

**VENUE :- OPEN LEARNING SYSTEM, CHANDRASHEKHARPUR**

**NO. OF VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED :- 30**

**TIME :- 11:00AM - 1:00PM**

**DURATION :-2 HOURS**

Open Learning System is an institute accommodating specially-abled children, teenagers, adults and even middle aged people. It has a strength of about 40 students, whom it strives hard to provide a fairly standard education and all round development as well as care that parallels that of parents. After alighting from the bus in front of the school, the seniors asked us to divide ourselves according to the activities we were to perform once inside the hall with the children. Meanwhile the Permission letter was submitted to the Principal. We moved into the Hall assigned to us where all the children, the faculty members and some volunteers from another college were already sitting.

The single most striking thing about this institute unlike the previous visit, this institute even had middle-aged people enrolled and being taken care of. Some enthusiastic members of a ladies' club were also present there. The initial awkwardness was quickly over and the volunteers grew comfortable with the children at the school. After some initial handshakes and brief intros with the children, the volunteers filed up into various pre-planned groups and started assembling the material for the various activities planned earlier to be performed. The children, who already knew some of the seniors, curiously came to them to get to know the new faces. 10 minutes into the interaction, the various groups started the preparation for their specific tasks. Every group started to interact with groups of children to play with them and made them join the tasks. One of the children asked us to be allowed to sing at which we gave him one of the microphones already arranged there. He came to the front and beautifully sang a song. Our visit came to an end with the distribution of toffees and a group photograph with the children and the faculty. Throughout, the school staff were also very supportive and got involved with us. They were also happy to work along with our Project Saarthi. These teachers were the ones who had been for the children throughout the period of their struggle. The visit stood up to expectations. We finally left the school on a happy note with a promise to return to spread more smiles and contentment.



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