

Sunnydale
Community Service Report
Class XI Cygnus

LEADS, Livelihood Education and Development Services, is an organization dedicated to providing educational aid to underprivileged children. It aims to help society and attain sustainable social development by teaching these children. It focuses not only on aiding the students in their education-based needs, but also in developing their morals and character by teaching them values. LEADS also has many helpful facilities for its students, such as the provision of meals and raincoats, amongst other utilities. It is run by Romina Dewan, who holds the position of Executive Director and is also the founder.

As part of the school's community service program, several students from Sunnydale, Class XI Cygnus volunteered at LEADS.

The chief activities were teaching the kids, from class 1 to 10, English and mathematics, as well as editing annual reports and preparing case studies about the children. Some volunteers also helped create educational resources such as by writing dialogues or essays for the kids to use as examples. Other than these tasks, they helped the LEADS staff with the event of Mr. Michael Symon's visit. He is a benefactor of LEADS and in preparation of his arrival, volunteers helped by preparing skits with the students and other props for the performances.

Different volunteers had different schedules, but most volunteers taught a class of 5 to 6 students for 2 hours, twice a week. Some volunteers taught more, such as Fariha who gave time at LEADS nearly five days a week. The group leader was Mondrita Iffat Rashid.

All the volunteers had a positive experience at LEADS. The volunteers who participated were:

1. Mondrita Iffat Rashid
2. Fariha Farhana Ahmed
3. Kazi Shehrin Ahsan
4. Sadia Hasan
5. Nabila Ahmed
6. K.M. Mahir Tajwar Bari
7. Ameera Fairouz

The seven students above participated and fulfilled their duties to their best at LEADS. The community service had impacts on the group members as individuals and they learned a lot from it. The individual reflections and opinions of the volunteers on this community service can be seen below:

Mondrita: "I feel like I learned as much from the kids at LEADS as they did from me. I learned that there is no excuse to not giving my best in everything. One of the girls I taught walked all the way from Hazaribagh every morning to go to school and LEADS, a distance of nearly two kilometres. I learned that my help is valuable and even a little effort can go a long way. I learned that there are people who are willing to work hard to change society, and that was truly inspiring. I have always enjoyed teaching and helping people but this experience showed me how necessary it is for everyone to give some effort."

Fariha: "My favourite thing about LEADS was the children because they were like angels. They enjoyed my presence. I spent all most all the days of the week there because I loved playing with them and being with them. I really enjoyed my time there. The kids were very respectful and appreciated me, and even those who I didn't teach were very polite. They loved me and I loved them as well. The change in me as a

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human being was for the better. I came to the realisation that although the kids were underprivileged, they were very eager to learn, talented, and quick. The only thing bringing them down was their financial situation, which is terrible. We are so privileged to be studying but we don't realise its value because it's completely handed over to us. I am very touched by the enthusiasm of the children to learn and I will definitely appreciate the things that I have and my parents for supporting me more. I will work harder to make it worthwhile. I got a chance to get involved deeply with the work of LEADS, such as writing the reports, which taught me a lot."

Shehrin: "My favourite thing about LEADS was talking and spending time with the students, even solving their fights with each other. They pay more attention to keeping the society well and protecting the environment than we do although we are more highly-educated. I don't think we can change ourselves the way we have and this has inspired me to care about society and the environment more. It was very fun teaching the students. It was a very memorable experience."

Sadia: "I definitely learned that patience is a virtue. I loved the kids at LEADS. Now that I know how difficult it is for teachers to take classes when students don't do their work properly, I'll probably try do my work on time."

Nabila: "My favourite thing about LEADS was how the kids respected us and showed interest in studying when we taught them. They enjoyed and made us feel loved. They were very sweet to us. Moreover, the teachers were very cooperative and generous, and took great care about our convenience and work. I now understand how our teachers feel when they teach us. As a person, I feel changed because I'm lucky to have met them and learnt that education is a must at all stages and in all situations. We should love and value it. There are so many people who work so hard only to be educated. This experience was completely different from any other because I've never handled so many kids at a time. It often got tiring but I enjoyed it. I learnt from this experience that patience is a very important part of life and to make kids study, great care and love is needed."

Mahir: "The thing I liked best about LEADS was the awesome idea of providing education to underprivileged kids. After doing this community service, I have changed as a person. I have more sympathy for these children and feel like I understand the world better."

Ameera: "My favourite thing about LEADS was how the students were so cooperative and friendly. Teaching at LEADS showed me a completely different world out there beside the one we live in. I learnt that spreading education is so important and how it deeply affects the lives of those kids. Most importantly, it reaffirmed the fact the knowledge is power."

Overall, all the volunteers learnt the positive impact their actions can have on society and how inspiring a small act of kindness, such as giving a few hours of our day, can be. As a group, they can all say this was a very valuable experience of their lives, and would love to volunteer again to help the world around them whenever they get the opportunity.