

## **Young Junior Round Square Conference,** **Daly College, Indore, 7-9 January, 2011**

I was part of a group of six children chosen to represent our school at the Round Square Conference at Indore. The conference was being hosted by a school called The Daly College. The theme of the conference was Making a Difference.

Daly College is a boarding school. The school premises were very beautiful with a lot of greenery. There were huge gardens with different species of flowers. It was very well planned with a lot of open space. There were many fields for different sports. The main building looked very grand and it had a huge Indian Flag on the top.

We received a grand welcome on arrival. Our hosts garlanded us and gave us a bag which contained a t-shirt saying Making a Difference and a book on what we would be doing at the conference. I was staying in a dormitory like a boarder. For the first time in my life, I was totally on my own – away from family, managing my belongings. It was an awesome experience!

On the day of our arrival, many activities had been organized for us, like a football match and some icebreaker games where we got to know the other children from different schools. In the night was the informal opening ceremony.

Day 1 of the conference was a really enjoyable one. First the keynote speaker, Ms. Preeti Patel, a Manipuri dancer, spoke about her life and how she had made a difference in the lives of other people. Then we had a group discussion on what she had said. This discussion was called Baraza – I belonged to a Baraza group called Mowgli. All the groups were named after characters from The Jungle Book. It was a wonderful learning experience as I came to know about the thoughts of other people. In the evening, the different schools spoke on how their school was making a difference. We from DAIS also spoke of the various NGOs we support in our endeavour to make a difference. That night was the grand formal opening ceremony. I had a fantastic time that day.

On Day 2, I went to a village near Indore called Sanawadia. The school had adopted this village. I had a lot of fun there as we played with the little children from the village. That same night, three people who had made a difference in different spheres of life, Dr. Anupama Negi, Dr. Kutty Menon and Ms. Monica Punjabi Verma spoke about their experiences. It was very interesting to hear about their lives. That night there was a multi-cuisine dinner. It was really delicious.

On Day 3, we left early morning for Sirpur to do some bird watching. Then we went to a farm called Tafreeh. There we ate freshly cut vegetables and solar-cooked food. It was really tasty. We came back to the school and measured our Carbon Footprint. It was enlightening and shocking to learn how we contribute to Global Warming. At night, the various schools performed plays on the theme – Making a Difference. Then we had a Students' Night Out where we lit a campfire and sang and danced. We were going to leave the next day and I was really sad.

It had been a really good trip and an awesome experience. I wish I visit Daly College again!

## Opening Ceremony

