

Jijivisha



Jijivisha is a social outreach cell that was set up in the college to inculcate in the students, the value of social responsibility and concern for the lesser privileged. The principal, Dr.JS.Negi authorised its formation in the month of July, 2015 and notified the group of teachers who would be its members.

Dr CB Mehta

Dr Meena Sharma

Dr Kamayani Bisht

Mrs Sapna Verma

Mrs Sachi Sood

Mr Muneet Lakhanpal

Miss Shuchi Sharma

After an initial introduction to the students regarding the aim of the cell in various class rooms and by word of mouth, the first enrolment saw 27 student volunteers. The first meeting of the cell was held at 1:00 pm in room no. 15. Dr Kamayani Bisht, Ms Sachi Sood, and Miss Shuchi Sharma interacted with the volunteers to orient them towards the spirit of social concern.

Student Representatives were elected to lead the activities:

Kaushal Mongta

Swati Thakur

Kavi Sood

Ideas were solicited and discussed. It was decided that the volunteers would reach out to the patients at the Cancer Hospital, IGMCH, Shimla. They would go there every morning in

pairs (decided by way of a monthly roaster) to assist the patients and their attendants. (Permission for the same was sought by Dr Kamayani Bisht from the Director of the Cancer Wing.) Students would visit the Shishu ashram, home for orphans and abandoned infants to play with them, teach them the alphabet and basic art and rhymes. (Permission for this was taken by Dr Kamayani Bisht from the Department of Child welfare). Visits to the Old age home at Vasantpur would be organised so that students could spend time with the inmates there.

A flash Mob was organised in the college compound to make the other students aware about the existence and working of Jijeevisha. After the Flash Mob, we saw an additional enrolment of ten students.

Activities:

August-November 2015

February-May 2016

July- November 2016

Students helped in preparation and distribution of breakfast and tea in the hospital canteen and at the distribution counter. One student was deputed to assist at the blood collection centre from 9:00 to 11:00 every day. Any patient or attendant who was in need of assistance regarding filling up of forms, buying and fetching medicine or others daily need items, could contact the two students who were on duty on that particular day. For this, the students reported to the reception daily and they would be called for assistance on need bases.

October, 2015: Visit to the Shishu Ashram, Shimla

Dr Kamayani Bisht, Mrs Sachi Sood and Kavi Sood visited the Shishu Ashram to find out how the cell could help them. Since the Ashram houses infants, too many student visitors can't be allowed to enter the crib. The volunteers were allowed to meet the older children in the compound to play with them and to interact with them. We were told that we could contribute in whatever manner we deemed fit. Seeing the conditions of the place, it was decided that we would get quilts for the 13 children there. The room was too cold for the toddlers, so we decided to buy a carpet and a room heater. The older kids wore ill fitting footwear without any shoes. So we decided to buy them shoes and socks. Woolens for the infants were also a requirement. Cerelac for the infants and dry fruits and fruits for the older ones were welcome. The Teacher members of the Cell contributed money to buy these things for the Shishu Ashram.

Dr Kamayani Bisht: Rs 12,000

Ms Sapna Verma: Rs 5000

Ms Sachi Sood: Rs 5000

13 quilts, A pillar heater, Wall to wall carpet, Shoes and Socks, Cerelac, and Biscuits were bought for the children. Dr Kamayani Bisht visited the ashram on a fortnightly basis to deliver fruits. The Ashram was shifted from its original site to a new place in October 2016. We could not visit them thereafter.

It was planned that Jijeevisha would house a collection centre for clothes that were not used at home, for surplus blankets and shoes that we didn't need but were in good condition, to be contributed to the DC's distribution scheme. Repeated letters were sent to the DC's office to seek permission but since, there was no response, we had to distribute whatever clothes we had collected to the labourers and their children.

20th October, 2016. Old age Home

Dr Kamayani Bisht, along with 9 students visited the Old age home to spend time with the inmates. We took fruits, juices and confectionary goods to share with them. Money for this (Rs 6000) was contributed by teacher members of the cell and some other members of the staff. The students spent the whole day, narrating stories and listening to their stories, singing and dancing with the old people. We helped with lunch and tea and shared what we had taken for them. The smile on their faces was an inspiration for us to visit them again...and again. A few student members who belong to the Sunni region, promised to go there more frequently, since it is company that the inmates seek. They have visited the home on four occasions since then.

Jijeevisha has been able to bring students face to face with harsher possibilities of existence. It has succeeded in inculcating a sense of empathy for those who are less fortunate and are suffering physical and emotional pain. The urgency that the students now feel towards their social responsibility is heart warming. After their visits to the Cancer Hospital, each child reported a deep sense of satisfaction at having been of some use to his/her environment. There was a realization that our privileged lives are a blessing ...and that we owe it to many others. The old age home was an experience that brought our students closer to their own grandparents and they understood how important it was to look after the elders in our lives. Each narrative of pain that was shared, was a lesson for life.