



Community projects ,not just the icing on the cake

The “whole” idea behind community projects at TOS



Key objectives



- To fulfill the CBSE agenda – life skill education, sexuality education, and real life orientation.
- Schools core responsibility is to develop “whole system thinking” by demonstrating that society consists of groups and sub groups but they are all part of one universe.
- To develop the attitude that whole system development benefits all, hence impacting minds for future.
- To provide the whole picture of the society our students live in .
- To develop an attitude of gratitude (for what they have got):develop respect for people unlike us.
- To see the connection and interdependence between social situations .
- To help them learn skills to relate to people from different social backgrounds.
- To provide experiential learning programs, with the “community as the laboratory” for real life learning lessons in actual situations.
- Make learning “REAL”, provide a space to take their learning beyond the four walls of the class. Integrated project approach to our curriculum-SSC, math ,language, art, economics, critical thinking ,analysis and.....
- To help students develop communication-both verbal and non verbal skills.
- Provoke questions that challenge our assumptions and minimize our prejudices and stereotypes .
- Prepares the Orchid team for up coming RTE agenda.

Studies have shown.....



- “Yes, reading and math are important. But what matters most is what kind of human beings are reading the books and doing the math!”
- Young people are often the ones who renew the CONSCIENCE of a nation.
- When students experience the theories, the learning becomes relevant.
- Rich educational experiences will enable our students to become active citizens in a democratic society.
- NASSCOM talks about employability of graduate students going higher when they have had a social exposure.
- Graduate schools tie up with Teach For India in a variety of ways, offering admission deferrals, assistance with loans and scholarships, recognizing Teach For India as valid work experience, and even reserving seats for Fellows.



Core agenda

- To ground learning
- To resonate the power of relevance
- To build social capital
- To build leaders
- Create civic habits of the heart
- Re-instate the courage to care
- Allow democracy to become a habit as we go back and forth between living it and studying it, over and over.

Student Voices: Some perspectives



Class V-Twinning with a neighboring school.

- “They could understand our language, but we couldn’t understand theirs-their language was very rich! “
- “I then began to feel comfortable-because I connected with people.”
- “People matter, not place-we can make ourselves comfortable anywhere.”
- “ It is not necessary to speak English or study in a big school to be educated.”
- “When we understand people, we don’t judge them eg- if we go other countries, we’ll try and understand instead of insulting.
- “When we grow up maybe we won’t have fights between rich and poor..because we learnt that we are the same”.

Some realizations



Class VI -Looking beyond the world as we know it- building awareness, sensitization and partnerships with TARA mobile crèche.

-I learnt that everyone is equal. I realized that they knew a lot of things and had a lot of knowledge too. If I become a builder or politician, I would see to it that there are crèches in every construction site. All the citizens of Pune should encourage builders to help these children of laborers.
-They spoke different languages, but still we were able to understand each other.
-I had expected that those children would not be able to interact with us. Most of all I expected to be quite bored. But I was proven wrong. Over there I learnt that all of us are equal and we can play and interact with different people we have never met. Due to this experience I have found out how other people live and the difficulties they have. ...all construction sites should have such centers.”

...and some profound clarity



Class IX-Comprehensive sexuality education(CSE)Visit to adoption homes, BSSK and SOFOSH

You can expect from us.....

- “We will handle and discuss sexuality in a mature way.”
- “An understanding that there is more than one way of looking at situations.”
- “We will hear your perspective about our life and decisions as well”.
- “Studies are an important part of our life. We will try and balance work and fun in a responsible manner.”

And, we expect from adults.....

- That you understand the need for having CSE in school.
- Be open about discussing sexuality and questions related to it at home.
- Understand our feelings and support us whenever we go through problems.
- Understand that falling in love is not *bad*. Help us strike a balance



“Should I speak in Hindi or English?”



DECISION MAKING & EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

“People matter, not place-we can make ourselves comfortable anywhere”



INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS & CREATIVE THINKING

“Thank you for wearing a seat belt. You deserve to be appreciated!”



SELF CONFIDENCE & SELF AWARENESS