

RJS FIRST GRADE COLLEGE

Koramangala, 3rd Block, Bengaluru-560034

Institutional Distinctiveness

SMILE PROGRAMME

‘Smile’ is a programme arranged by our students, every year. It is meant for children with economically unprivileged and without parental care.

Objectives:

RJS First Grade College is one of the institutions run by KARNATAKA REDDY JANA SANGHA. Services to the society is one of its objectives, Smile is meant to bring happiness into the lives’ of economically unprivileged children a day of happiness can help to change a child’s attitude towards life. A child with the right attitude will be able to come out of poverty in his adulthood and can lead a good life. This programme helps to instil in our students the value of service to the society. This also teaches them that there is more happiness in giving rather than in taking. Help need not always be material help, even giving love and happiness can also be of great value.

Context:

Bengaluru has been adjudged the most dynamic city in the world. This is a matter of pride for all Bangaloreans. However, we can’t overlook the fact that modernisation and urbanisation has its drawbacks, too. It goes without saying that the village life is more peaceful than the city life. Traffic problem, noise pollution, air pollution etc. are some of the problems that every city has to face. Hence entertainment or retreat becomes important for every city dweller. This is more important for children than for adults. Entertainment is expensive in Bangalore and economically unprivileged children cannot afford it. Hence, smile!

Practice:

Every year 10-15 orphanages register their names for this programme. Each orphanage is given in charge of a teacher, there will be one or two teachers to help each in –charge. These students are brought to the college on the programme day by the in charge assisted by our volunteers, from morning till evening, the children will participate in different competitions like running race, relay race, lemon and spoon, balloon bursting, drawing, singing, solo dance, group dance etc. The winners are given attractive prizes. In the afternoon, they are provided with lunch in a happy atmosphere. The food items are generally delicacies which children cherish. Each orphan is assigned a classroom and there will be a lot of merry making and sharing under the supervision of the in-charge. Once the programme is over the children are taken back to their respective orphanages in our college buses supervised by the in-charges.

Evidence of success:

The best evidence we have is the feedback given by the children themselves as well as the institutional heads. Another evidence is the smile we seen on the faces of these children which now we can see only in photographs. The student volunteers can vouch for the happiness they received by giving their love to these children.

Problems encountered:

As far as ‘smile’ is concerned we haven’t faced any serious problems. In the initial yeas, we might have faced a little problem in selecting and getting in touch with the right institutions. Another problem we still face is in getting the right count at the time of taking the children back. Although there is zero chance of any child getting lost, not getting the right count at times can create a lot of tension. This often happens as some children get mixed up with the students of other institutions

Recommendations:

1. We should suggest and encourage other institution too, to conduct similar programmes.
2. We should encourage our student volunteers to share their experience with other students as to promote the concept of service to the society.

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3. We solved the problem of getting the right count by keeping their own leader from the students of each institution. Hence that too, is a recommendation.