

SPARK



Don Bosco University Newsletter

Volume 2| Issue 4| 2010

Cover Story

Student Initiatives for Social Development

Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a society tick.

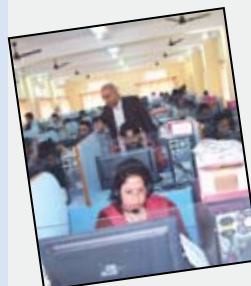
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A joint Inspection Team of DEC, UGC, and AICTE finds the University well prepared for launching distance education programmes.



Workshop on SCILAB and SPOKEN TUTORIALS



JourNEI 2010

From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor

As yet another year is drawing to a close; it is to God that we turn with a sense of gratitude for a year that has been largely peaceful and productive, a year that has been replete with a sense of satisfaction and fulfillment, a year in which we have all grown, as individuals and as an institution. In the final analysis, I guess that is what really matters: growth and fulfillment! That, really, is the heart of the matter.

One of the defining features of this year at the university has been the number of initiatives undertaken by most of you, staff and students, to make a study of the social problems in the communities surrounding our institutions, and to address them in meaningful ways.

In setting aside your time and resources for these activities, you evidently had a number of sacrifices to make, priorities to rearrange – juggling the demands of your studies and your new-found enthusiasm.

But, somehow, you felt good, you felt energized, and some of you who shared your thoughts with me spoke passionately about how these experiences are beginning to touch your lives in ways you had not imagined before.

Passion is a heartfelt energy that flows through us, not from us. It fills our hearts when we allow it to, and it inspires others when we share it. It is like sunlight flowing through a doorway that we have just opened. It was always there. It just needed to be accepted and embraced.

Under the right conditions, this “flow” appears effortless, easy and graceful. It is doing what it is meant to do. It is reminding us that we are meant to be purposeful. We are meant to be positive. We are meant to be passionate. We feel it as inspiration when we open the door of resistance and let it in.

Stop and think about it: When you feel truly passionate and inspired about someone or something, what frame of



mind are you in? What kind of effort are you willing to put forth? How fearful are you? Chances are, you feel motivated to do whatever it takes, without fear or doubt, to turn your vision into reality. You grow in confidence. You believe you can do it. You are committed.

I am glad that this issue of ‘Spark’ is dedicated to your reflections on these experiences.

As the year draws to a close, it is the memory of these experiences that linger on in our memory – the good that we have done, the smiles that we have brought to the faces of those less fortunate than ourselves, the sense of hope, optimism and purpose that flowed into our own lives as result of our involvement...

That too is the message of Christmas that is round the corner: the joyful discovery that the God we seek is very much with us as we reach out and hold out hope to others! Let me end this message wishing you and your dear ones the peace and joy that Christmas brings...

*Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Rector & Vice-Chancellor*

Wishing you...

*Merry Christmas
&
A Prosperous New Year*



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

'Jugend Eine Welt' Vienna, Austria

Don Bosco University is proud to partner with 'Jugend Eine Welt (Youth for One World)' Vienna, Austria, in its developmental works. A memorandum of association detailing the terms of engagement was signed during the recent visit to the University of the CEO of 'Jugend Eine Welt', Mr Reinhard Heiserer.



In the photo is Mr Reinhard Heiserer (CEO, Jugend Eine Welt) at the permanent campus site of the University with Fr George Chittapanatt (Estate Manager) and Mrs Iris Dekan.

'Leopold Bachmann Stiftung' Zurich, Switzerland

Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland, specializing in supporting sustainable developmental projects, has chosen to participate in the promotion of engineering education at Don Bosco University through grants and loans for its infrastructural projects.



In the photo is Dr Albert Kesseli (Financial Advisor to the Foundation) with Fr Stephen Mavely (Vice Chancellor, Don Bosco University) at their recent meeting at Luzern, Switzerland.

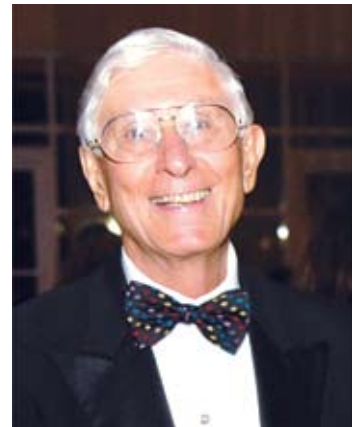
WELCOME TO THE BOARD

Dr Luigi Salvaneschi

An eminent past-pupil of Don Bosco and an ardent admirer of Don Bosco works worldwide, Dr Salvaneschi is a prominent contributor to the infrastructural development of Don Bosco University.

Apart from a variety of community works, he is the author of three books: "Location, Location, Location," "Renaissance," and "Liberal Arts Essentials for Tomorrow's Leaders."

He is currently working on a collaboration between Barry University (Miami Shores, Florida), of which he is a Board member, and Don Bosco University. He has been invited to join the Board of Management of Don Bosco University.



Dr Ercole Lucchini



In the photo are Dr Ercole Lucchini (second from left), Ms Laura Del Vitto, Dr Joseph Puthepurackal (Director of Research, Don Bosco University & Director, Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures, Shillong) with the Vice Chancellor at Varese, Italy

Subsequent to his visit to Don Bosco University, early this year, Dr Ercole Lucchini, a Don Bosco Past Pupil and an outstanding businessman (Owner and Chairman of 'A-27 S.p.A.', Varese, Italy), with a passion for food processing industry, has joined hands with Don Bosco University for the development of an engineering programme in 'Food Processing Technology' at the permanent campus of the University. He has joined the University team as a Member of the Board of Management.

From Events Diary



18 November, 2010: Prof Gautam Rajkhowa, University of Chester, a past pupil of Don Bosco, held discussions with the Vice Chancellor on collaboration, student and staff exchange programmes. He also offered to teach MBA students of DBU.

18 November, 2010: Dr. Nancy Cook, International Recruitment Manager, Liverpool Hope University, came with the offers of collaboration.



22 November 2010: Prof Wenceslaus Anthony, Director, WA Marketing, Newzealand and Prof K. Padmanabhan, Managing Director, Teledata Informatics, Chennai, visited the DBU Headquarters, seeking collaborative ventures in distance and online education.

1 December 2010: Mr. Reinhard Heiserer and Ms. Iris Dekan from Jugend Eine Welt, Austria, spent two days at the University to carry forward the discussions on fund raising that the Vice Chancellor had with them at Vienna in Austria earlier. They also came for an on-the-spot study of the project for their major partner, M/S Leopold Bachmann Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland).



4 December 2010: Fr (Dr) Joseph Almeida, Chancellor, paid a visit to the University to acquaint himself with the developments taking place in the University and to hold interactive sessions with the Officers of the University. In the course of the day, he also chaired the meeting of the Governing Body of the University and attended the Board of Management Meeting held on the same day.

Networking and Collaboration

Fr. Stephen Mavely, VC, DBU met with a number of foundations and University Heads during his visit to Europe in October this year.

Holland

- Amsterdam - Dr Richard Brosse of Porticus Stifting
- Soest - Bro Gerard Schoorl of 'Missieprocurer Don Bosco'

Germany

- Bonn - Bro Jean-Paul Muller of Don Bosco Mission

Switzerland

- Beromunster - Dr Patrick Mueller & Fr Toni Roger of 'Vereinigung Don Bosco Werk'
- Adliswil - Dr Albert Kesseli of 'Leopold Bachmann Stiftung'
- Lugano - Dr Rosalba Bianchetto of CMSI

Italy

- Varese - Dr Ercole Lucchhini of A-17 S.p.A.
- Turin - Don Pierluigi Zuffetti of Don Bosco Missions
- Genova - Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco of CEI
- Rome - Dr Daniele Cancilla of CEI
- Rome - Dr Francesco Falasca of 'Comunita di Sant'Egidio'

Spain

- Barcelona - Mr Pablo Marcet of '100 Ciudades Por La Paz'
- Madrid - Ms Clara Pardo of 'Manos Unidas'
- Madrid - Prof Jesus Nunez Velazquez of 'Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio'
- Madrid - Fr Angel Garcia of 'Mensajeros de la Paz'

Setting up of 'Centre for Distance Education'

A joint Inspection Team of Distance Education Council of India (DEC), University Grants Commission (UGC) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) visited the college on 9th December to verify the preparedness of the University to start Distance Education under the newly created 'Centre for Distance Education'.

The team was chaired by Prof Latha Pillai (Pro Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi) with Prof Altaf Khan of Jamia Milia University representing AICTE, Prof Karmeshu of Jawaharlal Nehru University representing the UGC, Prof Kamal Yadav representing DEC, and Dr R R Rausaria (Director, DEC) as the Coordinator of the visit.

The team found the University well prepared starting distance education programmes. Official communication from the Distance Education Council is expected in January after the meeting of their Executive Council.



New Constructions



Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, Guwahati, blessed and laid the foundations of three new buildings for the Department of Engineering of the University on 27th November 2010:

Civil Engineering Wing of the college to admit students from July 2011.

PG Hostel (for MCA and M Tech students) to accommodate 100 hostellers.

Staff Quarters containing 12 family apartments and 10 bachelor accommodations.

Apostolic Nuncio Visits DBU

Apostolic Nuncio to India, His Excellency, Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Titular Archbishop of Montemarano, visited the University on 18 October, 2010. He was accompanied by His Excellency Most Rev. Jacob Mar Barnabas, Apostolic Visitor to North India and Delhi, and Archbishop Leo Cornelio of Bhopal, Chairman of CBCI Commission for Youth. Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati along with two brothers from Taizé joined the group. Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro VC of DBU, briefed the group about the University.



Don Bosco University, India, Launches Seven Online Degree Courses

GUWAHATI, Assam (SAR NEWS) –Don Bosco university in the northeast Indian state of Assam is offering global access to its degree courses in seven programmes in three disciplines. Claiming to be the first of its kind in the country, Assam Don Bosco University based in Guwahati, already in its third year, is all set to launch its first online programmes.

“We hope to target thousands of working-class young people across the globe,” says the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr. Stephen Mavely SDB, explaining how the classes and study will take place on the Web, enabling students to have access to the best professors from around the country.

Using state-of-the-art Virtual Classroom Technology, the varsity will run the programmes designed for working executives and professionals looking for study projects that complement their work and their need to juggle a career, a family and professional advancement studies.

These programmes give an option for anyone anywhere to be part of Don Bosco University (DBU) backed by its worldwide network in education and other developmental works. Currently Don Bosco Society operates in 132 countries.

The DBU OnLine programme director, Dr. Joseph Anikuzhikkattil, says, “From this year, we are offering study programmes in the following subjects: Executive MBA (1 year), MBA in Information Technology (2 years), MBA in Entrepre-

neurship (2 years), MBA with Specialisation (2 years), MS (Information Technology) (2 years), Bachelor of Business Administration (3 years) and Bachelor of Computer Applications (3 years).”

Details of registration are available at www.dbuglobal.com

Programme coordinator, Arnab Kumar Choudhury, adds: “This will be followed by many more degree/diploma/certificate programmes in a modular structure in quick succession.”

Currently, DBU conducts regular degree courses in Management, Engineering, Information Technology and Computer Applications from Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology at Azara and Don Bosco Institute of Management at Kharguli, Guwahati.

Construction work on the 272-acre main campus at Tapezia Gardens, 16 km from state capital Dispur, is to commence shortly. Within three to five years, the DBU main campus residential complex is expected to house some six thousand students and staff. Besides the academic and administrative complex, the campus will also maintain a tea plantation, and have such facilities as a sports complex, chapel, convention centre, hospital facilities, bio-diversity park as well as a high school for one thousand under-privileged students.



An Appreciation Night

“There is more hunger for love and appreciation in the world than for bread.”- Mother Theresa.

The evening of Saturday, December 4, 2010 remains unforgettable for the staff of DBCET. The beautifully decorated atrium, with soft music and ambient lighting set the tone for an evening that combined thanksgiving and a fellowship dinner for the staff members and their families in the context of an ‘appreciation night’.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Rector, rightly chose the occasion to express his appreciation to each and every member of the Institution who had gathered along with their families. Every member of the staff was called to the stage and presented personally with a specially prepared card that read “I thank my God for you every time I think of you (Phil 1:3)”.

The entire evening was designed to juxtapose and mesh together the idea of thanksgiving and appreciation for a year that has brought abundance of God’s blessings to the college through the instrumentality of the persons involved in the life and growth of the college. The events of the evening filled the hearts of all with a feeling of gratitude, contentment and joy; and, the ‘potluck dinner’ marked the culmination of that day’s fellowship gathering.

Mr. Bikash Agarwal

A Day with Parents and Guardians in an Interactive Meeting

DBCET held a meeting with the parents and guardians of the students on 4 November 2010 for an exchange of views on academic matters and life in the College. About a hundred parents of the students from various parts of the region came for this important event. Addressing the assembly, the Vice Chancellor, Fr. Stephen Mavelly spoke of the importance of concerted effort from the part of the staff, students, administration and the parents to take the College towards its set goals and standards. He said that such an effort alone can ensure that certain necessary developments take place at the right time and that the students benefit the maximum from their four years of study, grow into mature and dependable citizens of a globalised world, and get inserted well into an ever-evolving and challenging professional world.

The Principal, Prof Manoranjan Kalita welcomed the gathering and introduced the agenda of the day’s meeting. He also brought to the attention of the parents the rules and regulations of the College and asked everyone for their co-operation for the better management and discipline of the College. Speaking of his plans for the placement of students

in later years, he asked for the help of parents who are well placed in various institutions and companies, especially those working in the corporate sector, to get involved in this effort.

One of the important events of the day’s programme was the time set apart for the parents and guardians to meet the ‘mentors’ (Staff members assigned to individual students for personal guidance in all matters) to discuss on their ward’s all round performance. The last session was devoted to an open forum, an interactive session to discuss issues and other matters with the parents and guardians. The parents were appreciative and supportive of the College and its efforts to achieve its targets and standards.

The presentation made by Sr. Celine D’Cunha gave the gathering an overall idea about the College and its activities. The formal inauguration of the day’s programme had the ceremony of lighting the traditional lamp by representatives from the management, parents and students with a prayer dance and a welcome song by the students.



Workshop SCILAB and SPOKEN TUTORIALS



DBCET organized a Workshop on SCILAB and SPOKEN TUTORIALS on 7-8 December 2010 with the aim of increasing awareness about the availability and benefits of SCILAB both at the academic and research levels. The programme aimed at setting up a SCILAB User Group at Guwahati that can assist SCILAB users in troubleshooting and to build up resource centres in the region for providing expertise in the deployment of software under Free and Open Source Software for Science and Engineering Education (FOSSEE). Faculty members from GMIT, Guwahati, Rangia College, St. Anthony's College, Shillong, and DBCET participated in the two-day workshop.

Prof Kannan Moudgalya, IIT Bombay, member of the SCILAB Consortium's Scientific Board generously initiated and guided the workshop, funded by the MHRD; and, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro VC, DBU, was the driving force behind the organization and success of the programme.

Prof. C.S. Kumar, Associate Professor in the department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kharagpur, and Ms. Nancy Varkey, IIT Bombay who is coordinating the efforts for the creation of spoken tutorials, were among the resource persons of the workshop.

The first day's sessions on 'Virtual Lab' helped the participants to understand the use of SCILAB and its importance. The second day was dedicated to 'Spoken Tutorials', dealing with the preparation and usefulness of tutorials with screencast and nar-

ration for a computer based activities. The workshop was made interesting as each of the participants had to create his/her own piece of tutorial. The group was also given inputs on the technicalities of dubbing them into other Indian languages.

Mr. Ranjay Das, one of the participants, commented, "The workshop was unique in its concept of spreading the message across the nation as it aimed at imparting education to all sections of people. The point was made very clear by the resource persons as they encouraged the group to imagine and prepare a lesson for a working girl child in a remote village at midnight trying to learn with the help of free and open source software and the spoken tutorials."

SCILAB is an open source, cross-platform numerical computational package and a high-level, numerically oriented programming language. It can be used for signal processing, statistical analysis, image enhancement, fluid dynamics simulations, numerical optimization, and modeling and simulation of explicit and implicit dynamical systems. The SCILAB Consortium is involved in the Open Source world in multifarious ways.

The Spoken Tutorial project is the initiative of the 'Talk to a Teacher' activity of the National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT), launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Ms. Nissy Joseph, DBCET

BOSQUIZ 2010 The First Inter-College Quiz Competition

BOSQUIZ 2010, the first Inter-College Quiz Competition organized by the Literary Club of the College was held at DBCET on 30 October 2010. 55 Teams from various Colleges of Assam, including a representation from Delhi University, participated in the event. Vice President of Assam Quiz Association, Mr. Abhra Das, was the Quiz Master.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Rector, DBCET addressed the gathering and distributed the prizes and certificates to the winners. The team from B. Baruah College, Guwahati won the first, Cotton College, Guwahati, won the second and Delhi University won the third prizes.

The preliminary round started at 10.a.m. was participated



by all the 55 teams and from those, 6 teams were selected for the second stage of the Quiz which had eight rounds of questions. The questions covered a wide range of fields, such as technology, mythology, social sciences, history, politics, fine arts, sports, film, etc.

Mankamal Mishra, Secretary, Literary Club, DBCET

DBCET Outshines in Inter- College Technical Fest at Tezpur University

A team of 70 students from Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology, Azara participated in the inter-college Technical Fest – TECHXTRA 2010 at Tezpur University on 22-24 October 2010.

The DBCET Students participated in various events like Orukter Amphibolos, Propero Arena, O-Zone, Nail D Byte, Nirmaan, Wrangle, Circuitrix, D Hot Seat, Mirage and Cryptography. A few of the students excelled in their performance and received prizes.

Neeraj Phukan and Avinob Aich were placed in the 2nd position in Propero Arena (Robotics) and in Cryptography,

Saraju Mudoi was placed in the 1st, Tridiv Medhi in the 4th and Rosemary Koikara in the 5th positions.

In Circuitrix competition Purnima Sharma and Balbindar Kaur won the 2nd prize and Aditya Sharma and Saurav Bhowmik won the 5th prize, while Shyamsundar Kalita received a consolation prize in Mirage.

Besides participating in these competitions, the students were privileged to gain new knowledge from the workshops on Hacktrack and Swarm Robotics which were conducted on the occasion.

Bijeet Bardoloi, DBCET



Kalanirjharni '10 Talent Day

Kalanirjharni '10, the Talent Day of the year held on 13 November, 2010 offered a wonderful time for the students to showcase their talents in singing, dancing, drama and music.

Archbishop Thomas Menampampil, Chief Guest of the event, in his speech encouraged the students to develop their talents by making use of the opportunities that are at their disposal.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Rector, welcomed Archbishop Thomas and introduced him to the audience as someone who pioneered such programmes in the academic institutions of Don Bosco Society in the region in the early 1960s.

The event brought camaraderie, joy and cheer as students wholeheartedly joined in the day's programme.



Updates from Training and Placement Cell, DBCET

- Discussions on Job Fair Proposals are underway with companies like Heromindmine and HCL Career Development Centre.
- A few students are being prepared for Training in industry for the winter vacation, and Vth Semester students have begun applying for the Summer Training, 2011.
- Talks are on with 'Idea On Think', Guwahati and 'Trend Setters Academy', Guwahati for providing courses in networking technologies like CCNA, RHCSA, RHCT at reasonable rates in DBCET campus.
- JKT SAP Solution Academy, Kolkata has proposed for a tie-up for training on SAP certification.

Website for Basic Sciences

Basic Sciences Club of DBCET has launched its website. Log on to www.dbsclub.in and get updates on club activities, news and articles on recent trends in Basic Sciences. Membership Form for the club can also be downloaded from the website.



JourNEI 2010

JourNEI 2010 held on 8 – 9 October, organised by Don Bosco Institute of Management in association with Oil India Limited was an effort towards initiating a stimulating event for the students from various business schools from the region and beyond. It proved to be an interactive platform of the sharpest minds from both the academic and the corporate world.

The inaugural programme of JourNEI 2010 on 8 October, 2010 was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Prof. Gautam Barua, Director, IIT, Guwahati and the key note speaker of the event was Dr. Shantikam Hazarika, Director, AIM, Guwahati. The event was also graced by eminent invitees, Mr Ifikar Ali Ahmed, General Partner, Oak Investment partners and Mr. A. Hanan Tapadar of Oil India Limited. During the two day event, students from around 25 institutes numbering over 450 participated in various events.

The schedule was packed with challenging and stimulating programmes encompassing various aspects of management. This included events like Xpress coffee table discussions, Stock Market Game, Ad Making, T-shirt painting and Collage making contest. Analytical brains of the region tested their mettle by participating in events like 'Acumen', the case

study competition and 'Thinkers' which was the strategy game. The budding marketers of different B-schools participated in the 'Mavericks' in the marketing game.

The second day began with an inspiring session by Mr. Iftikar Ali Ahmed, General Partner, Oak Investment Partner, USA. The prime event of the day was the JourNEI Night 2010, which marked the birth of the 'MouiZori', DBIM Business Incubation Centre. It was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Pradyut Bordoloi, Honorable Minister, Power and Industries. The Guest of Honor for the evening was Mr. Amiya Sharma, Executive Director, RGVN. The eventful night finally wound up with a musical extravaganza ALLEGRIA- star of the evening being the band Moon Wind.

The idea behind the event was to provide a platform for the students from various Business Schools from across the region and beyond to interact with the academia, the corporate, the upcoming entrepreneurs and their peers from other institutes. The two-day programme saw various events aimed at nurturing talent, facilitating peer to peer interactions and building healthy competition.

Anabil Goswami, Asst. Professor, DBIM, Guwahati

Digital Library Inaugurated



Don Bosco Institute of Management added another feather to its cap as His Excellency, Shri J.B Patnaik, Governor of Assam inaugurated the digital library, Julhash Ali Library on 8 October, 2010. The Library is post-modern, meant precisely for the B-students, incorporating the latest technologies. The third edition of Northeast India's first business magazine, "The Brahmaputra" which is an initiative of DBIM, with the blessing and support of Oil India Limited was also released on this occasion.

Stevenson Sona was born on 4 October 1988 in Doolahat Bazar, North Lakhimpur. Graduated from Union Christian College, Shillong, he got enrolled in MBA Degree Programme at DBIM in 2009.

"What moves through us is a silence, a quiet sadness, a longing for one more day, one more word ... we may not understand why you left this world so soon, or why you left before we were ready to say good-bye, but little by little, we begin to remember not just that you died, but that you lived. And that your life gave us memories too beautiful to forget."

Students and Staff, DBIM

R.I.P.



Stevenson Sona
MBA 2nd Year, DBIM
Born: 4. 10. 1988.
Died: 6. 11. 2010



Many of us are living protected lives – protected from want, having everything we need. Coming into contact with our less privileged friends made us realise that we too have a responsibility to society.



SOCIAL COMMITMENT

... a reflection

We have taken part in different types of social commitment activities during this year. The activities ranged from cleaning the campus to organising weekly remedial classes for children from the college neighbourhood. These activities have been wonderful experiences for all of us in many ways.

An eye-opener

These social commitment activities have made us come face to face with realities we were not aware of, or if aware of only vaguely. Most of us have lived our lives insulated from problems and most often we have received the best of facilities. The social commitment programme made us realise that there are people around us who are deprived even of the basic necessities of life.

The MCA1 students visited Jangakhuli Auchalik High School, near Boko. As Manik Halam, a student of MCA1 writes, "We came to realise that there are schools having very poor infrastructure with children deprived even of fundamental education."

The ECE3B students visited the orphanage managed by the Missionaries of Charity at Baralumukh. Bijit Bordoloi, their class representative had this to say about the experience: "I saw that almost all the orphans were babies. Only a person who visits them can feel the deep pain of being orphaned or abandoned. At that age, children need love and care and the people in the society should realise it at the earliest. This experience has entirely changed my attitude towards little orphans".

I believe that these interactions have been eye-openers in more ways than one. Not only have they opened our eyes, they have also opened the eyes of those we interacted with – they would have realised that there are people who care for them.

We Can Make a Change

As we took part in the Social commitment programmes, a new confidence dawned on us – We can make a change. The change may not be great and it may not affect very many people - but we can bring about a change for the better in the lives of those we come into contact with.

CSE3 and EEE3 conducted regular coaching classes for poor children in the neighbourhood of the college. The children came in large numbers Sunday after Sunday, telling us that our efforts were appreciated and that we had made a difference.

Swagata Singha Roy, student of EEE3 says, "It was indeed a great experience. We got the opportunity to interact with the children of the locality as well as to support them in their studies. We feel that it made a difference in their lives."

The EEE5 students took up the challenge of cleaning up the surroundings of the college. They divided themselves into groups and cleaned different parts of the college. Arpit

Das, a student of this class had this to say about their experience – "Within three hours, the results of the hard work by the students were evident. The pleasure and satisfaction obtained from doing this noble deed was a reward in itself."

Bringing Joy

Realisation that we can bring joy into the lives of others was a joy in itself. When the ECE3A students visited the orphanage, this was their experience, as Shikhamoni Kalita describes – "In the orphanage, we tried to make them forget their problems for a while. We shared a moment of love and joy with them and showed them a ray of hope. It was wonderful to see the light in their eyes."

We also realised that sharing what we have – our time, our love with others brought us joy and a feeling of fulfilment. Zeba Samshi belongs to CSE3, a class which helped in the Sunday coaching programme. She realised that, "Sharing our knowledge with others has increased our appreciation of the knowledge that we have. It brought happiness, fulfilment and self-confidence to us."

ECE5 students spent a Sunday with the old people at the old people's home run by the Missionaries of Charity at Lankeswar. They summed up their experience in these words: "The people there were touched by our interaction with them and we in turn enjoyed the time we spent with them."

Our Duty Towards Society

Many of us are living protected lives – protected from want, having everything we need. Coming into contact with our less privileged friends made us realise that we too have a responsibility to society. ECE1 students too spent a Sunday at the old peoples' home at Lankeswar. Barasha Hiloidhari, their class representative expresses her feelings as follows: "It was really a great experience to spend a few moments from our schedule with those staying with the Missionaries of Charity. It powerfully reminded us about our duties and responsibility towards the society."

In conclusion, let me quote Priyanka Mukherjee a student of CSE1 who shares about her experience with social commitment programmes. "After joining DBCET, it has been as though a new episode of my life has been unfolding each day. Out of all these beautiful and refreshing moments, going out with my friends for a social commitment programme to Snehalya, was the best experience I ever had... At the end of the day, I personally thank God that He has given me the privilege of sharing a little of my life with these deprived friends of mine."

It has indeed been a wonderful experience for all of us who have been privileged to open our lives to those around us.

Rosemary Koikara, DBCET

Christmas 2010

The three Wise Kings were strangers
In search of one remote, tantalizing dream
Of peace on earth and joy for all!

So may we all be far more than we seem,
Spurred by dreams that taunt logic,
Together bound for the shores ahead...

Awash with the love we have shared,
Stronger for the hopes we have nurtured,
Wiser for the roads we have traveled...

The roads and the stars
Lonely and unreachable they seem,
And stumble we may, and fall...

But travel on, we must,
The Star of Bethlehem beckons!
He is our Joy and He indeed is our Peace!

May this Christmas bring you joy !

May the blessings of God follow you every moment of the year ahead !



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