

Date: 07/04/2019

Venue: Patripool and Lodha Palava Junction

Event Report – 7th April, 2019

After two weeks of preparation, the day of executing things had arrived. We were now somewhat comfortable working with the police officials after having 3-4 formal meetings with Police Inspector Mr. Shirsat and Police Sub-Inspector Mr. Shelke, the thought which at first seemed a bit scary for all of us. However, we found that the officials were very welcoming and admired our idea of helping the cops which is a rare thing that people think of. We had their support and hence it motivated us to plan and prepare for the event with enthusiasm.

We gathered near the Chakki Naka Police Station at 10am in the morning. All our volunteers were registered and given ID cards for the day. The names of all who were going to participate was submitted to the police. Later we were ordered to go the Patripool Police Chowki. Sub-Inspector Mr. Shelke had briefed us about the activity and he had us placed at appropriate positions for the afternoon. We had made placards, posters with traffic rules written in rather sarcastic lines. The sun above showed no mercy and seemed working at its best. Our team distributed masks to all the policemen. This would reduce the suffering due to pollution to some extent.

The response from the people was very fascinating. Many of them were eager to read the placards. Few waited and asked us about our work and how we started doing all this. Many people were kind enough to admire our work for the society and gave the “You’re doing a good job” kind of gesture. Few people asked our volunteers to wear caps. Such care from strangers depicted how our work connected us emotionally to people of the society. We provided juices to all policemen standing out there in the sun, the wardens who assisted police officials and also our team to be energetic for the entire session. There were a few “Aww” reactions from the people which implied the idea was surprising and not many people would think of doing it. In the midst of the event, a visit from Inspector Mr. Shirsat on the spot, where he got down and admired our work motivated us for the rest of the day. After the traffic eased, we ended our session at 2pm.

Later in the day, after taking rest for 2 hours, we again gathered at Chakki Naka Police Station. Registration was done for the volunteers who came in for the evening session. By 5pm we all left for Lodha Palava Junction, a place that witnessed heavy traffic on Sunday evenings. We reached the spot by 6pm and quickly were allotted positions. The next 3 hours were breathtaking. Every minute hundreds of vehicles passed by. We were blocking a few and helping the policemen to manage the traffic. It was a wonderful experience.

By the end of it, we were all tired. The thought of people doing it on a regular basis really was difficult to imagine. People who are made to wait in the traffic are never good to the policemen. Taking all those abuses and hatred from the people, while working to avoid traffic jams for their own sake and doing it with such perfection is really admirable. A little patience from our side, could ease their work by a great margin. We urge the same our readers and expect them to follow the same.

We ended by distributing certificates to our volunteers, to take out time from their schedules and do their bit for the society. We were appreciated by many and we pledge to continue doing such activities for the society.