**Chetanalaya**: I visited Chetanalaya centres' in New Delhi on 10th of April 2017.  As a part of the visit, I explored their administration unit, a learning room for young children, and a playschool for infants and small kids. The person-in-charge, explained me about the working of each section and the overall objective of Chetanalaya's work.

Located in the middle of a socially backwards ghetto, it appeared that the NGO is running its centres with great resilience and effort to bring some fundamental changes for a healthy community. The administrative unit had an office for meetings and paperwork. It also had a separate floor for community leaders' meetings and strategy discussions. These leaders are the teenagers from the community who have actively taken the responsibility of addressing various social problems in their neighbourhood. I got a chance to attend one such meeting in which a team comprised of both girls and boys (in almost equal numbers) were deciding their next steps for pursuing the MCD for cleaning their colony. They also read their minutes of meeting from the previous meeting to help me understand the structure of the meetings. We had a  good discussion on possible ways to bring change in a setting where most of their family and friends resist change. This meeting was a glimpse of the NGO's work in youth empowerment and activism. The overall infrastructure of the administration unit was decent and was equipped with required amenities.

I then visited a classroom for boys from the age group of 4 to 8. All the boys were from the slum and actively engaged in a conversation. On prompting, they shared the stories and poems they have learned. The infrastructure of the classroom could have been much better. It was a small room which had just enough space to fill 20 kids. The kids were sitting on a tattered mat and paint of the walls was getting off. The boys seem to liking the place and could have been regular as mentioned during the conversation.

The next stop was a playschool for infants. There were around 20 infants sleeping in that room with three female caretakers. These kids belonged to families which had working parents. Their parents worked as daily wage labourers or ragpickers. As stated by the caretakers, the parents pick up their kids at the end of the day. The food is provided by the parents. The room was clean and had some toys for the kids to play.

All in all, the first impression of the organisation was good. The socio-economic condition of the slum appeared to be very grim. Most of the families there seemed to be just above the poverty line. The biggest strength of the organisation is its location, which makes them a part of the community and thus helps them connect the community members and the changemakers strongly. And in some cases, help make the changemakers from within the community.

**Shades of Happiness**: Asha Purdue’s volunteer Neha Gupta visited the school where Shades of Happiness is based during the May of 2016. She interviewed the students and also had an overall look at the campus and it’s facilities. Her impression was that the center was doing really good work with the kids and that they should be supported for at least the tuition component and the weekend activities.