

THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
INDRAPRASTHA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

*REPORT OF THE TWO DAY OUTREACH PROGRAMME WITH  
VISITING STUDENTS OF FAB INDIA SCHOOL, BALI, PALI, RAJASTHAN  
11-12 MARCH, 2019*

*By Sandra Joseph (BA Hons Socio. 1st Year) & Apoorva Srivastava ( BA Hons Socio. IInd Year)*

The Department of Sociology had chosen the theme of 'Adolescents, Gender and Education' for our community outreach plans for the year 2018-2019. In this context, we had a wonderful opportunity to interact with a team of students of class XI from Fab India students who were hosted by our college on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of March. The following is a report of the sessions we had with them.

**11 March, 2019**

The First and Second year students of the Department had an interactive session with four grade XI girl students of the FabIndia school and two of their teachers. Located in Rajasthan, The FabIndia School was started in 1992 in Bali, Rajasthan and has over fifty percent of female students today. With special emphasis on female education, the school aims to impart holistic education to its students with focus on extra-curricular activities as well as academics. The fact that they have come all the way from Rajasthan perhaps, in itself is a testimony as to how important they regard exposure to be.

The discussion took various courses: from social issues and gender-specific issues to environmental concerns. The necessity for education to be materialized in solving everyday problems was reiterated in the discussion. We discussed about innovative ways to make classroom learning, particularly teaching of the Social Sciences more interesting at the school level.

The students were articulate and unintimidated at being active participants in this discussion. It was evident that they were confident young girls who had formed a rapport with us in a short duration. A lot of us felt that their confidence is something that we lacked when we had had been of their age. They have already mapped out what they would want to do in their future with their interests ranging from entrepreneurial aspirations to medicine and healthcare.

The students had an interest for dramatics, public speaking and dancing. They also expressed an interest in conveying social issues to masses via creative media such as theatre and singing. 'I loved how the kids were enthusiastic, telling us what all activities they did in their school and how they helped in making the community a

better place to live in', Shatarupa of First Year recalled. 'The students' melded theory and practice very well', said Riya, a second year student.

The Department's students recounted their experience of Delhi- the initial hardships and fear, the social relationships we formed, and how all of it has transformed us.

The discussion ended after an hour, following a cup of tea and jovial chit-chat.



### **12 th March, 2019**

The second session with the students from the Fab-India School, took place in the afternoon on 12th March 2019. The discussion was review based in nature. The school students had been actively attending various cultural programs in Kirdaar(the annual fest of the dramatic society of IPCW) and had also attended a lecture of Environmental issues that was organized by the North-East society of the college. The students raved about the high quality of production in the dramas. In particular, they were blown away by an Improv show.

Their excitement was evident from their glowing reviews of the programs and their enthusiasm to watch more such programs in future. We shared how the college provides a platform for different kinds of talent to develop through participation in numerous societies and programs. Apart from this, we also talked of the forums in college that provide a suitable environment for learning about different disciplines and a chance to discuss various intellectual topics relating to them. We talked of how different school and

college life are and how the education system prevailing in both could be more beneficial.

The school students shared how being part of these different programs and having interaction with the Sociology students helped them gain new insights about their education, environment and society. The students particularly emphasized how they learned to be more confident and to interact more openly from each other. Everyone commented on how each of us is initially a little scared to interact but once we start to do so, we find that all of us have something or other in common.

The school students expressed their desire to be able to participate in plays revolving around political and socio-economic issues like those that were showcased in Kirdaar. Their will and determination regarding giving back to the society was also very evident. The team from Fab-India school also expressed their satisfaction with the accommodations and their desire to visit again. The session ended with discussions on taking the initiative further and hopefully meeting each other again.

