

## Gratitude and Humility Group

### Report for 2022-23(First Term)



Gratitude and Humility is a combined group with 27 children. All of them are of different age groups between 12-15 years. Now 13 children out of 27 have taken admission in NIOS for class 10<sup>th</sup>. 3 more would be taking admission in October. These children are called Humility group. One child has filled the exam form to appear for the Home Science paper in October and 3 would be appearing for Hindi. Gratitude group contains 14 children who are participating in all the activities of the school. They are doing all the classes along with all the co-curricular





activities whereas the Humility group children are the 10<sup>th</sup> class students who have been given more time for their self-studies. Out of 27 children 25 are staying in the hostel and 2 children are day-scholars. They are regular in the school. As most of the children have touched their teenage, they are more accountable and responsible. All of them manage their emotions maturely and respond to feedback appropriately. They show positive attitude with each other

in the group activities. But sometimes they have to be reminded of the minimum rules and regulations which a school child has to follow. This has



been seen mostly in the boys who are a bit exposed to the outside world and have brought changes in their physical get up. They are being always encouraged to make a solid

effort to avoid distractions that could interrupt their learning process.

## **Hindi**



In Hindi, the children have completed both the course books of 10<sup>th</sup> class of National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Now they are revising the 1<sup>st</sup> book for the whole book test. The children are able to understand the stories and poems and do the question and answers. Sometimes the children are given surprise tests. Some children are solving previous year question papers and are preparing for the board exam. The children go to the library once a week for free reading. They enjoy reading storybooks. Krishna didi had come from Haryana and taught grammar



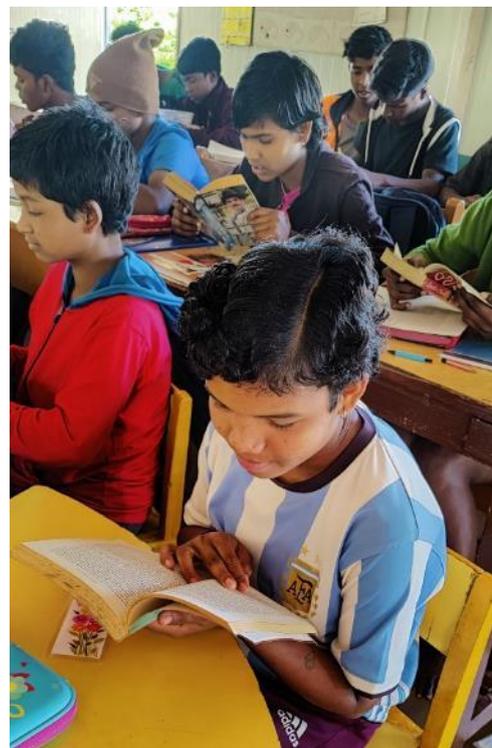
like- idioms and proverbs, punctuation, tense etc. She also did the correction of incorrect sentences in speaking and writing. Another didi (Poonam Didi)

from Delhi had come in July for teaching Hindi. She stayed for during her stay, she taught the children essay writing, some basics and spiritual things.

### *English*



During these six months the children of Humility and Gratitude covered all the chapters of the 1<sup>st</sup> book of NIOS syllabus. They also covered some chapters of the 2<sup>nd</sup> book of NIOS. They faced some difficulties in some chapters such as “Vision of India”, “The last stone mason”, “My elder brother” and “Stealing and atonement”. They were guided by the teachers in these chapters and clarified their doubts. Some of them needed help in understanding the real meaning of the poems. After understanding they were able to answer the text questions by themselves. Some of them independently answered the



questions and most of the answers were correct. They always answer the questions according to their understanding and have improved their handwriting and sentences a lot.

While completing these chapters they came across many grammatical questions



and writing work as well. In grammar they learnt about phrases and clauses, direct and indirect speech, active and passive voice and similes and metaphor. They were given many exercises to do on these for practise. Many of them were able to do it and some of them needed help.



In writing, they were taught to write formal and informal letters, paragraph writing, notice writing and message writing. They learnt all about the formats which were

present in these writing works. They were given many questions to write and to practise.



After completing the 1<sup>st</sup> book of NIOS syllabus, all of them gave tests on all the chapters. They gave tests of two chapters daily. Many of them enjoyed giving the tests. Many of them scored good marks in the tests and others have to work harder in order to achieve good marks in their tests. By giving these tests we were able to find doubts of the children and clarify their doubts. While giving these tests, they got to learn to comprehend a question. They got an experience as in what type of questions might come in the exams and how they should answer.

### ***Odia***

Now 13 children are doing Odia class. They are doing class 3 book. We do group reading, explanation of chapters and then the exercises. They are able to read storybooks and magazines and newspapers on their own. On some days the children learn songs too during the class. They can converse in Odia but need more practise to speak fluently. On the school's birthday, they sang an Odia song on our school. During the celebration of Sri Aurobindo's birthday,

they did a quiz in Odia which was about Sri Aurobindo's life. We have started grammar to improve their language.

### ***Biology***

Everyone has completed the syllabus of the 1<sup>st</sup> book and started the second book of 10<sup>th</sup> class from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). Meeta Didi came for 15 days in July and taught the chapters of Biology such as Nutrition, Transportation, Respiration and Excretion and Control and Coordination. She gave a lot of information related to our body to the children. The response from all the children was good. Whenever the children had doubts during her classes, they would ask Didi.

All the children prepared a permanent slide of onion and looked at it under the microscope. The children did some experiments like electrolysis, types of circuit, respiration of plants etc. with Raghu Bhaiya.

### ***Chemistry***

After the departure of Meeta Didi, we started Chemistry and it is almost completed with 2-3 chapters remaining. This time we have completed the chapters such as Acids, Bases and Salts, Air and Water, Metals and Non-Metals and Carbon and its Compounds.

In the acid, base and salt chapter, children already had a general information of



some common acids and bases. They read about the different salts in it. To check the acid and base, the children themselves prepared the indicator from the Hibiscus flower. They presented an activity in the assembly using a variety of acid, base and indicator. The children also prepared base solutions and mixed metals in it, which produced hydrogen gas. They filled this hydrogen gas in a balloon, blew it and released it. The children kept looking at that balloon until it disappeared in the sky. They enjoyed doing the experiment a lot. Through these various activities, the concepts of the topics are clear to the children. Children also learn to handle chemicals and apparatus during the activity or experiment in the science laboratory.

‘Carbon and its compounds’ was a new chapter for the kids. Initially they considered this chapter to be very difficult but once they completed it, they could understand and found it easy.



After completing each chapter, they are given notes. After that they do ‘Intext questions’ and ‘Terminal exercises. Once they complete a chapter, they are given a test on it. Most of the children have improved their way of answering a question but there are some who still need improvement in their sentence formation. When students study different topics of science, some take part actively with interest and

they try to understand but a few students need encouragement to ask questions. Some students are very inquisitive so they interact openly in the class. But they take time to recall when discussion takes place related to a topic which was learnt in the previous chapters. So, children are memorising by repeating the chapters. From now on these children will have to learn to do self-study and follow other books of this class which will help them in their higher classes.

## *Physics*



In physics, 4 chapters are completed. These are ‘Sources of energy’, ‘Work and energy’, ‘Thermal energy’ and ‘Light energy’.

In the chapter of ‘Sources of energy’, children learnt and understood about renewable and non- renewable sources of energy, their benefits and limitations. The children took

the topic as a project and made models of how energy is produced from different sources. They also wrote about it and presented to other



groups in the school. In 'Work and energy', they understood the concepts like what is work, what is energy, relation between work, force and energy from other books which helped them a lot. In 'Different forms of energy and their transformation' etc. they did questions and answers from the course book. In the chapter 'Thermal energy', they did

some experiments like measuring temperature using thermometer, 'Thermal expansion', bimetallic strip and conversion of temperature from



one scale to another. While studying about light energy, they did experiments on reflection and refraction of light, formation of image in plane mirror, spherical mirror and spherical lenses. They learnt the ray diagram of formation of image in different mirrors and lenses. Also, they did dispersion of light through prism.

## ***Mathematics***

6 children in this group are currently doing NIOS 10<sup>th</sup> class book. 3 out of 6 children have completed the syllabus from both the books and rest of them are still doing it. Some of these children will be appearing for their exams in April 2023. Those who have completed the syllabus of 10<sup>th</sup> class are given the previous years' question papers for practise as well as revising from other books like R.D.Sharma and R.S.Agarwal. The other kids who are yet to complete their course are doing it at their own pace. They need to focus on their work. These children do maths for 3 hours a day.

The rest of the children are doing the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> class books. Four of them have online classes every morning (except on Sundays). After each chapter is over, the children are given a test. If they score less marks in the tests, then they are given a retest. The children's understanding of question, especially word problems and the way of answering has improved. There are some children in this group who understand when explained just once but some need explanation more than twice. Most of the children take initiative, concentrate and study well.

## ***Social Science***

These days they have started class 10<sup>th</sup> History syllabus of NIOS. They have completed Political Science and Geography. They write notes, do the exercises given in the book and give tests. All the children did not find political science easy but they were putting effort to understand and remember the concepts. Geography was easier for them. They were able to work independently with confidence and

focus. Now the History part has started which is one of their favourite subject. To clear the chapter tests we have kept a peak of 80%. But all the children are unable to reach this in one go. So they are always given a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> chance to get there. Their interest in listening to 'Daily news' continues and sometimes we discuss the present crisis of the world. They also share the news with the other children of the school. Social science class creates a learning atmosphere in this group where everybody learns from each other.

## ***Sports***

Sports can really give a true shape to a person physically, mentally and vitally. It also provides lots of fun to the children. So, our



children never abstain from their games. Even three months of heavy rain could not stop them from playing. Our Games always starts with concentration, followed by



running and exercises and finally the sports like football, basketball, volleyball, Frisbee are played. Sometimes before playing they run on the hill for 15 minutes. During the rain, sometimes boys preferred to play kabaddi with the senior students. During the seasons of fruits some children like to go for a long walk to

the jungle to collect mangoes, guavas, Amla (Indian Gooseberry) and Tamarind.



### *Celebrations*

For the special occasion of the school's birthday which falls on 5<sup>th</sup> July, the children of Humility and Gratitude practised a play named 'Ouch' in the English class. They contributed and cooperated well and on the final day performed well on the stage. They were all confident and spoke their dialogues boldly. They made the props required, by themselves.



For 15<sup>th</sup> August, the children of this group practised a play on Sri Aurobindo's life story as this is

the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo. The part of the play they performed on this occasion was Sri Aurobindo's arrival in India after 14 years of stay in England till his founding the ashram in Pondicherry. They performed it well and enjoyed performing the play very much.

The students of Gratitude and Humility participated in the quiz, speech, painting and poem writing competition held in the first week of August. All of them prepared themselves for these competitions and many of them won and received many prizes and honours. The first event that took place was speech- the participants had to give a speech about the life story of Sri Aurobindo. The Gratitude and Humility students gave speech on the spiritual life of Sri Aurobindo, in which some of them were confident and the others were nervous to speak on the stage with a mike. They gave their best performance in this event. The next event was poem writing followed by painting. In both these competitions the students of this group excelled by writing very good poems and drawing very good pictures, thus winning the prize for these competitions by standing first. The last and the most interesting event of the week which was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August was the quiz. Here the children of this group and some children of other groups were divided into several groups. Many questions about freedom fighters including Sri Aurobindo's life story were presented in front of them. Many of the questions were answered by them and they really enjoyed themselves while answering these questions. They got lots of knowledge and information regarding the freedom struggle which will help them a lot in future and also for their exams.

As Rath Yatra is the most auspicious festival of Odisha, we all celebrated it in our school. It falls in the month of July. This group children participated actively in the 9 days of programme. Boys helped in making Rath for the Lord. Girls decorated it. During the procession, some of the boys organised a musical band party whereas the girls danced gracefully. Every day they were enjoying the Prasad and other rituals performed by the elders.

On Ganesh Chaturthi some of the boys with elder group children made Ganesh statue with clay. The school had a puja environment on that occasion.



September 5<sup>th</sup> was celebrated for the honour of the teachers where all the programmes were arranged by this group's girls. With the help of few teachers, these girls arranged a short, sweet and funny programme. Through this arrangement they proved how innovative and advanced they have become.



## ***Music***

In music children are continuing learning Tabla and flute.

In flute they learn 'Raags', and songs. Now they are able to play 'Raags' with Tabla. Few children have a good sense of hearing the tunes as they can make the notations of any song



and play them on flute. Mostly they use the 'Shudh swars' in their songs. These days we are focusing on komal notes. They are trying their best. In the month of August the famous classical singer Pt. Shantanu Bhattacharya, Durba Bhattacharya and their daughter Mitra Bhattacharya visited the school for a few days. Girls of this group took initiative to learn vocal from them. They learnt a few devotional songs of The Mother and Sri Aurobindo. On 15<sup>th</sup> of August they offered it at the lotus feet of the Mother and Sri Aurobindo. It was a beautiful experience for the children to learn from them.

## ***Tabla class***

On Sunday afternoons at 1:30, some of the Gratitude and Humility boys come for Tabla class. They are learning 'Kayada' and its variations. They have learnt 'Kayada 1' and 'Kayada 2'. They usually play a bit of the new 'taals' which they would be learning and then after some practise, they

play the 'taals' which they already know. They enjoy learning and playing tabla. Everybody's pace is different but there is a noticeable improvement in all of them. Some can really play very well along with songs. They play during meditation time while the others sing.



## *Dance*



Twelve girls of this group are interested in dance and therefore are continuing to learn. Initially they were interested in learning only folk dances and hip hop, but now some of them are taking interest in learning classical dance forms (especially Indian Classical dances). Most of them had stage fright while performing dance, on any occasion.



But now all of them dance confidently and fearlessly on the stage because they have been performing dances many a times during the programmes. Some of the girls have their own dancing groups. They look up for dance videos on YouTube and practise for the programmes. On 5<sup>th</sup> July some girls danced on Punjabi songs, 'Chham chham chham' and 'Gaj ka

dam'. On 15<sup>th</sup> August they performed a dance on the song 'Vande Mataram' which was taught by Denis Bhaiya who had come from Delhi for a short period. They learnt contemporary dance and other dances from him. The children enjoyed learning dance from Bhaiya a lot.



On Janmashtami all the girls of this group had danced on the bhajan 'Shree Krishna Govinda'. On Ganesh Chaturthi,

some girls danced on the bhajans 'Deva Shree Ganesha' and 'Gajanana'. They gave their best and enjoyed doing the dances. They are learning dance on BTS songs like 'Permission to dance' and 'Dynamite'. They are also learning street jazz and shuffle dance.

## *Art*



This group children have art class once a week. They are learning both art and crafts. Before starting anything

in the class they think what they can do with their peers. Each of them have made two types of paper flowers for

flower vase. They also made big paper flowers for Ganesh



puja decoration. Sometimes they do freehand drawings according to their own creativity. They use pastel colours and colour pencils for colouring. They enjoy doing all the art activities done in the class.

## ***Computer***

Gratitude and Humility group children have computer class once a week. They are still doing typing courses like Lesson 5 which is capital letters and Lesson 6- keys and commas. Some of them are confident enough and can type without looking at the keyboard, but some still need more practise. During computer class, they also learn other activities than just practising typing. Sometime in 'Word' or in 'WordPad', they type the keys and numbers to memorise their finger spot. After the practise of typing from the beginning till now, they have improved and their typing speed is now 15-20 wpm. All of them need to improve their speed of typing. When their hands get tired then they like to do painting. Some of these children who are going to appear for their 10<sup>th</sup> class Data Entry exams come to learn computers in the afternoons regularly. They have learnt 'Word', 'Excel' and 'PowerPoint'. They are learning fine but need to pay more attention in the class, especially when they are learning something new.