



## *‘Hamare Ankhon Se’*

This year our Khula Aasman kids did something really wonderful. Along with Stalin Bhaiya, Ragini Didi and Meredith Didi (who came all the way from the US), we were able to put together a nice play and present it to the entire community during the Ganapati festival celebrations on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017.

The name of the play was – *Hamare Aankhon se*. We wrote the scenes ourselves – it was about how we see our own community, and what we experience every day.

For six months we worked together. Meredith Didi, being trained in Theatre, taught us about Drama – how to use our bodies, facial expressions and voices to express ourselves, how to be on stage and to understand also, what we were trying to express. We learnt to look deep within and understand what we are feeling and express that. We learned to look at our community and things that made us happy and things that we wanted to change, and together, we looked for solutions for the same.



Figure 1: Practice sessions with Meredith Did were always super-fun!

On the day of the performance, we were a little nervous first. This was the first time many of us performed in front of a group this large, and none of us had written a play before. Plus, we were going to tell the elders in our community our thoughts on important things like – discrimination in gender, caste, water problems we face and education and its

importance. After the performance every one clapped for us and we were happy to see our parents also smiling and clapping and cheering for us.



Figure 2: On Stage!

One Didi from TISS – Varsha Iyer Didi, had come to watch our play. She had conducted a study on the problems faced by people in Lallubhai compound and she told us that she was very happy to see young kids like us talking about the community s openly and creatively. She told us that it was important to form opinions and ours was a good start.

Lastly, some of us shared how these 6 months training changed us. Many of us were very, very shy first, but now we are more confident, we make eye contact with people when



we speak, our ways of talking to each other have changed even our posture has changed! Through making this play, we too have had to look at how we approach our studies, and each other within the community – we want to play with more and more children! It was not always easy. Through this process we also learnt the importance of patience and practice. We had to practice many times, and make time to do so. But we are really happy that we did it, as it has changed us – even are parents are very happy to see this change!



Figure 3: After - Performance Celebrations!



Figure 4: the Team!