

I visited Aangan on August 23rd at their new location in Daryaganj which they moved into at the end of 2019. There is a basement and a ground floor and it is the ground floor that functions as the Day Care Center. Currently the basement is used for storage. There were 38 kids in that small space of 200 sq.ft. on that day at the center. Besides Amit Sinha who is the founder of Jamghat, I also met Manoj Bhat who is the Program Head (provides direction to all the Jamghat programs, arranges for volunteers, evaluates proposals, helps with legal documents) Irfan Khan (manages the day to day activities of Aangan, teaches, does theater workshops), Jyoti (teaches the kids who are mostly in the 8-14 age group basic Hindi, English and Math) Ismat (a counsellor-she spends 1:1 time with the kids and helps them cope with the daily exploitation and abuse that comes with living on the streets)

The children performed a street play and it was painful to watch them enact a scene where kids sell tea and shine shoes but the police officers and local goons who avail of their services not only, not pay but also hit them. It was a display of the brutal reality of the streets that we like to avert our eyes from but nevertheless, it is what they confront or are a witness to almost on a daily basis.

In the time I spent there, I observed that the kids looked cheerful and engaged which is a good sign and a pointer to the anchor that Jamghat is in their lives. They were excited to show me their artwork, expressed pride in their acting abilities and did a Hindi movie inspired dance! I also saw a poster in Hindi which listed the rules of Aangan. The rules loosely translated are-keeping the area clean, exercising everyday, using the day care supplies with care, learning something new everyday and not engaging in fights or abusive language. I asked Amit to explain-the 'learning something new every day' rule- he said it could be a new word, general knowledge facts about the history of the local area or a civics lesson about government, elections etc.

An issue that I raised was a lack of ventilation-there were no windows and the main door which is a shutter was closed. It is understandable that they prefer to keep the shutter closed to make sure the kids are safe but I was assured that it is opened from time to time for air circulation. There are two air shafts but they had put a curtain to block it as people throw trash down the shaft. Amit let me know that they will get exhaust fans, put a few plants and talk with the neighbors not to throw trash down the shaft. It is difficult to find a space to work with kids in this area-the rents are high and they managed to find the place with quite a lot of difficulty.

Charu Katyal
Project Steward

10-4-2023

1st Draft

आगों के नियम

1. लड़ाई नहीं होनी चाहिए

2. गाली नहीं देनी चाहिए।

3. सम्मान का इस्तेमाल सही
तरिके से किया जाए।

4. रोज़ एक विषय पर बात
होनी चाहिए।

5. रोज़ सुबह व्यायाम
होना चाहिए।

6. साफ़-सफाई का ध्यान
रखना।

1) नौशाद, अकिन, गरिमा, नूरी (S) रेहान, ईरा, फ़रीदा
अब्दुल्ला, आक्रम, ज़रीना, शायम, (B) रशी, गौख (S) रेहान



