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## **DONATION CAMP 2021**

Akshar is a self-funded project which comes under the National Service Scheme (NSS), Maharaja Agrasen College. However, to assist in the education and development of the children whom the volunteers passionately pledge to teach and ensure the smooth running of the project, a one-day Donation Camp was organised and set up in the college by the Akshar team, under the effective guidance of our Faculty Coordinator Dr. Charu Arya, on 1 st November 2021.

In Akshar's short history, the donation camp has almost become the signature event of the project. Every year, everyone involved with the project waits for the festival of Diwali to arrive, as it is around this time that the Donation Camp is essentially held. The amount of preparation and planning that goes into the successful organization of this event, supersedes that of any other event. The participation of almost the entire college, students and teachers alike, makes it one of the grandest events of not just Akshar or NSS but the entire college.

This time, it was a little different than usual because of the lack of regular college and hence the college students. However, that had no impact whatsoever on the enthusiasm of the team, nor on the purpose and preparation that went into the whole event.



The preparation started almost a week before the event. The team members that could not join physically were an integral part through virtual meets where the planning and discussions took place. The volunteers collected things like waste coloured papers, ribbons, pieces of clothes, old unused water drinking glasses, buttons, plastic bottles, and other things that could be used to decorate earthen lamps, or diyas, and other artefacts. Since AKSHAR runs only 3 days a week, the team had to put in extra efforts to ensure that everything was ready on time, yet not compromising on quality. The dedicated team of volunteers worked extremely hard to help the students in making all the artefacts and guiding them, and ensured that all the work was finished in just three days: 27, 28 and 29 October.



The Donation Camp was a big success for the complete family of Akshar: all the volunteers, the Faculty Coordinator Dr. Charu Arya, and all the students of Akshar. Children were praised by everyone for the work they did so beautifully.

This event not just helped us raise money and collect needed items for the children but also ignited a sense of confidence, self-appreciation, dedication and hard work into them. For the volunteers, it was a perfect opportunity to bond with everyone in the team, and get a sense of the noble work they are doing; and perhaps have sweet memories to look back upon which have become rare in these pandemic times.





## WORKSHOP ON SELF - DEFENCE

Keeping in mind the importance of knowing how to defend oneself in case the need arises, a workshop on self-defence was organised for the students of AKSHAR on 11 th October 2021, on the occasion of International Day of the Girl Child. The workshop, which commenced at 2:30 p.m and went on upto 4:30 p.m, had Mr. Yuvraj Gurung as the guest instructor, and was held in the Auditorium Lobby of Maharaja Agrasen College.

After taking the attendance, all the students were taken in a queue to the venue for the day. A total of 57 students were present that day, along with the 19 AKSHAR volunteers. A team of volunteers was prepared a week before the workshop to make sure that all preparations were in place. From making all the prerequisite arrangements for the guests so that they can conduct the workshop smoothly, to making the venue occasion-ready, to bringing in refreshments for everyone, everything was meticulously planned beforehand and executed with dedication and teamwork on the day of the workshop.

Mr. Yuvraj arrived at around 2:45 p.m. with three of his colleagues, before which all the students were already seated on pre-laid carpets on the floor. The workshop began with a brief introduction and welcome of Mr. Yuvraj, after which Dr. Charu Arya, the faculty coordinator of AKSHAR, welcomed all the guests with lovely saplings in beautiful pots. She also went on to explain to the guests about the AKSHAR project.



The workshop was very interactive as well as entertaining throughout, along with the immense knowledge about the topic that all the participants gained. The guest instructor taught about the vulnerable body parts that could be attacked in self-defence in emergency situations, and was happy to respond to certain situations in which one might need to defend themselves, that the students and the volunteers came up with. The workshop came to an end at about 4:00 p.m. Mr. Yuvraj was awarded the Best Resource Person Award by Dr. Charu ma'am, and all the guests were thanked immensely for taking time out of their busy schedule and coming so far to teach something valuable, in the closing speech given by ma'am.



The event ended at around 4:30 p.m. when the students were given refreshments and they left the college with smiles on their faces and important lessons learnt. The same goes for the volunteers, who celebrated the success of the first event of AKSHAR post the arrival of the pandemic, with a few photographs and a lot of joy.



## **CULTURAL COMPETITION 2022**

Akshar, the educational project of NSS, Maharaja Agrasen College successfully conducted Cultural Competition event on 31/01/2022. About 33 children and 15 student volunteers attended the event. Three competitions namely dance, drawing and poem were organised. The event was organised in the wide and green ground of the college.

Children gave mesmerizing dance rendition on bollywood and haryanvi songs. For drawing competition they were left free to draw their heart out. Drawing sheet and colours were provided to the participants. They drew Indian flag, scenery, planet earth etc and filled them with beautiful colours, giving life to their drawings.





