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Beyond the Walls: Working with Underprivileged Children and Visiting Their Homes

Introduction: Through Sunnydale, a team of us had been chosen to work with LEADS (Livelihood Education and Development Services), an exceptional institution, dedicated to positively impact and enrich the lives of underprivileged children, through the help of their skilled team of teachers. LEADS isn't just a place where children learn. It's a space where they are seen, heard and encouraged to dream and be more ambitious- despite the odds stacked against them. My experience with this remarkable foundation opened my eyes to the power of compassion, consistency, and community.

From Bare Floors to Bright Futures-



Teaching Shadhin

These children didn't have access to fancy desks, modern technology, or even their personal books. However, that didn't stop their curious minds to learn with passion. After their school hours, they would excitedly rush into, carrying their school bags with a wide grin on their faces as they greeted us. I assisted in

teaching English language and Mathematics to a Grade IV student, Shadhin. Although, he is notorious for his pranks and his tendency to not study, his simplicity and kindness touched my heart deeply. He would tell me about his loving family, his like-minded friends and his invigorating passion for football.

Slowly but surely, he began paying attention and could

successfully navigate through the problems and ask questions whenever he was stuck. Besides Shadhin, I taught **Amena** but for a shorter period of time. At the age of 7 years old, she was more responsible than most of the people I have ever known. I came to know she helped her parents in the house hold work.. She might have not been exceptionally well in her studies, yet I could see the glimmer of hope in her eyes, striving the best she can. Needless to say, I found great fulfillment in mentoring both of them. Both of their fathers are guard and mothers are maid servants.



With Amena during Home visit



Home Visit

A Deeper Understanding: Visiting their Homes

One of the most impactful aspects of my experience was the opportunity to visit the homes of some of the children. This visit helped us understand how they lived each day- crowded living spaces and limited access to basic needs. Yet, the love and hospitality we received from their families were truly amazing. Despite facing daily struggles, their commitment to their children's education by enrolling them in LEADS for their better future, was unwavering. These visits were truly eye-opening and a crucial part for my growth as well.

An Organisation that Lights the Path to a Brighter Future

LEADS, founded in 2007, is more than just a place of learning—it is a beacon of hope for underprivileged children. With compassion at its heart, it offers young brains who might not otherwise have access to these chances high-quality education, counselling, and mentoring. Every class teaches not only academic knowledge but also resilience, confidence, and the idea that aspirations are achievable. The committed core team, consisting of Romina Dewan- Founder Executive Director, Afroza Akter- Project Officer, Hamida Rahman- Teacher, Padma Rani Dey- Teacher, Afsana Parvin- Teacher, puts in endless effort to close the gap between opportunity and potential, fostering a secure and caring atmosphere where each child is treated with respect. They demonstrate that every child, regardless of circumstances, can climb, succeed, and thrive with the correct support.

Why Foundations Like This Matter-

With a mission to break the cycle of poverty through learning, LEADS creates safe, inclusive spaces where children can thrive academically and emotionally. They just don't teach children how to read and write- they restore hope, dignity and belief that their future can be different. Many of the children come from families of facing financial hardship, instability, or social exclusion so for them, education is often a faraway dream. LEADS steps in to bridge that gap by providing essential academic support, creative learning opportunities and basic learning materials.

Final Reflections-

Volunteering with LEADS has been more than an act of service- it has reshaped how I felt about education. Through every lesson taught, every story learned, and every home visited, I came to a conclusion that every single one of them deserves the right to quality education, and rather than treating it as a privilege, it should be a necessity. All they need is a chance and LEADS is providing them that. As I walk away from this chapter, I carry with me not just memories but a renewed perspective to keep advocating for education, empathy, and equal opportunities for all. Last but not least, I will always remain immensely grateful to LEADS and Sunnydale for this eye-opening opportunity.