

Visit by class 4a of the German Embassy School, June 2022



Class 4a conducted a ten-hour lesson on the topic of "People with impairments and inclusion" in science class. First, the students shared what thoughts and feelings they have when they meet people with impairments. The children noted that in Addis Ababa, they very rarely have any encounter with children with impairments and the adults they see are mainly beggars in the streets.

They had to realize that the children are not to be seen because they are mostly "hidden" at home.

In order to give our pupils an extracurricular experience and an encounter with young children with impairments, we asked Addis Guzo if we could visit them at their center. We were allowed to do so and it was a great (learning) success!

Here is a small excerpt of the treasures we were able to take with us:

- We saw that people with impairments can excel at sports in wheelchair basketball and we got to participate. Being a team together! All together!
- We now know how important it is to provide assistive devices (e.g., wheelchairs and walking frames) because they give freedom of movement.
- We could see the joy the children have during therapy, but also how hard they have to work for small successes.
- We could experience that the women with disabilities in the handicraft workshops do great things in teamwork and share their profit from the sales in a reasonable and fair way. Now we know that people with disabilities can also work if given the chance.
- We understood that the way people with disabilities live depends on society, and that each of us is a part of that society and therefore has a responsibility.

We felt warmly welcomed and were able to conquer our apprehensions.



Gertraud Saathoff, Class teacher