

## **Enabling Programme for Children, Women and Differently-abled**

Department of Service Learning (Outreach) has been working in the communities where the urban poor reside from the academic year 2001-2002 onwards. The service learning department has always been very keen to address the needs of children, women, youth, differently-abled and the senior citizens living in the neighborhood areas of the college. Empowering the downtrodden in the neighbourhood is the concept behind service learning. The Service Learning program is a compulsory program for every student who enters the portals of the college.

Service learning students and Faculty identify widows who are interested in doing entrepreneurial activities to make both their ends meet. Such widows are encouraged and given interest free loan of Rs. 5,000 for small business entrepreneurial activities like, mushroom cultivation, leather business, candle making and simple chemical making, embroidering and tailoring, vegetables sales, idly shop, small petty shop, fish sales which takes place based on their interest and need.

The Department of Service Learning distributed a revolving fund of Rs. 5000 to 36 women entrepreneurs (small business) from the intervention areas of the department and a scholarship amount of Rs. 1000 to 63 students who appear for their board exams (10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) during this academic year on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2022. The Department also gave adaptive equipment for the differently-abled on the same day. The objective of the event was to encourage the college students who attend the function to work for the development of the people in our intervention areas and to become more socially responsible in the future after graduating from college.

The chief guest for the event was Mr. **P.K. Sekar babu**, the Honorable Minister of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments, Government of Tamil Nadu and the guests of honour were **Thiru. Dayanidhi Murosoli Maran**, member of parliament Lok Sabha Chennai Central Constituency and **Dr. Ezhillan Naganathan**, Member of Legislative Assembly, Chennai Thousand Lights Constituency. **Rev. Dr. A. Francis. P. Xavier**, Rector, Loyola College Institutions, Chennai and **Rev. Dr. D. Selvanayakam. S.J., Secretary & Correspondent** were present during the function. The Principal **Rev. Dr. A. Thomas Amirtham. S.J.**, offered his felicitations

**Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj. S.J.**, Director-department of service learning, gave the welcome address. **Ms. Rinku Mecheri**, Director- Giving Matters and **Mr. J.X. Julius Caesar**, President, Loyola MPP Charitable Trust who were the main sponsors for the event, distributed the Revolving fund and the scholarship assistance to the women and the children.

**Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj. S.J.**,  
Director-Outreach, Loyola College