students enjoyed this activity and learnt many lessons through the drenching wetness.

TAKEAWAY: Difficulties are not the end but they are the stepping stones to the success. Never lose hope!

3. ***Indoor Human XO:*** The students were divided into **X** team and **O** team to play the human tic tac toe game.

When this game was introduced to the students we could see the brightness on their faces and curiosity to know and play the game.

TAKEAWAY: Strategic skills, importance of rules, logical thinking, ability to concentrate and be focused to develop problem solving skills.



4. Pipeline: It's an engaging teambuilding activity that provides opportunity to plan and communicate as a team.

With an interesting story of transporting a radioactive material with due safety measures the students planned meticulously to transfer different marbles through the pipeline to the destination.

TAKEAWAY: Alone I can do much, together we can do wonders. Develop our strengths and overcome weaknesses; collaboration rather than competition.



5. Spider web: The challenge is to get the entire team from one side of the web to the other in creative ways, maintaining all safety protocols.

Wow! What an awesome activity! Creative ways of transporting persons!

TAKEAWAY: Trust, cooperation, communication, decision making, leadership, problem solving are key components of teamwork.



3. **Archery:** It is an individual game which involves shooting at stationary circular targets, set at specific distances.



Always focus on your goal. Aim high!

TAKEAWAY: Focus, patience, self-confidence, goal setting.

Each activity was designed in such a way that students understood the importance of values like team spirit, unity, sportsmanship, discipline, strategic planning, overcoming failures, self-worth, dignity and perseverance. The students were evoked to think out of the box. The debriefing sessions after each activity connecting to life and God was very meaningful.

Day 3

The students entered the school campus with more excitement than the previous day. They had built a good rapport with one another and took joy in teamwork.

The session concluded with action songs, music and dance by the J Team volunteers and words of appreciation by Sr. Amala, Headmistress of the school.

Gratitude

Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The students thanked Sr. Amala for arranging such an amazing, memorable camp for them, promising to uphold all the values imparted through the experience.

They also expressed their sincere thanks to Sr. Annie Thomas, the Principal and Sashi Natarajan for creating the opportunity of interacting with the fraternity from Good Shepherd Matriculation Higher Secondary School Chennai.



We are indebted to Mr. Santhosh the Head of the J team and the members for making this camp a memorable and successful one.

Last but not the least, many thanks to all those who worked hard in front or behind the screen to make this experiential camp a fruitful blessing to all our students.

