



Oriental Education Society's
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Adarsh Nagar, Andheri (W)

Report on Community Work (1) at Cheshire Home

(2nd Dec. 2024 to 14th Dec. 2024)

Introduction:

Cheshire Home, as the name suggests, began as a residential care service for persons with disabilities and continues to provide the same essential services today. The home currently supports 18 men with disabilities who lack any means of support. The residents receive free medical care, recommended diets, and nutritional food. They are also encouraged to pursue their hobbies and interests through recreational activities and workshops.

At the in-house workshop, residents are involved in creating handcrafted products such as handbags, pouches, candles, clay statues, and diyas (lamps) during Diwali. Additionally, they assist in chair caning, wheelchair maintenance, furniture repairs, and office paperwork. The products made by the residents are regularly displayed in exhibitions at the home as well as at external venues like schools, colleges, and offices. The home also prioritizes the education of younger residents and supports them in their learning. Recreational activities, both indoor and outdoor, are organized to promote physical fitness and engagement, with the help of staff, well-wishers, and student volunteers. These volunteers also arrange outings and picnics for the residents.

The community work held at Cheshire Home from 2nd Dec. 2024 to 14th Dec. 2024 was a tremendous success, offering a variety of engaging and uplifting activities. These events not only brought joy to the residents but also fostered community participation and support from the external community. The students of OCER F.Y.B.Ed. were divided into two groups.

Day 1: Sports Day

The event commenced with Sports Day, which was filled with excitement and enthusiasm. Several activities were organized to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and fun. The residents participated actively in the games, and the event proved to be a huge success, with everyone thoroughly enjoying the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Day 2: The week began with a *Disability Awareness & Solidarity March*, where our students accompanied children with disabilities from Jeevan Jyot Sanstha (ICICI Bank Junction) to Cheshire Home. This was followed by a street play performed by the students, which brought attention to key issues such as accessibility, education, and livelihood for persons with disabilities. Upon reaching Cheshire Home, the students participated in organizing a *Sports*

Day featuring indoor and outdoor games for children and adults with disabilities. Prizes were distributed to the winners, making it a joyful start to the week.

Day 3: Fancy Dress Competition

On the second day, a Fancy Dress Competition was held, where residents—both children and adults—dressed up as their favorite characters. The creativity displayed by the participants was remarkable, with costumes ranging from cultural icons to famous personalities. This competition not only entertained everyone but also encouraged self-expression, boosting the confidence of all those involved.

Day 4: An *Employment Camp* was held for deaf and mute students, where an expert panel, comprising individuals with special needs and expertise in their respective fields, explained various work opportunities. Additionally, a *Medical Camp* was organized to provide healthcare support.

Day 5: Drawing Competition for Children and Rangoli Competition for Parents

The third day focused on creativity. A Drawing Competition was organized for the children, encouraging them to express their imagination through art. Simultaneously, a Rangoli Competition was held for the parents, where they designed beautiful, colorful rangolis. Both competitions were well-received and showcased the artistic talents of the residents and their families.

Day 6: As part of the annual day celebrations, our students assisted in wrapping gifts and labeling items for future use. Later, they organized engaging activities for children in their classrooms, contributing to the festive atmosphere.

Day 7: Annual Day Celebration

The fourth day marked the Annual Day Celebration, the highlight of the week. The residents took great pride in showcasing their talents through various performances, including speeches and cultural programs. It was a heartwarming occasion that celebrated the achievements of the year and allowed everyone to reflect on the progress made. The event was a joyful experience for all involved.

Day 8: The students supported the children in a skill-building activity by helping them cut jute cloth for making jute bags. Others assisted teachers in classroom activities, ensuring a productive and collaborative day.

Day 9: Academic Classes by OCER Students

On the fifth day, academic classes were conducted by OCER students, who volunteered to teach English, Mathematics, and basic computer skills to the residents. The classes were interactive and engaging, providing the residents with valuable learning opportunities and fostering a sense of community and support.

Day 10: The final day featured creative activities planned by our students. A *Drawing and Coloring Contest* on the theme of fruits and vegetables was organized for children with disabilities from the daycare center and Cheshire Home's community outreach centers. The contest aimed to showcase their artistic talents and foster creativity.

Saturday (7th December 2024): Cultural Program

The week concluded with a Cultural Program on Saturday, 7th December, which was organized with the help of OCER students. These students assisted with makeup, costume wearing, and dance direction for the residents, making the cultural performances a grand success. The program was a beautiful celebration of music, dance, and drama, with each performance reflecting the dedication and talent of the participants. In addition, the students donated handkerchiefs to the residents as a token of care and affection.

Conclusion:

The community work held at Cheshire Home from 2nd December to 14th December 2024 was a resounding success. The week-long experience was both fulfilling and humbling for the F.Y. B.Ed. students of OCER. They cherished the opportunity to interact with and assist persons with disabilities, gaining valuable insights into their lives and challenges. The students expressed their gratitude to the college faculty for facilitating this meaningful experience, which allowed them to give back to the community and develop a deeper sense of empathy and responsibility.

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