

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600034

Report on

The Christmas visit by LSU Members

To share the joy of Christmas, the Students Union along with Women's Forum-FLOWS set on a visit to meet the less privileged members of the society on 21st of December 2016. A dynamic group of 15 students and 4 staff members including the union members, the dean of students and the dean of women students left from college around 3:30 pm in a mini bus.

Our first destination was a juvenile home for boys near Kilpauk. Most of us, visiting a juvenile home for the first time, were anxious as to how the children would react to outsiders. But we were reassured by the staff that this is a home for children who required care and protection and there who were in conflict with law. The place had around 12 children, most of them in their teens. We entertained them by singing few carols and to express gratitude, a few children in turn sang songs for us too. They were very vibrant children who mingled with our students very well and some even enquired about the admission procedures of our college. We spend around 45 minutes there. We shared Christmas cake and prayed for these children to be able to walk around freely in society, while obeying the law and being models to the society.



Union members interacting with the children in the juvenile home

Next, we went to MITHRA - a home for the specially-abled, in Anna Nagar. It was started 40 years ago by an Australian nun. Our Dean shared a few memories of that place while serving

there many years ago. We were welcomed by inmates. The joy of Christmas was shared by singing carols to which they responded well and then our staff took the responsibility of entertaining everyone by singing songs which were enjoyed immensely. We also conversed with them and shared the festive love of Christmas and spent almost an hour with them. We mingled with them so well that one among them was ready to come along with us.



Students entertaining the inmates of MITHRA

Our final visit was to ARUWE, an NGO working to support the destitute elderly, women and children. Unlike previously visited places, they had no well-established building to accommodate the destitute. ARUWE demonstrated that when the heart is in the right place, one does not need the backing of big organizations - they can even work in crammed up apartments. We were initially taken to a hall on the first floor of a building located at Solai Amman Koil Street in Ayanavaram where the elderly were eagerly waiting for us. This time, besides carols by students, we had special performances by our Dean of Students. Through his mellifluous he sang an old song, captivated us and made the elderly women and men nostalgic. We had two more staff members Prof. Vincent & Prof. Josphine Priya from the department of social work and human excellence respectively joining us there. After meeting the elderly, we went to the second floor of the building where ARUWE takes tuition classes for children from the neighborhood that do not have the benefit of receiving quality education with well-qualified teachers. After carols, the kids entertained us with dance and songs.

At ARUWE, we spent a little over an hour and left the place around 7.30 pm. We reached college around 8 pm, thanking each other for the amazing experience of sharing a life-time memorable moment of having spent in the most meaningful way. "This year we had a meaningful Christmas Celebration".



Staff members entertaining the inmates of ARUWE



Students entertaining the children in ARUWE tuition center