

# GRACE

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## INTRODUCTION

We are team Grace from DRS international school who hope to achieve two out of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals which are Quality education (Goal 3) and Gender Equality (Goal 4) and also increase confidence in females . The inspiration for this project is due to the wide gap between the literacy trends among men and women in India and the pain they suffer from.

### Action

#### Phase I

We wanted to target a group of young girls who would actually need this help, and what better than an orphanage of 40 girls where oppression society and inferiority complex is experienced the most . We asked them what they required and things that would make them happy and accordingly designed activities and performing arts including freestyle , classical dance and Carnatic and world music workshops along with academic help which would help them to open up and overcome their inferiority complex and fears. It took us about 10 -12 classes for this.

#### Phase II

We started our classes and gave the girls a choice to choose activities that they want to be a part of as per their interests . In the beginning the girls were very shy and timid but we knew that there was definitely a spark in them and with this hope we started training and helping them.

#### Phase III

By the 6/7 class we could certainly see a difference in their behaviour which was a great booster for all of us, but to actually measure their overall growth at the end of this 7 months programme , we planned to host a talent night show displaying the skills they have acquired during the course and the academic progress would be measured by a comparison of their previous and latest mark sheets.

#### Phase IV

We planned to raise funds , collaborate with different NGOs and do flash mobs to get the required financial aid for hosting the talent night.

1 We were successful in gathering a free venue for the kids to perform.

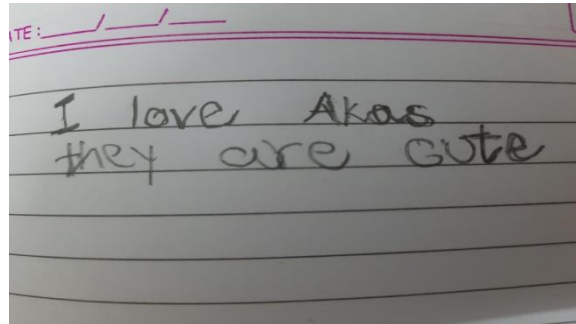
2 We planned to set up exhibition stalls for the sponsors through which there many mid size firms who were ready.

4 We collaborated with a local NGO called Sakhi, helping the survivors of rape and domestic violence to earn their living. They were ready to setup handicraft stall in our event.

5 People who could not teach or volunteer had helped us by donating resources in general and required for the talent night.

#### Phase V

We have created a social media “grace\_mahz” through which we hoped to receive help. Volunteers would come onboard to teach, hand out donations or just meet the children and spend time with them. Our aim is not to achieve these goals by ourselves but to encourage other privileged people to be sensitive to fellow beings and reach out to help them. We believe that this project would be more effective if it extends more than a give 7 months duration so our juniors and now the 100 plus volunteers would be taking up this project even after we leave. We also have found few mid-sized private companies willing to help these girls as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. But unfortunately this couldn't be put to action due to the corona outbreak. But we surely have plans to resume the project.



#### Present Situation

The event - talent night show (fare) was supposed to be on 18 April 2020. Due to the present unprecedented Corona crisis, we had to reschedule our event. We are virtually connecting and communicating with our 10 sponsors and our 100 volunteers who are ready to help us. We are also enquiring about the well-being of the girls and have also planned to start virtual classes to keep the chain going.

#### Impact

To portray the improvement we had scheduled a talent night where they showcase their talents and for their academics, we compare their previous academics reports to their present reports. We have also seen a positive change and growth in the girl's behaviour and also observed that they have become more confident and happy. Girls who were very shy to have even a basic conversation with us, now on the other hand ask us for help and strongly voice their opinions. This above picture note shows a letter which a 10 year old girl gave us before the corona outbreak.

#### Knowledge Gained

Throughout our journey we and the girls faced a lot of problems. But all these problems and limitations only united us and made GRACE stronger. We managed to scratch out a lot of our limitations like the communication gap, language barrier etc which day by day made the girls more confident and content.

#### Closing Remarks

Grace not only helped the girls to eliminate their fears but also has proved to be a blessing for us. We acquired time management, teamwork skills, and learned to be open-minded and patient during the course. This journey has truly been an experience that we 5 would cherish for a lifetime and definitely use these skills in the future. We sincerely thank our mentors; Mrs. Abha Hanspal, Ms .Janet, Mrs. Santhoshi Kumari and the head of the orphanage ( Mr Victor ) for their constant support and valuable feedback . We thank everyone who has been associated with GRACE .This is just the beginning...we have a long way to go .