

## **ChakkePeKaksha**

### **A workshop on education of street children of Calcutta- ByEktara**

A workshop on education of street children of Kolkata was organized by MSW students of IISWBM on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. The workshop was conducted by the participating NGO, Ektara. They talked about their outlook and demonstrated their activities on educating street children of Kolkata. They also elaborated their idea of the caption “ChakkePeKaksha”. Ektara is a registered trust started its journey in 2011 who works on impoverished families in the slum areas of Topsia and TiljalaOf Kolkata. They are moving forward with a vision to provide high quality holistic education to enable community transformation.

The workshop started at 12 noon of the day. It was inaugurated by the then director Dr. R.G. Dharchakravarty in the presence of the Registrar, HOD MSW, students and the representatives of Ektara Trust. In the welcome address the director highlighted the importance of this institute in preparing and training the committed students of MSW programme to become leaders in professional social welfare field to serve the societies’ most oppressed and depressed human. The registrar in his speech stated the long history of the institute in the education of professional social welfare.

The HOD of MSW highlighted in her speech the importance of the growing need for trained manpower for social work in different social spheres. She also emphasized the importance of understanding and interaction between the MSW students and different NGO’s through workshop, discussions, seminars and internships.

The representatives of the Ngo Ektara introduced themselves and described their various activities in the field of education, health and hygiene and community engagements. They told that Ektara’s aim of providing holistic education to all its beneficiaries was successfully achieved through the various projects of education programmes. Regular classes with proper aids, tools and resources were used by teachers across all projects to ensure everychild was given a chance to learn and grasp at their own pace. Digital learning classes on the smart board along with tablet based learning enabled children perform better.

In the workshop they mainly exposed their activities in the field of education through power point presentations, posters and snap shots of their educational activities. The representatives demonstrated that how their teachers use smart boards in their teaching procedure. The important phenomenon was that they exhibited on the screen their Mobile School which is nothing but a cart on wheel that can be used as a classroom. This mobile school in their conception is ChakkePeKaksha. The interesting and useful feature of it is that it has extendable blackboards and educational games that can be installed everywhere e.g. on sidewalks, squares, Parks and slums of the city. Mobile school seeks out street and slum children in their own environment and thus creates positive meeting places where the child is unconditionally accepted

and respected. The idea of mobile school is to reach out to a larger number of children in the community. Ektara is the first partner of mobile school in India. The state of the art mobile school is designed by Belgian organization called “Mobile School”.

A useful and significant discussion was also held at the end between the students and the representatives of EKTARA regarding improvement and spreading their project ChakkePeKaksha and matters relating to their educational programmes. The workshop ended with a vote of thanks from both the sides. The representatives of Ektara in their speech of thanks stated that they are grateful to the authority of the institute for giving them a chance of organizing the workshop in the institute and exposing them with their activities before the august gathering including the socially conscious professional social welfare students. They expressed their willingness to get the institute as its valued partner so that we can work together and make a positive difference of our environments around to a more workable, peaceful and happy one.

Some moments during this event:

