

DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Trip to Kilpennathur - A Report

16th August 2022: The students belonging to the second shift, 3rd year of the Department of Visual Communication at our Loyola College were taken on an educational village visit to Kilpennathur as a part of their curriculum in the subject Development Communication on the dates 16, 17 and 18th of August 2022. We kick started the trip at 6:35 p.m. with a short address from our HOD Rev. Fr. Irudhaya Raj and Coordinator Ms Nidhya and a minute of silent prayer. It was one blissful bus ride with the winds blowing across our faces as the bus zoomed through the roads. We stopped for a dinner of hot mini tiffin at the Adyar Ananda Bhavan restaurant at Tindivanam. We then resumed our journey and reached the AHAL Foundation by 12:15 a.m. We then left to our allotted rooms where we halted the night and recharged ourselves for the next day.

17th August 2022: The students were asked to assemble by 7 a.m. in the morning for a village visit. This was followed by the division of teams for the village visits on one hand and the preparations for the orientation program on the other. Our chief guest for the program was Mr. K. Pichaandi, M.L.A of the Kilpennathur constituency and the Deputy Speaker of the current legislative assembly. Our students hosted this orientation program formally and efficiently under the guidance of our professors. Followed by this we were briefed about AHAL - Action for Human Rights and Liberation Foundation by Mr. Karthik. The vision and mission of AHAL focused on uplifting and voicing out the voiceless and underprivileged people in our society particularly the communities like the Arunthathiyar, Irulars and Gypsies. And we students were to contribute to this cause by meeting many people in and around the villages there, develop sourceful communications with them and take surveys which would later help us in interpreting the communications we had developed there.

After our lunch, we set out to 5 different villages as teams of 10 where we met many people from amongst the Arunthathiyar community and lent ears to their issues. These conversations revealed the other side of livelihood, the ones that we haven't seen, the ones that we thought were eradicated many many years ago, the ones that made us question whether our country is still a "developing" one, for the development of the people there, was still standstill at the cost of those privileged by birth in our society. After this interactive session, all the students from different villages set out to Irudhayanagar, a minor village in Tiruvannamalai to showcase the entertainment activities we had in mind for the villagers there. The entertainment program at Irudhayanagar was definitely a fond memory carried by all as it helped our entire class come together and bring joy in the faces of everyone there! Along with entertaining the village folks we students discovered many new talents from among us through the impromptu dance, singing, mimicry and beatboxing performances that were put forth that night. Just as this day couldn't get better, we were surprised by a campfire set to commemorate our last night's stay by the students and staff at AHAL. Even though it was short-lived by the rain that followed, the efforts and time spent with them had made our hearts full!

18th August 2022: The next day we rose, had our breakfast, distributed stationeries to the students as our small token of gratitude and bid farewell to the AHAL foundation, and were en route to our next set of village visits. We spoke and listened to the kind & heavy hearts out there who were victims of inequality and longing for basic needs and also spread awareness about the simple measures that could be taken on their behalf to help them get closer to their needs as we left from there. Thanks to the mango tree that brought us all under one roof for a hearty lunch before our educational trip had officially come to an end.

Our professor Jesly thanked all the staff of AHAL individually for the commendable service they provided towards us and made this trip a memorable one for each and every one of us there.

Around 3 p.m. we boarded a bus and left back to our college and reached the premises at 7 p.m. With this, our beautiful journey to Kilpennathur came to an end.

Our sincere thanks to our Principal, Head of the Department, Coordinator, Professors Jesly and Sahana for accompanying us on this trip, and all the other staff who made this trip possible for our batch students. A special mention to our Professor Jesly, subject teacher for Development Communication without whom this trip wouldn't have hit the roads smoothly. This trip turned out to be the fresh breath of air that we students needed the most to reset and refresh our minds in this fast-moving, breathless lifestyle led by us!

A report by Kayal. S (20-UVC-102)