



COMMUNITY SERVICE TRIP

By Akansha (Aki) and Patawut, Grade 10

We take all the pleasure in our life for granted, just because we were fortunate enough to be gifted with them since birth, but in the same world there are those who lack these components of satisfaction and ease. Living our daily life, we do not pay any heed to these people and most importantly, the small children, who are deprived of parents, any type of shelter, food, and clothing, overlooking all other luxuries. While we have comfortable chairs, sofas, and above all, a cozy, relaxing bed, these children's homes are a disheveled, unhygienic, one-room hut and their schools are a small room with a hard, wooden floor. These children that we visited barely had anything; no shoes and a poor teaching facility.

Our religion class's field-trip to the school in the Muslim community of Minburi was a wonderful experience as it brought to mind these facts of life, which otherwise we would not consider. It was a great privilege to spend time with these children, who in fact looked like any other child in the world. We stepped out of the bus, and walked our way to the day care center. Our first task was to just choose a group of children and indulge them by reading books to them, playing with hand gestures, performing drawing and coloring activities, and just socializing with them. As the children smiled at us when we played together, a thought came to our mind about who cared for these children's health. Who were the people responsible for these children's healthcare? We could see that no one cared for these children's teeth. If nobody cared for these children's teeth, then there were probably none or very few people who cared for their health. Later, we saw a fantastic dance feat conducted by the teachers and performed by the talented students of the orphanage. At around noon, we savored ourselves with food, then we played with the children for an additional hour, and with that, our trip to the Minburi day care center ended.

All the children there would have some talent or another hidden within them, from arts to academics, all they need would be a little motivation. It was awesome viewing all the different characteristics, personalities, and interests of the little children who were extremely amusing to be around. As we left the orphanage, the children were so touched by our visit that many began to cry.

While we acknowledged a fruitful break from school, the children received a devoted company. This field trip was a real eye-opener for us. This field trip has also shown us the deeper underlying meaning of society in Thailand. We have seen first hand the social issues such as health care that needs improvement. This field trip has taught us many lessons about life, how lucky we are, and the real life examples of those that have been deprived from their basic necessities. Overall, our trip to the school was indeed an all-rounder, with all sides productive and an extremely important experience.

