

RETHINKING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY AND INEQUITY

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As a part of our Socially Relevant Projects (SRP), we had an opportunity to visit “Kaliyuva Mane”, a free alternative residential school run by “Divya Deepa Charitable Trust” for under privileged students of the society. Kaliyuva Mane is registered with Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Karnataka under the provisions of Section 34(3) of the Juvenile

Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Amendment Act, 2006 as a Child Care Institution. The rise in the number of disenfranchised children and alternative schools appear to be related. More alternative schools are being constructed as there are more pupils who lack citizenship. This association may be the result of persistent social injustice, which feeds the cycle of educational disparity, as well as social, economic, and political problems.

Our project as a team in this organization was to understand the functioning of the organization and the foundation and values on which the organization is built on. We are looking into the running issues related to management and working on resolving such hurdles. Apart from that, we counsel students regarding their pain points and advice on future prospects. Identified few bottle necks in the operation of the school, administration, and children engagement.

Since I first learned about NGOs, I have visited many organizations that make significant contributions to society, but what made this organization stand out to me was the system they

use and how they view education. Today, few schools or other trustees address the issue that the Divya Deepa Trust does, which is to accept children who have dropped out of school at a young age for personal reasons and teach them from where they left regardless of their background. Because of my involvement in the event, I had the chance to learn more and make a tiny contribution to the group striving to educate the underprivileged children in our society. When I went through the profile of the students in Kaluiya Mane and their backgrounds I was shell shocked, and I felt no amount of solace will cure their emotions and I also felt how strong you need to be in such situations and the only thing was running in my mind that how blessed we are to get all the necessities from food to shelter from our parents.

As affluent members of society, we refused to see, comprehend, and resolve the immediate issues society is suffering. It is our moral responsibility as individuals to contribute to identifying solutions to these problems. Due to a shortage of teachers and a high dropout rate among children, education is a major problem in rural India. India has a sizable share of young people in its population, and if we do not provide them with a high-quality education, we would not be able to take advantage of this country's enormous untapped potential. Every child has a basic right to fundamental education, but we have completely failed to uphold this commitment. Around the world, a lot of pupils leave school each year. This impairs their social and economic development, lowers the nation's literacy rate, and fosters a noninnovative atmosphere. In India, the topic of dropouts is particularly significant and intriguing. When we saw the children in kaluyva mane I felt very happy seeing their progress in this unusual system of school and also their practical and innovative style of teaching was helping these kids to learn better. Such a child-centric alternative school is very important to be present in every nuke and corner of our country because of poverty, and the inability to cope up with a regular school curriculum where a child in this system can learn at his own pace without peer pressure. An alternative route to academic success and a high school diploma may be offered by alternative education.

The founder of the trust has an outlook for the future. He intends to establish a centre for instruction for those persons so that anyone who wants to start instructing these understudies might do it elsewhere. There aren't many places left in today's culture where one can go to experience what it's like to display such understudies, thus this can have a much bigger impact than the institution alone. Their long-term goal is to achieve this. Therefore, I realized that the impact we have on society whether small or large cannot be determined by how much you donate; rather, it depends on how your contributions have been made.

