



Oasis Dream India Camp

Democratic Freedom Movement in India

*a project undertaken by **Oasis Movement***



Given freedom & happiness, children learn tall values.

DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION



***What is Democracy?
What is Education?***



*What happens to Children
in autocratic environment?*



***Can Democracy heal
the wounds of hurt kids?***



*How much can a span of week
change teenagers for better?*



***Can being Democratic
change us as human beings too?***



*How Love is the source
for everything good
including Democracy?*



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Dream India Camp



**ENJOY
LEARN
CREATE
TOGETHER**



Oasis Dream India Camp

Democratic Freedom Movement in India: A microcosm

“It’s so ridiculous, that those who dirty the toilets look down upon those who clean the toilets!! This must change!”

– It wasn’t a Gandhi who pronounced this, nor a profound social activist. It is a 12 year old expressing his angst in front of a community of 100 other kids and 20 odd adult educators. The freedom displayed by this young kid is ironic, especially when he represents a country which is struggling to carve its freedom from a society gripped into perpetual divides on the basis of caste, economic background. **Is it possible for a youngster to rebel and challenge the notions of such a stubborn community?**

Enthused by this spirit of ‘dignity of labour’, a 9 year old, the youngest around, complained that despite his willingness to share his responsibility he was discounted from the job of cleaning the toilet because he was ‘too young’. He found it insulting. He protested that it was unfair & discriminatory. The teacher confessed her mistake and genuinely apologized to him. **Is it possible for young minds to learn being responsible and fair even if adults try otherwise? Is it possible for boys to learn that doing one’s job is not gender-centric or age-centric? Especially in a society that nurtures gender discrimination from a young age as part of defending its culture?**

“How can you reach the school an hour late? How can you afford to waste our time?” This must be a school teacher reprimanding a scared little student for missing punctuality, as is the usual image that fills our mind, right? Well, it isn’t. This is a 15 year old student representative fearlessly questioning one of the senior officials of state education department in front of the entire assembly. The officer was wise, sensitive human. He accepted his mistake magnanimously and set an example for other adults. **Is it possible for Indian kids to unhesitatingly question or confront their authority figures and for adult teachers /officers to turn humble learners in a school? Especially when the feudal mindset in a major section of Indian society has also influenced the prevalent Indian education system?**



Oasis Dream India Camp ***Democratic Freedom Movement in India: A microcosm***

Unbelievable, right?
Not normal, isn't it?

Well, this is no fiction.
These are actual instances recorded.

The scene is a summer camp at Oasis. Initially known Summerhill camp, today it is one of the most loved programs of children in India! A perfect space for all young, adult or old who wish to taste and explore the impact of Democratic Education in a small span of 7-8 days! Today, known as Oasis Dream India camp or Friendship Camp, this experimental model inspired by Summerhill school, has become the niche project of the organization.

With more than 60 model camps across the country and more than 4000 beneficiaries since 2012 which include diverse socio-economic backgrounds including tribal and rural communities, tribal and rural population belts, young girls, conflict zone as Kashmir region; Oasis DIC has passed all trials with flying colours. The impact has been powerful and imminent, with all witnesses including non government as well as Government departments getting convinced of the influence of democratic education in the overall character building of children.

Oasis Dream India camps have today carved a philosophical ideology, a road map as well as set a benchmark for educationists and visionaries in the country of transforming the education system in a holistic and integrated manner. It's just a matter of time.



An Overview

Oasis Dream India Camps also popularly known as Freedom Camps were launched in 2012. *The philosophy of Dream India Camp (DIC) is inspired by the principles of Freedom and Happiness of Summerhill School, UK.*

Oasis firmly believes that all teenagers and youths are good and uniquely talented. They are always very eager to learn important things about life. However, the evils of comparison, competition, and cramming suffocate their tremendous creativity. If given the right environment full of freedom, fun, and respect, these teenagers bloom in their unique ways.

In the complete environment of freedom, it is amazing to witness how a diverse group of children, seemingly low on self-confidence and self-esteem, is transformed into a responsible and soulful community. Within just over a week of time children's hidden talents emerge seamlessly, they learn to live in the community, learn to bring out creative solutions to complex problems, and simultaneously create a better world and the most importantly learn to be happy.

During all 7 days- about 18 hours daily, children are engaged in mentally, physically and emotionally developing activities/sessions. Daily affirmations in Star Assembly for children's character traits serve as a catalyst for bringing out the uniqueness and positive qualities of each and every child. Through a variety of non-academic, life oriented and creative topics children tend to find their deep interests and develop a love for life-learning topics and interest in becoming responsible individuals.

The parliamentary system enables them to question, empowers them to stand up for what is right and they learn the art of decision making. They learn to resolve their own issues in a very creative and mature way & find solutions for their own problems.

FREEDOM..!

JOY...!!



Henry Readhead (V. Principal, Summerhill School, U.K.) visited Oasis and was happy to see Freedom & Happiness for children in action.

RESPECT...!!



HAPPINESS...!!



The Philosophy

What do you mean by **Leader**? It doesn't only mean political leaders. Here you will have a chance to solve the problems of the citizens of our country & make this country the way you want it. The way you want your dream country to be, the way you actually want India to be. So here you will create a model & when you go out of this campus after 8 days you will have to make the same kind of country.

FREEDOM

Children can grow maximum if they experience an atmosphere of freedom. Imposing discipline or rules is deterrent and makes them fearful / dishonest.

Disciplining comes from an underlying paradigm – that children are incapable of taking right choices if given freedom. Framing rules for them, takes away their opportunity to understand the need for rules and voluntary willingness to set and follow rules in their life. With this lacuna, the obvious result is that the child either abides rules fearing consequences or breaks rules and avoids consequences by lying. Neither aids their growth.

At Dream India camp, children frame their own rules and follow it too. So far, they have always proven, that on their own, their list is always more thoughtful than if adults had charted it. 4-5 categories and 4-5 rules in each!!!! Plus, adds the benefit of zero supervision by adults. That's surely such a relief.

RESPONSIBILITY

If entrusted with freedom, children are capable of solving their problems creatively. It also empowers their independence, decision-making ability and sense of responsibility.

At DIC, there are instances where children break rules or create difficult situations. But then, they are so empowered due to the trust expressed in them, they have always come out with creative and responsible solutions. Including, seeking the help of adults voluntarily, when posed with complexity.

LOVE & HAPPINESS

Create atmosphere of love & joy and promote fairness & equality

Criticism or shouting or using labels to address kids is strongly discouraged at our camps. Children are empowered to bring up complaints against any elder who miss this value. Same is the case with being fair and treating all children equal during regular classes.

Honestly, at DIC, it's the adults who fear the consequences of their behaviour more than the kids. Behaving out of general tendencies is allowed & tolerated in the world outside if you are a person at authority- position especially teachers and parents. Here, fairness & equality ensures that elders behave with equal responsibility that you expect children to follow.

We have had examples where teachers were called in by students for using cell phones during regular classes, or humorous instances of teachers rushing to reach on time, lest the kids complained.



Key Principles

- 1. Every child is good without exception.**
- 2. The School & Teacher/Facilitator is for child; the child is not for the teacher or school. (It is failure of school if a child doesn't want to go to school or attend classes.)**
- 3. The Goal of Life and so Education is to work happily and find joy.**
- 4. Learning is always a voluntary choice; one can't force children to learn in a creative way. If we want a child to attend class, it is our responsibility to make it interesting and meaningful to the child.**
- 5. Education should be not just development of intellect, but development of emotional intelligence too. Also, Education is to bring out whatever is already hidden within children, and not to stuff or cram things.**
- 6. Children thrive and grow the most in the environment of complete freedom. Imposed discipline and guilt makes children fearful and dishonest about their feelings.**
- 7. The role of Teacher/Facilitator is to enjoy and affirm children, to create an environment of freedom and to support and fulfill children's requirements for growth.**
- 8. Given freedom & opportunity, children are capable to sort out their problems on their own and that too, creatively.**
- 9. A very vital responsibility of parents is to nurture independence of a child and actually believe that child is capable of doing his/her own things.**



Key Objectives

EACH KID is positively affirmed in the areas of Self-discipline, Self-Leadership & Governance, Independence, Creativity & Responsible Freedom – **their happiness is evident.**

They are overflowing with delight & confidence due to their achievements. All become brand ambassadors of Democratic Education.

Teachers & elders witness & shift their paradigms about the amazing strength of children's democracy and the exciting community life ensured by the decisions through Parliament.

Young Leaders are recognized and long term support system for empowering them further is provided.



Camp Module

The camp content depends on children!!

CHOICE OF SUBJECTS:

Children have choices of 30-40 subjects/activities in a span of 8-10 days! The subjects are carefully chosen to balance the physical, mental, emotional & intellectual development of children. They are free to choose what they want to learn & nobody is forced to do anything.

EXAMPLE OF SUBJECT CHOICES:

Yoga, Mountain Jogging, Aerobics, Leadership Development, Pursue Your Dreams, What is Love, Best out of Waste, Drama, Dance, Music, Treditional Games etc.* (*Please note that subject choices differ from camp to camp)

CAMP SCHEDULE:

The schedule begins at 6:00 in the morning & continues till almost 11:00 at night!! Children are so excited that many don't wish to sleep even after lights off time. Children are free to change the schedule of the camp!!

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT: *The Soul of the camp!*



"Given freedom & opportunity, children are capable of sorting out their problems on their own and that too, creatively."

Children elect their representatives & they make their rules/laws in various categories. They resolve their own issues in a very creative and mature way & find solutions for their own problems.

Subject Choices

Character Building	Skill Building
Leadership Development	Music From Trash
I am confident	Drama & Mime
Problem Solving	Technical & Repair
Art of Listening	Painting & Sketching
Domestic Violence - Finding Solutions	Best out of Waste
Critical Thinking	Natural Farming
What is Love?	Embroidery
My Life is My Responsibility	Master Chef
Voice Your Opinion	Health and Hygiene
Power of One	Soft Toys Making
My Village, My Responsibility	Pot Painting
Pursue Your Dreams	Landscape Project
What is Real Success	Any Body Can Dance
Power of Choice	Story Writing
I am, what I see	Self Defence
Books are my Best Friends	English Confidence



“Star Assembly”

- Key Process of Affirmation, Motivation and Inspiration

Every day in the morning, a special assembly session called **Star Assembly** is conducted where children are gifted ‘Stars’ for the good things seen in them by facilitators, teachers, and children themselves - be it extraordinary effort to learn something new or displaying great courage or extending oneself for the love of others or being a good citizen of ‘Mini India’.

*It is a time to **AFFIRM** all the good seen in these children on the previous day.*



It is a platform to publicly appreciate the good points in **EACH child** in various areas. The ‘Stars’ are given in various categories like...

Individual Stars ★

- ★ Healthy
- ★ Learner & Performer
- ★ Karmvir (Duties)
- ★ Independent
- ★ Reflector

Team Stars ★★

- ★ Residents
- ★ New buddies
- ★ Community
- ★ Ambassador for DIC

Qualities of Facilitator for "Star Assembly"

- ★ Having Positive Outlook
- ★ Cheerful, Pleasant and always Smiling
- ★ Good Communicator
- ★ Having an eye to search subtle, deeper positivity of a child on daily basis



This is how 'Affirmative Kick-Start of the Day' Helps Children

- ★ Regulates Self-Discipline
- ★ Helps them take Initiatives
- ★ Helps them think from Community Perspective
- ★ Makes them help & care for others
- ★ Helps them to see good in oneself and others
- ★ Boosts self esteem and confidence



“Star Assembly” Picture Gallery



“

*Every child is good
without exception.
We are just letting
them know!*

”





“

When children
get appreciation
and are affirmed,
they start
appreciating
others.

”



‘Children’s Parliament’ – Soul of Dream India Camp

Every day in the evening, the Children's Parliament, a unique feature of Oasis Dream India Camp is conducted. Children elect their representatives like Members of Parliament and form a body called Jury. The jury is given the authority for taking any decision regarding the camp - starting from Menu for daily food, about special things they want to do in the camp to time they want to sleep at night. In the parliament, children's problems & issues are resolved.

These evening sessions become the most fascinating and the way children solve their problems amazes elders very much. It is the evening attraction; almost attended fully. For rule breakers the jury conducts trials in this parliament. And those found guilty are helped by creative solutions rather than punishing. This process aids education of values like fairness and justice. Larger issues pertaining to the community are also taken and discussed amongst all, including facilitators and management team.



***Given freedom & opportunity,
children are capable of sorting
out their problems on their own
and that too, creatively!***



*We strongly believe
in this & hence it
became the
**foundation of the
Children's
Parliament** at Oasis
Dream India Camp!*

***Total freedom and
empowerment to
run-manage-live the
entire camp as per ‘their’
rules by electing their
representatives of
Children’s Parliament
Learning
Self-Governance.***

***Democratic &
Participatory Setup:***
*Complete democracy
entrusted through
principles of fairness,
justice & equality with
negligible interference &
supervision of adults
through Parliament.*

Qualities of Facilitator for Children's Parliament:

- ★ Eye to see all the situations as opportunities which can be used for education of the children/ community at large.
- ★ Good understanding about principles of Democratic Education
- ★ Deep believer of Democracy
- ★ Good Orator/ communicator



This is how 'Parliament' helps the children:

- ★ In taking initiatives and encouraging participation
- ★ In raising voice on vital issues
- ★ In giving/suggesting solutions to problems
- ★ In developing ability to understand other person's perspective
- ★ In thinking from larger perspective/ community perspective
- ★ In developing courage to speak the truth, courage to stand alone for the truth
- ★ In developing honesty to accept the mistake
- ★ In developing sportsman spirit to accept consequences of one's actions

‘Children’s Parliament’ Picture Gallery



“

We respected the children and they proved that they can solve their problems themselves!

”



Learning Sessions - Learning with Joy & Meaning

More than 30 subject-choices are offered to children as part of learning skills & practices. Based on their Learning and Performing abilities the children are affirmed with stars. (The focus of affirmation with stars is more of Character based than of Skill based.)

Learning in Dream India Camp is always fun. Children have plenty of choices and they choose according to their talents. The atmosphere of complete freedom - freedom to choose a subject, freedom to choose faculties, freedom to raise their voice if get bored, freedom not to attend class - brings out the best from children. In these classes, hidden talents surface and creative sides of children are brought out.

Complete Freedom -
*freedom to choose a
subject, freedom to
choose faculties, freedom
to raise their voice if get
bored, freedom not to
attend class*



**All subjects remain
optional!**

*Everything is designed to
open up hidden talents of
children...*



“

In the **atmosphere of complete freedom**
their creativity comes out naturally.

”



Early Morning Sessions

The format of Oasis Dream India Camp is such that the children get both mental & physical exercise in balance. While sessions give mental exercise, Morning Exercises and Evening Games give them physical exercise. Morning exercise is compulsory with many options to choose from; Mountain Jogging is the most favorite of all. Evening games are almost preferred by all. From Morning Exercises, Yoga, Aerobics & Mountain Jogging to evening Games & Agricultural activities, all are interwoven in the daily schedule.



Duties - 'Labour of Love'

Every afternoon, after their sessions, children have their Duty time for some 45 min in which they do their duties to restore back their own 'mini country'. Right from 8 years old to 17 years old, or be it a child from born with a golden spoon in a well to do family, or be it a boy who never knew that 'home-duties' need not be gender-centered... Everyone at Dream India camp is at par and enjoy learning to take care of their 'home' themselves.



Voluntarily they clean the 'yuck' toilets, mop the floors, tend the garden, dispose of the waste, clean the utensils, help in the kitchen, clean the dorms and halls and attend the guests to show them Oasis Valleys. They do it with a tremendous sense of responsibility. They all do these with much love, joy and without much supervision.



Community Living

Community living is also one of the chief objectives of Oasis Dream India Camp. Children from different area and backgrounds come to the camp and stay like a big family. Without cast, creed, gender or religious bias they become friends. The bond of friendship becomes so strong that with wet eyes they almost refuse to depart on the last day. Freedom to children is a core value of Oasis Dream India Camp.



And in the atmosphere where children feel complete freedom, they become more responsible and self-disciplined. They give their opinions freely, work together happily, do their duties without inspection and help each other solve personal problems.

Growth & Development - Reaching out in Real

Opportunities for drama, thrill, excitement and creative programs incorporated so as to help them build their character, qualities, & potentials.



Ghost Trekking

Ghost Trekking, done at night with objectives of removing the fear of Darkness, Ghosts & Superstitions

Events

Rallies, Street Plays & Awareness Campaigns at the end of Dream India Camps



- ★ Children become more confident while interacting with the masses.
- ★ Performing on street requires different kind of strength and different level of confidence, which children gain
- ★ Since children prepare for street plays, it brings out their creativity and makes them more expressive.



Team Values

As many as 30-40 subjects taught during Oasis Dream India Camp. 10-20 faculties/teachers from different areas come to teach children various subjects which are usually not taught at their schools. Normally it turns out that more than teaching to children, teachers learn from them. In fact, the love these teachers receive from children is something so powerful that they wish to come to camps again and again.

Principles and Values for the Team of Oasis Dream India Camps

Dos

- ★ Respect children as individuals
- ★ Make children feel okay to attend or not attend classes
- ★ Take responsibility of creating environment of freedom and love
- ★ Embrace the children with smile all the time
- ★ Search for the good in children and reflect them incessantly
- ★ Use questioning to stimulate inquiry and thinking in children
- ★ Make learning fun
- ★ Decide everything with consensus of children

Don'ts

- ★ Don't be possessive about people/children
- ★ Don't punish or raise voice with children
- ★ Don't try to discipline them
- ★ Don't compare or label children
- ★ Don't preach or advise the children unasked
- ★ Don't teach religions; just focus on humanity
- ★ Don't ever lie to them

Camp Facilitators



Sanjiv Shah



Sheeba Nair



Viral Patel



Pallavi Raulji



Dr. Neha Vakharia



Mehul Panchal



Hiral Patel



Pratiksinh Parmar



Dr. Ami Desai



Siddharth Mehta



Mayuri Gohil



Mital Patel



Neeta Sanghvi



Binit Shah



Vatsala Shah



Praksha Desai



Madhika Vekariya



Sangeeta Dudhat



Lalaji Nakum



Aanadini Thakkar



Jaydeepsinh Puwar



Ranjith Kumar



Shravan Dave

Facilitating Dream India Camp requires very high maturity. It requires full attention to maintain completely charged atmosphere of highest learning.

Project Guides & Facilitators



Sanjiv (left) has conceived and designed educational processes. Sheeba (right) is lead Guide/Educator to Facilitators of the camps.

Sanjiv Shah (Founder, "Oasis Movement")

- Writer of 80+ books on Self-development, over a million copies sold
- Designer of Courses, Workshops and Camps on Character-building
- Facilitator of Leadership Development Programs
- Counsellor, Special interest in Teenagers & Youths
- Passionate about Love, Life, Learning, Friendship, Health, Ayurveda, Death and Spirituality.....Trekking, hiking, travel, cultures, people, books, music, dance, theatre, movies, vegan food...he believes in enjoying every moment of life while contributing his best to helping fellow earth-beings to also live meaningfully.

Sheeba Nair (Trustee, O.A.S.I.S.)

- Lead Facilitator and Guide, Oasis Movement Educational programs.
- More than 250 workshops for diverse adult and young, urban and rural communities, across India, and select cities of US and Europe.
- National and International Synergist for Resources and Partnerships including state Governments, Publishers, Corporate and Non governmental agencies.
- Her life mission - *Learning to Love everyone is the best way to bring out excellence in those around me and my self too.*
- Deeply believes in the inherent goodness and potential in every human being, especially children.
- Enjoys travelling, solo trips and long forest treks in the cradles of Himalayas as also exploring history, communities, cultures through people interactions. Other interests include reading, documenting, theatre, dance, museums, architecture, films and experiencing food.

Reflections of participants...



...for 'Children's Parliament'

...it was like real Parliament. We can put case against any one. But we never lost trust in each other...

...It was fully controlled by students and also managed by them...

... all students were considered equal and all got chance to express themselves... even the facilitator was considered equal to us... if parliament had not been there in this camp then this camp wouldn't have been the best camp I have attended in my life...

...if someone broke the rule, the punishment would be like that which would be good for them and doesn't harm them...

...due to Children's Parliament all became confident to tell what was there in their heart without any hesitation...

...if someone was not guilty then parliament gave them right justice...



...I liked the parliament, because it always supported the truth...

Reflections of participants...



"My learning from this camp is that everybody is equal and everybody has the right and freedom to express their feelings. The thing which gives me inspiration is that there is no need to be shy because everyone living on Earth is after all, only a human."



"I have learnt how to face difficult challenges of life and also learnt not to run away from them."

...for Learning Sessions

"I have learnt many new and different things from our beautiful camp. From painting session I learnt calmness, patience and controlling anger. I learnt to overcome my fear of speaking in public, to be positive in life in any circumstances. The most important thing I learnt was to be Truthful all the time, without fearing anything. I learnt to be helpful to all in need. Everything, every experience has a great importance in my life. So thank you Oasis"

"I enjoyed the soft toy making session because I learnt something new which generally is not a subject of interest for boys and it was unique and creative. The stitching part was the most difficult yet most enjoyable"

"I liked English Confidence and Journalism class because I got a feeling after the sessions that I have the abilities to become a Journalist. I have the quality that every Journalist should have. I got all this feelings only from this class and I got opportunity through this camp."

"My favourite session from the whole camp was Leadership Development, because I learnt so many qualities that the real leader should have. I will try to develop all that qualities in me to become a good leader"

...for Life Learnings

"I have learnt to become independent, confident, selfless, more cheerful etc. And I was happy that I learnt all these by doing 'Masti'. I thought God has gifted us so beautiful nature which includes mountains, rivers etc. But we people - busy with our study, tuition & other work - never realize this. So now onwards I'll try to visit my village once in month to experience the beauty of nature."

"Giving freedom to children makes me happy. I have learnt a lot from this camp. I have learnt to be independent enough and to be self disciplined."

"I have learnt from this camp that if children are given freedom in a right way and given a chance to do something what they like, they can prove themselves right."



Reflections from Facilitators and Faculties

"...children showed courage of accepting their own mistakes in community...put their own points and views without hurting the dignity of other fellow members...atmosphere gives enough room for kids to open up and put their points with courage and accept their mistakes without fear...this is what they need the most but lack completely at home and school most of the time...it was strengthening my belief that there is nothing to be taught to kids...all we need to do is to give nice atmosphere, so that, whatever is great comes out at its own pace."

*~ Siddharth Mehta,
Director Shairu Gems Diamonds Pvt Ltd, Surat*

"After attending this camp I came to know my endurance limit. Others can work only for 6 to 8 hrs. But the program was so well designed that we worked for almost 16 hrs daily and not yet bored. The most important thing which I enjoyed was parliament session in the camp. During this course I saw drastic change students which is the most happy moment for me. Make this course/camp for 10 days. Rest all are impeccable!"

*~ Ajay Thapa,
Faculty 'World of Stories', 'Friendship with Nature' (Sr. Lecturer, Polytechnic Govt. College, Kathua, Jammu)*

"...being part of the children's Parliament was a very unique experience... Camp runs under a true children's government and I got to witness firsthand how and why the children are the bosses of themselves... I was amazed at their mature way of handling the most difficult complaints and a very democratic way of handling and finding solutions to all problems... I got so much unconditional love from all the children and also learnt a lot from them..."

~ Tina Vasudeva, Manager, Designs & Products, Kaybee P. Ltd., Delhi

Reflections from Facilitators and Faculties

"...Openness of children and closeness to our heart was very full...children's Parliament is quite a novel idea...they develop the skill to analyze the persons by listening to their arguments and ready to face them as well..."

~ **Varsha Shah, Jayanti Group, Bangalore**

"The main action would start at night after classes... assembly session held for conflict resolution and debates... amazing to see how these kids take the charge at such tender age and converse with such maturity... community perspective of camp raised the bar to a totally new level... truly unique experience for me... got to witness a whole new environment, drenched with the enthusiasm of both - kids and facilitators..."

~ **Shrey Shah, IT Professional**

"All people in the world try to conform to their culture and this causes the loss of the differences between people, their individuality. In today's world, individuality barely exists. But in Dream India Camp, individuality is embraced and brought to a new light in which the children are taught to use it to their advantage. In my view, individuality only makes a person better. A person trying to conform to society does nothing but harm themselves in the process."

~ **Pooja Patel, U.S.A.**

"...Kids have great potential...all the values through which this camp is run are excellent...we give them Freedom, Responsibility & Power of decision making and this develops a lot of critical thinking and analysis...they already have a lot of things in them...give them opportunity, they do miracles...parliament is a prototype of how one should live in real life so they become more conscious while doing something wrong..."

~ **Alwina Panjwani, Secretary, Edu. Board, Aga Khan Edu. Service India, Surat**



Case Studies

Learning Dignity of Labour in Toilet Cleaning

Normally, Toilet cleaning is not anyone's first choice as a duty. Well, that became the topic of debate when only one participant voluntarily took up toilet cleaning and became an opportunity for the facilitators to stimulate thinking for the topic of 'dignity of labour'. Enough motivation and inspiration were flowed in by the facilitators to sensitize them about the issue. One participant remarked, "It's so ridiculous, that those who dirty the toilets look down upon those who clean the toilets!! This must change!" Finally, it was resolved that the whole community is responsible and they all will learn to clean the toilet. Soon, it became a celebration at duty-time. Pride of cleaning toilet superseded other tasks.

Learning Equality and Standing up against Injustice

Once volunteers/elder co-coordinators were caught eating more qty of snacks against the allocated quota for all children. They tried to defend by giving reasons of food waste, no lunch taken so were hungry etc. etc. Children confronted them strongly and finally were subjected to the punishment of making *rotis* for dinner.

Purpose of Building Community

A girl was determined to leave the camp midway due to pressures of school tests. No amount of cajoling or requesting or explaining helped her. Her parents arrived to carry her back home. Even adults gave up if she is not willing – she has freedom as they had to take the choice. But the participants didn't give up. They decided to confront the parents. But when the parents also weren't ready to co-operate, it was almost over for them. Suddenly a young girl stood up and tearfully addressed everyone – 'It's not her fault, it's our failure as a community. We could not love her enough it seems. We should let her go. But if she agrees to give us one opportunity, I promise her that we will attempt to make the last 2 days most cherished memory of her life through our love & friendship.' Tears flowed in every eye that night as she went to hug the disillusioned friend. The atmosphere shifted. All joined the group hug and no one talked of leaving the camp after that!!

Guests at Dream India Camps



"Excellent! Excellent! Excellent!"

I have had the occasion to interact with the large number of children, all over the country. Over last 10 months I visited almost all the other states and have travelled to interior areas as Bastar. But I must confess I have never ever come across such a vibrant set of children sitting here and engaging.

I think the talents of judiciousness that emerged are imbibed in the training that you all had here. In that context I compliment Oasis to have taken this initiative and drilled these talents in a manner that they didn't even realize they were being drilled and imbibed those talents."

~ **Anil Swarup** (Secretary, MHRD, Govt. of India)

"I was very impressed by the importance the Oasis Movement placed on the social and emotional development of the child. Their trust in children and natural childhood was evident in all the practice I witnessed when I visited in 2017, but in particular, in the provision of an educational environment which allows and supports 'freedom without licence' thus enabling the individual child to flourish."

~ **Henry Readhead** (Summerhill School, U.K)

1. Sindhutai Sapkal, Mai of thousands of Orphans in Maharashtra; **2. Mr. Anil Swarup**, Secretary, MHRD, Govt. of India; **3. Bhagwatiben Oza**, National Sports person in Senior Citizen Category; **4. Henry Readhead** from Summerhill School, U.K



Theme based camps

Apart from general (open registration) Dream India Camp, there are theme based Dream India Camps, too.

Leadership Special DIC

It is a special camp for Leaders of leaders. The Dream India Camp participants who have been elected as Jury members in previous camps come together for Leadership Dream India Camp. Also, starting from Jury election to daily sessions to games, exercise & duties - all is designed to challenge the participants to go to higher levels. Special sessions are added and daily routine is changed accordingly, that boosts up the leadership in them.

Board Students Special DIC

Apart from regular leadership and character building sessions, special sessions for exploring hidden talents are organized. This is especially for Board students who are about to choose career for their lives. This special Dream India Camp for Board students helps them search for their dream and helps them pursue it. In a special session on 'Unconventional Careers & their scopes in India' in one of the camps, a panel of guests had a dialogue with children. The guests, who themselves had taken an unconventional career were in the panel and they answered children's queries.

Saamarthya – Girls' Special DIC

Special Dream India Camps for girls are organized to reach out to girls from different regions/communities. This is to facilitate their Independence & Character Building by special emphasis on sessions of Self-development, Leadership Education, Gender sensitivity, Self-defence, Health & Hygiene etc. Through this, potential independent girls undergo leadership education & are empowered to take this back to their institutions & communities. This provides them opportunity, guidance & platform to nurture their leadership skills.

Tribal Special DIC

Tribal Special DICs are organized for children of Dangs (Gujarat). These camps help them to break their silent, obedient mindset and empower them to make choices and build their confidence for freedom of speech. The camps help them build leadership qualities in them to stand up for their rights and against exploitation.

Statistics

Sr. No.	Camp / Group / Organization	No. of Parti	Beneficiary Days
	2012		
1	Summerhill Camp-I	63	567
2	Summerhill Camp on the Theme of Patriotism	75	300
3	Students of Surat Municipal Schools - Zumbish Team	65	520
4	Summerhill Camp-II	72	504
5	Children of Vatsalyadham, Kukeri - Summerhill Camp I	95	760
	2013		
1	Summerhill Camp - III	80	560
2	Vatsalyadham, Kukeri - Summerhill Camp II	125	1000
3	Children of School on Wheels, Saurashtra Region	89	712
4	Summerhill Camp IV - Leaders' Special	70	560
5	Vatsalyadham, Kukeri- Summerhill Camp III	11	11
6	Vatsalyadham, Kukeri- Summerhill Camp III	54	378
	2014		
1	Dream India Camp for Navsari Board Students	54	486
2	Dream India Camp for Bangalore Youths	52	416
3	Dream India Camp for Oasis Youth Leaders	56	784
4	Dream India Camp for Open Group - I (2014)	109	981
5	Dream India Camp Charlie Trust & Sanskar Balmandir	90	810
6	Dream India Camp for Shabari Vidyalay Girls, Kaparada	48	384
7	Dream India Camp for Open Group - II (2014)	48	480
8	Dream India Camp for Charlie Trust & ASHA Ahmd.	64	640



Statistics

Sr. No.	Camp / Group / Organization	No. of Parti	Beneficiary Days
	2015		
1	Dream India Camp for Board Students	56	560
2	Dream India Camp for Open Group	76	684
3	Dream India Camp for Navsari Rural Students	45	405
4	Dream India Camp for Charlie, Surat & ASHA, Ahmd	83	664
5	Dream India Camp for Bangalore Youths, ASHA	54	432
6	Dream India Camp School on Wheels Group	68	612
7	Saamarthya Dream India Camp for Navsari Rural Girls	46	414
8	Saamarthya Dream India Camp for Girls Leaders	90	1080
	2016		
1	Dream India Camp for Children of ASHA Ahmd	76	760
2	Dream India Camp for Board Students	96	864
3	Dream India Camp at Kengeri	59	472
4	Dream India Camp for Open Group I	102	816
5	Samarthya Dream India Camp	73	657
6	Dream India Camp for Open Group II	86	688
7	Dream India Camp for Don Bosco, Ajjanahalli	47	376
8	Dream India Camp for Children of Dang	75	675
9	Dream India Camp for Children of South Gujarat	72	576
10	Dream India Camp for Children of Pirana	58	464
11	Dream India Camp for Open Group III	46	414
12	Dream India Camp Leaders Group	120	1080
13	Dream India Camp at Bengaluru (Open Group)	62	496

Statistics

Sr. No.	Camp / Group / Organization	No. of Parti	Beneficiary Days
2017			
1	Oasis Dream India Camp for Thava Group	87	783
2	Oasis Dream India Camp for Board Students Group - I	63	567
3	Oasis Dream India Camp - Board Students Group - II	50	450
4	Oasis Dream India Camp at Bengaluru (Open Group)	63	504
5	Oasis Dream India Camp for Open Group I	93	744
6	Oasis Dream India Camp at Bhuj	62	496
7	Oasis Dream India Camp for Nobel School	77	616
8	Oasis Dream India Camp for Open Group II	88	704
9	Oasis Dream India Camp at Jammu	76	608
10	Oasis Dream India Camp - Open Group III	75	675
11	Oasis Dream India Camp at Kashmir	72	576
12	Oasis Dream India Camp at Leh	56	448
2018			
1	Oasis Dream India Camp for Dr. K.R. Shroff Foundation	85	680
2	Oasis Dream India Camp for Board Special Group	65	520
3	Oasis Dream India Camp for Open Group-1	51	408
4	Oasis Dream India Camp, Kengeri, Bengaluru	59	472
5	Oasis Dream India Camp For Open Group-2	82	656
6	Oasis Dream India Camp For Regional Special at Navsari	66	594
7	Oasis Dream India Camp For Open Group Group-3	71	568
8	Oasis Dream India Camp For 1st Surat Open group	66	594
9	Oasis Dream India Camp 2nd Surat Open group	58	464



Statistics

Sr. No.	Camp / Group / Organization	No. of Parti	Beneficiary Days
	2019		
1	Oasis Dream India Camp-Board Special Students-Group-1	74	666
2	Oasis Dream India Camp for Local Group at Bangalore	64	576
3	Oasis Dream India Camp - Leadership Special	77	693
4	Oasis Dream India Camp for Local Group at Bangalore	65	585
5	Oasis Dream India Camp for Open Group-3	71	639
6	Oasis Special Dream India Camp for Dropout Students	37	333
7	Oasis Dream India Camps - Saamarthya Girls Special - Bhuj	42	378
8	Oasis Dream India Camp - Open Registrations	54	486
9	Oasis Dream India Camp Military Training Special	45	405

Total no. of Dream India Camps till 2018 : **70+**
Total beneficiaries : **4700+**



"A CHILD IS INNATELY
WISE AND REALISTIC.
IF LEFT TO HIMSELF,
HE WILL DEVELOP AS FAR AS
HE IS **CAPABLE OF DEVELOPING.**"

~ A. S. NEILL



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