

## **Community engagement activity at DPP, MAHE-BLR**

### **Visit to a Parikrama School - A report by Dr. Priyanka Saharia, Assistant Professor, DPP, MAHE Bengaluru**

Department of Public Policy (DPP), MAHE Bengaluru visited Parikrama, a charity school run by Parikrama Humanity Foundation located at Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The visit included two faculty members – Dr. Priyanka Saharia and Dr. O Grace Ngullie, 12 students and Ms. Shreelakshmi, T. Administrative Executive, DPP. Team DPP reached the designated location at 8.25 A.M in the morning before the school assembly started.

The assembly started at 8.30 A.M in the presence of all students, teachers from Parikrama and the team DPP. Team DPP witnessed a unique experience by becoming a part of the assembly where students were made to be a part of multiple activities to start their day with. The assembly started with a prayer followed by students reading the newspaper, sharing some amazing facts about the world as a part of general knowledge. Then groups of students from different grades started performing acts that involved spreading awareness of the need to protect our environment. They performed an act on how disposal of plastic to environment is adversely affecting animals as they end up consuming that and how consuming fish from polluted water is adversely affecting human health. After the act on social and environmental issues, students also performed group dance to fill them with positive energy to start their day with. Once the students were done with their assembly and performance, team DPP was invited to light the lamp and Dr Priyanka was requested to say a few words on the experience of being a part of the assembly. After that, at 9 A.M, all the students proceeded to their respective classroom and team DPP was taken to upstairs and made a part of the presentation where Akash Singh and Kalpana Singh from Parikrama showed visuals on how Parikrama Humanity Foundation grew over the period and what is their objective.

Mr. Akash Singh introduced us to Parikrama Humanity Foundation, and he said that the objective of Parikrama is to eradicate poverty by helping students from poor backgrounds and providing them with free education. Parikrama's mission is to unleash the potential of underserved children, enabling them to live their life on equal terms and become valuable contributing members of society. Their 1800 (4 K-10 schools and 1 Junior College) children coming from 99 slums and four orphanages in Bengaluru. They don't just receive free education but high-quality CBSE English medium learning modules. The children are provided with three meals and health check-ups. Each child is supported right from the age of 5 to 25 years. Parikrama also bear the costs of children's further education, either a formal college education or vocational training. They hold extensive mentorship programmes and career counselling – covering diverse fields and sessions hosted by individuals from across the country.

Dr. Kalpana Singh talked about the model Parikrama adopts to bring quality education. They adopt a 360-degree initiative with free CBSE (excellent English medium), high-quality education, three meals a day, comprehensive healthcare, and family support to enable a supportive and stable home environment. This model is known as 'Circle of Life' or '360 Degree Development Model'. Parikrama works closely with corporate sponsors through employee engagement programs. They provide motivation, strengthen academic performance, improve social interaction, work on communication skills and, most critically, provide focus and a clear direction for the future.

After Dr. Kalpana Singh's presentation on Parikrama model, at 11 A.M, team DPP interacted with students from lower grade, went to each of the classroom and engaged themselves in multiple activities. It was overwhelming to see how each of the students from deprived background can communicate in proper English and how they have built confidence. It was an enriching experience for team DPP to understand the various policy interventions from Parikrama Humanity Foundation to run their initiatives and it would certainly help the students of DPP to look at education policies in much more holistic way. The classroom interaction with Parikrama students came to an end at 11 A.M. After few rounds of group photos with team Parikrama, we -team DPP - logged out off visit and started our return journey to MAHE Bengaluru Campus.