



REACH

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE LEARNING



Loyola College (Autonomous)

College of Excellence

Chennai -34



Loyola College, a Catholic Minority Institution, was founded by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1925, with the primary objective of providing University Education in a Christian atmosphere for deserving students irrespective of caste and creed. Loyola College, though affiliated to University of Madras, became **autonomous** in July 1978.

UGC conferred the status of “**College with potential for Excellence**” on Loyola College in 2004 and confirmed the same in 2010.

NAAC’s re-accreditation score in 2012 (Third Cycle) is 3.70 out of 4.00 CGPA.

UGC has elevated Loyola College to the status of “College of Excellence” for the period from April 1, 2014 till March 31, 2019.

The College aims at training young men and women of quality to be leaders in all walks of life, whom we hope will play a vital role in bringing about the desired changes for the betterment of the people of our country, more particularly of the Dalits and other poorer sections of society.

The aim of the college is to educate young men and women to serve their fellow men and women in justice, truth and love. It fosters an atmosphere of intellectual vigour and moral rectitude in which the youth of our country may find their fulfilment and achieve greatness as eminent men and women of service.

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SERVICE LEARNING IN LOYOLA – An Overview

'A college should be involved in the neighbourhood community' was a recommendation made by 'the challenges of education' document as early as 1985. According to this document, a right involvement with the community is meant for two purposes.

- To link the community with the college where the community would make available the skills within it for education programmes on the campus.
- The educational institution in the process

learns to be socially relevant through modifying its curriculum and pedagogy and contribute to the growth of the community.

All the Jesuit institutions in Tamil Nadu are involved in the communities in their neighbourhood by doing meaningful programmes through their extension services such as service delivery, awareness campaigns and rallies, environmental education, health education, women empowerment, educational improvement and community development.



AIM OF SERVICE LEARNING

The main aim of service learning has remained the same, since its inception from 2001. It is to help the neighbouring communities to change themselves through programmes like literacy, health promotion, women empowerment, employment generation, youth clubs and



We immensely thank the former Directors Dr. V. Joseph Xavier SJ, Dr. Xavier Vedam SJ, Dr. Joseph Antony Samy SJ, Dr. Bernard D' Sami and the former Asst. Directors Prof. John Jeyakumar and Dr. Gladston Xavier for efficiently taking up efforts in the past to build bridges between the poor and the campus through Loyola Outreach programmes in the rural and slum areas. Their contributions to the growth of the department are praiseworthy.



reduction of dropouts in schools and to contribute towards the holistic development of the students by enabling the students to become socially responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of disadvantaged sections.

OBJECTIVES OF SERVICE LEARNING

- To sensitise the students to the living conditions of the people who are around them.
- To help the students to realise their social responsibility to the society in which they live.
- To conscientise the community about their situations and help them to bring about attitudinal changes in them.
- To help the community to realise the power in them so that they could fight for their rights.
- To learn from the community to make the curriculum of the college relevant to the needs of the country.
- To bring about an attitudinal change in the students and help them to have concern for their fellow human being.
- To make the students aware of their inner strength and help them to feel a sense of pride in what they could do to others.



Vision: To make the students socially responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of disadvantaged sections.

Values: With love and concern for others, students should



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The objectives of Jesuit Higher Education is to create women and men for others. That would not be possible if our students are not ready to soil their hands, swirl their minds and shake their hearts. Books and the ordinary people are the complementary elements of higher education. The Outreach programme of Loyola provides all the students who enroll into Loyola the wisdom of the ordinary people, residing in the slums and the rural areas. A combination of knowledge of the subjects and wisdom of the ordinary people, we believe, makes a student a better human being. That is the secret of a Loyolite becoming academically intelligent and socially sensitive. A healthy mind works and a healthy heart melts! The outcome of the analysis in mind and understanding in heart is made as a programme in the slums and the rural areas. Outreach in Loyola is an explicit solidarity with the poor and the marginalised. This solidarity makes the students realise their students' social responsibility. They are all wow-students!

dedicate themselves to community service, thereby making them men and women for others.

Mission: To create a society with committed youth to promote education, health and environment for the less privileged.

Goal: We hope to bring about social, cultural and economic empowerment in the neighbourhood communities for a sustainable and positive change.

Target Groups for the Intervention

The target groups of our intervention are the following:

- School going children in general; orphaned and semi-orphaned children in particular.
- Women in general; widows and deserted women in particular.
- School dropouts
- Youth
- Elders
- The differently abled

Field Work Areas

Three zones, in and around Loyola College were chosen in consultation with the Corporation for the involvement of the students. They were: Anna Nagar (Zone 8), Teynampet (Zone 9) and Kodambakkam (Zone 10). We have identified 41 slums from these zones for the students to learn and do service to the community.



Rev. Fr. A. M. Jayapathy Francis, S.J.

RECTOR

The Rector, Rev. Fr. A. M. Jayapathy Francis, S.J

Department of Service Learning Thanks



The Secretary, Rev. Dr. S. Lazar, S.J



The Principal, Rev. Dr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, S.J.

for their unrelenting support and commendable magnanimity.

The Department of Service Learning thanks the Heads of the Departments and the respective staff in charge of Outreach.

may you remain bless



The Deputy Principal, Dr. Fatima Vasanth

LOYOLA COLLEGE REACHES OUT TO 41 SLUMS THROUGH THE STUDENTS OF SECOND UG

They are : MGR Nagar, Ayyasamy st, Varadharajapuram, Kothamedu Street; Jothiamal Nagar, Kalaignar Nagar, MuthumariammanKoil Street, Alaiyamman Koil street,

Gankai Puram, S.S. Puram, Giriappa Road, M.K. Radha Nagar, Pallavan Nagar, Nedunchezian Nagar, Koyyathoppu Street, Ayyasamy Street, Gandhinagar-I, Nehrupark,

Gandhinagar-II, Aathma Nagar, Kakkan Nagar

P.P.Garden, Charkkan Garden, Appa Samy Street, East Namachivayapuram, S M Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Jothima Nagar, Avvai Puram, West Namchivayapuram, Neduvankarai, Indira Nagar Radhakrishnan Nagar, Sastri Nagar, M. S. Nagar, Osankulam, New Boopathy Nagar, Anjukudisai, Amma Nagar



LOYOLA PRAXIS

BUILDING RAPPORT

The second Year Under-Graduate students are required to undergo 120 hours of service in the urban slums which are assigned to them. Initially, the students visit the homes of the urban slum dwellers to get acquainted with them and they also visit schools, primary health centers, councilor's office, Mandrams, Balwadies and Tuition centers. They interact with Self help groups and community leaders, leaders of Fan clubs, leaders of political parties, ward members, volunteers and field based NGOs which work in the respective areas. The objective of this exercise is to build rapport with them and to understand the resources and the needs of the community.

FORMING GROUPS

The students are then divided into five different teams with the intention of addressing the special needs of slum-dwellers. The five different teams are Youth empowerment team, Women Empowerment team, Elders and Differently abled team, Health, Sanitation and Environment team and School teaching team (the students in this team are involved in teaching the children

of corporation schools which are nearer to their assigned slums).

Thereafter, the students learn about the demographic details of their respective slums, the health issues, housing conditions, sanitation facilities, community based social issues and needs.

IDENTIFYING AND CREATING NETWORKS

Then, they get to know about the resources in the Community such as community halls, libraries, balwadi centers, tuition centers. Primary health centres. The students are told about the importance of Networking with Government and Non Government organizations to address the needs of the people.

The students are networking with Chennai Corporation Office, State Resource Centres, Makkal Kalvi Iyakkam, Industrilaists, philanthropists, ICDS, NGOs working in slums, Zonal Offices, Community health centers, Tamil Nadu Slum clearance board, TNSACS, Dept of Social Defence, Tamil Nadu Social Welfare Board, Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Sarva Sikhsha Abiyan (SSA), Councilor's office.

We use the term 'slum' to denote the sub-standard settlements or urban villages.





REFLECTING TOGETHER

The students belonging to each team then, reflect on the issues related to their specific focus. They elaborately discuss among themselves, while continuing their rapport with the people. After they prioritise the issues, they learn to analyse them in the light of their creativity and intelligence.

STRATEGIZING INTERVENTION

Education: Street play, Puppet show, community meeting, video show, awareness programmes.

Health and hygiene: Rally, community cleaning, leaflets distribution, awareness programmes, Medical camps.

Environment: Sapling plantation, awareness programmes on eco-friendly activities, seminar on smoke free Chennai, helmet awareness.

Employment: Arranging Employment camps, Training programme, placement guidance, Referral service for placement.

LOOKING FOR RESOURCES

They start to look for resources from various people, teams and organisations. They spend time together in looking for appropriate partner to collaborate with them in the issue. They get in touch with people who already are involved in such issues.

TRANSLATION INTO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES

The areas of concern are then identified and the students plan to implement programs designed to address the needs of the slum community. The activities are streamlined and focused on women, children and youth covering health literacy, women empowerment, employment needs and other concerns.

- Executing programmes in the institutions and communities
- Gaining community acceptance
- Communicating commitment to the community
- Orientation to the community leaders
- Conducting a baseline assessment
- Developing short and mid-term action plans
- Developing roles and responsibilities of stake holders
- Developing reference materials
- Monitoring progress using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Bound) indicators

EVALUATION

After carrying out the activities, the students evaluate the programme and plan for the next one with more gusto and vigour.

In all the process, the staff members of Outreach are involved to give clarity of the issue and binding the team together. The offshoot of all these involvement, besides improving the analytical skills and leadership qualities, is the creation of friends in solidarity!

LIST OF PROGRAMMES ORGANISED BY STUDENTS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD COMMUNITIES

Programmes	Frequency	Beneficiaries
Programme for balwadi kids	1	27
Drawing Programme	10	314
Rhymes Competition	7	183
Children's Day Celebration	10	195
Importance of Breast Feeding	1	12
Programme for the School children	8	855
Drawing Competition	9	383
Speech Contest	3	120
Reading Competition (Reading Skill Programme)	2	80
Distribution of Study Materials	7	560
Evening Tuition for Children	1	19
Personality Development	3	115
Leadership Development	4	75
Career Guidance (Motivation Programme for X Standard Students)	6	159
Documentary Films	3	138
Awareness Programme on Good Touch and Bad Touch	2	20
Awareness Programme on the Importance of Education	8	284
Literacy Day Celebration	1	100
Teacher's Day Celebration	3	62
Camps		
General Medical Camps	23	1823
Eye Camp	25	1518
Dental Camp	2	57
Health Awareness Programmes (General)	8	360
Importance of Protected Water	4	74
Environmental Cleanliness	6	1073
AIDS Awareness	7	65
Dengue Awareness	8	1369
Malaria Awareness	2	34
Helmet Awareness	2	36
Hand Wash Program	4	45
Cancer awareness	12	159
Women Empowerment Programmes		
Women's Rights	5	107
Government Welfare Schemes and Policy Guidelines	10	300
Domestic Violence	7	259
Prevention and Control of Cancer	1	5
Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship	2	75
Tailoring Training	2	29
Competitions for Women		
Rongoli (Kolam) Competition	24	809
Rally and Campaign on general issues	6	394
HIV/AIDS	4	44
Anti-plastic Awareness	13	1017
Environmental Cleanliness	9	242
Programmes on Environment (general)	3	7
Awareness Programme on Clean Chennai – Clean Neighbourhood	12	727
Programme for Youth	13	229
Anti-alcoholism and Drug Addition Awareness in the second column put 3 and in the third column put 300		
Leadership Awareness	1	10
Job Placement (Youth referred for Jobs)	5	102
Dissemination of Government policies and welfare schemes for the youth development	3	86
AIDS awareness programme		
Competition Programmes for youth		
Carom	20	400
Chess	4	86
Commemoration and Celebration of important days		
Independence Day	33	2649
Republic Day	16	1511
Pongal Celebration	41	2975
Programme for elders (general)	6	80
Elders Day Celebration	20	499
Blankets Distribution	21	406
Documentary Movie on Health Awareness	7	185
Physiotherapy Camp	4	93
Common Programmes		
Awareness on RTI	3	45
RTI Filing for Community Purpose	2	20
Health interventional programs	12	265
Simple yoga experience	1	12
Siddha medicine awareness	2	24
Tree plantation	3	45
Distribution of first aid kits to disable people	2	18
Effects of using packed milk	1	15
Awareness on swine flue	1	12
Pension form submitted to taluk office	3	30
Awareness on Tamilnadu police constable exam to youth	2	25
In a year,		
Total number of programmes in the slums: 519		
Total number of beneficiaries: 24,289		

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS IN COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

The students get actively involved in the celebrations of the community. Cultural programmes are organised for the people in which awareness programmes are delivered.

They take every chance to reiterate the importance of common gatherings, harmonious living and healthy life. The common national festivals are celebrated with the people.

a. Independence Day celebration

The Independence Day is commemorated by the students of each of the departments in their respective slums with the objective of making the people and the children understand the significance of our Independence. Youth leaders, Leaders of Self-Help volunteers and professors from Loyola College participate along with Guests. To make this day as memorable event and joyful, lot of competitions are conducted for children, women and youth and the winners are awarded with prizes and sweets.

b. Pongal Celebrations

The second UG students happily celebrate the Tamil festival Pongal in all the slums along with women, children and local leaders. Women start preparation by making the oven with bricks and firewood. The people over there provide the firewood. The students purchase necessary things to prepare our traditional sweet pongal (pot, rice, water, jaggery, dhal, ghee, and dry fruits). The women voluntarily come forward and prepare the pongal. In all the areas, local residents actively participate in the various competitions organised by the students. They decorate the lanes with traditional 'kolam' with attractive colours and beautiful designs. The women participate in Rangoli competitions and men in Uri Adithal.

c. Republic Day Celebrations

The Republic day is celebrated on 26th January everywhere. The local Councillors, Police Inspectors and local leaders are invited to hoist the National Flag and give the Republic day message. The main purpose of the event is to educate the young people to understand the establishment of our Indian constitutions and administration to maintain democracy. The students organize competitions in many of the slums and prizes are distributed and people are made to realize our contribution towards nation.





**Towards
a brighter
future**

CHILDREN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

We believe that Chennai would progress towards development only if the students from underprivileged areas and urban slums excel in their studies.

So,

- Motivational programmes are often conducted by our students in the slums.
- Educational tours are arranged by the students of Loyola for the students of the slums, who are studying in Chennai (Corporation) schools.
- Children's Day is celebrated with pomp and pageantry.
- Various competitions are conducted and prizes are distributed to all.
- Memory skills are taught.
- Meditations are conducted.
- Various awareness programmes are organised.
- The children in the Corporation schools are given tuitions.

Awakening the child in each one of us is the starting point to progress...

Special 'Hope Session' for the students facing the Board Exams, held at Loyola

A Motivational Programme for 250 students appearing for their 10th and 12th board exams from the Outreach Intervention slums was conducted on February 19, 2017. They were presented with an exam kit.

We thank the students, staff, Prof. Lawrence Jeyakumar, Mrs. Christina, Counsellor and the donors for their support and encouragement.



BAG TO SCHOOL MOVEMENT – EVENT FOR THE CHENNAI SCHOOL CHILDREN AT LOYOLA

Department of Service Learning in collaboration with the organization called Brotherhood mission organized the event called Bag to School movement in Bertram hall on 28th September 2016. The primary objective of the programme was to motivate the children studying in Chennai High Schools which are run by Chennai Corporation. Considerable number of children, who are studying in the schools run by Chennai Corporation are dropping out of school before completing high school due to various reasons. The Outreach department is already doing its intervention by sending our college students to teach in the corporations schools to improve their language skills and also for the purpose of identifying slow learners. The slow learners and the children who are irregular to schools are given special attention by probing and understanding their needs and by giving them counselling.

The Outreach department is doing its intervention in 41 different slums of zones 8, 9 and 10, and more than 500 children from these slums were invited for this event. These 500 children were made to wear a T shirt which had the inscription “I am a leader” printed on it and 500 students from Loyola college presented these children a school bag which had a Tiffin box, water bottle and other educational materials.

We thank the Brotherhood Mission for the support extended to us.



Educational and amusement tour to various parks and culturally important places in the city, the children of the slums accompanied by the students from Loyola.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

The Department of Service Learning focuses on the skill oriented activities for the slum youth. As part of this, the students organise many programmes on skill training and job placement. In this year, nearly 120 young people got jobs by referral services. In addition to that, the students conduct competitions to motivate the slum youth. The slum youth get oriented about Government policies and schemes.

Carom and chess tournaments are organised for the youth in twenty four places to engage with indoor games and keep away from harmful habits like drinking liquor.

The students find it extremely difficult to garner the power of the youth in the areas. Nevertheless, there are youth who are open to motivation. The students relentlessly try to get in touch with the youth and instil in them the values of life and help them learn employment skills.

YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION AT LOYOLA

The Department of service learning (Outreach) had organized a programme



for the youth representing the 41 slums chosen for Outreach intervention at L S hall on 12th January, 2017.

The main objective of youth day celebrations was to present the opportunities available for the youth and to encourage them to engage purposefully in their future endeavours.

Marana Gnana Vijay was the Chief guest. He is well known for his debut display of singing talent through Danga Maari song.

Vazhikatti trainers informed the youth of the career opportunities.



INSPIRING PRACTICE

LOYOLA REGULARLY ADMITS STUDENTS FROM THE OUTREACH SLUM AREAS.

Every year Loyola admits a good number of students from the slums. The students are admitted even into courses like Commerce. The students who are admitted are closely followed by the faculty of Outreach and their performance is monitored.

We motivate them regularly...

We meet their parents.

We witness them growing in the College.

In one of the Parents meeting, Mrs Malarvizhi, community volunteer from Mangalapuram, Chetpet, spoke about the various activities the students have conducted in their area and emotionally expressed her gratitude. She spoke extensively about the work which was done by the students for the welfare of the people and the support extended by the department and the college for the development of their slum.



Few members representing the student community and the parents thanked the college administration, particularly Fr. Principal and Fr. Director, for the opportunity given to them by the administration.

Fr. Principal addressed them, urging the beneficiaries to acquaint themselves with the students of diverse backgrounds in the campus and work hard to do justice to the opportunity, which has been given to them and denied to many, even in spite of merit and wealth.

In the current academic year, 25 students from the slums were admitted to various subjects.

SUMMER CAMP

The Department Service Learning (Outreach) regularly conducts Summer Camp for the students from the outreach working areas. This summer camp concentrates on the career options that students could choose to pursue their higher education. Students are enlightened about the various courses of Arts, Science, Mediation, Engineering, Law and Commerce and Management. This provides an idea for the students to choose the right course according to their choice and willingness. Good hearted people support this venture.



WOMEN AND WIDOWS' EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

The students organize several programmes in view of empowering the women.

The women empowerment team has good rapport with women in 41 slums. The main activity of this team is based on bringing social and economic empowerment of the women in slums. In view of empowerment process, students organise input sessions in 41 slums on women's rights and Government

welfare schemes and policy guidelines, domestic violence, health issues and skill oriented programmes for women in slums. These input sessions are organised to make the women aware of schemes, and other issues related to them. Students also arrange skill oriented training to promote social entrepreneurship.





WIDOWS' EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

Widows empowerment has been a focus of Outreach for many years. By supporting their causes, a student learns to understand the agony of a widow, to empathize with the most marginalized women, and to know that justice is still missing for these women who have lost their husbands. It is not their fault, any way!

Widows' revolving fund

The revolving fund program was a good initiative which was started for empowering the underprivileged widows from the slums and to encourage the women who wanted to become entrepreneurs. This initiative was started in the year 2006 when Fr. Xavier Vedam was the Director of the Outreach Department and the widows from the Outreach intervention slums were chosen to be the beneficiaries, Hundred widows were given funds of Rs 5000 each which was funded by generous people in the initial year and for the

subsequent years, the widows were funded through the profit which was generated from Give Life Café which was run by the Outreach Department of our college, the women were encouraged to start a business of their choice and something which they feel will help them to become successful in the longer run, Many of the women were paying their funds on time.

The children of the widows are helped in opening a bank account with the support of Rs. 500 from the revenue of Give Life Café.

When philanthropists help us in donating sewing machines, we give to the widows who have been trained in tailoring so that they could earn their livelihood.

An Example:

Shanthakumari was a widow who had lost her husband as he was an alcoholic. She had to take up the

responsibility of taking care of the needs of her family (herself and her two kids) by selling clothes. Hence the Outreach department decided to support her by giving her an interest free loan of Rs.5000 and she was paying her funds (Rs. 500 each month) on time and thus once she paid the entire amount she was once again given a loan of Rs. 5000.

Women's Day with widows

The Service learning department celebrated women's day with 600 widows and the deserted women from the 41 slums where the Outreach intervention is being done. When the rich people of the world celebrate women's day in big hotels and resorts, the department was happy and pleased to celebrate women's day with these women who have lost their husbands.

Mrs. Jayalakshmi, the District Social Welfare Officer, Mrs. Aruna Subramiam, the trustee of Bhoomika and Dr. Fatima Vasanth were the main speakers.

They motivated the widows. They instilled in them hope that nothing would be lost if one did not lose hope.

Government measures were introduced to them.

And the widows went out with hope... hope for a better future....hope against hope!

We thank Mr. Prabhakar, IAES, CEO of Chennai Cantonment Area for appointing 34 widows in Jobs at the Cantonment.



ELDERS AND THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES

On the eve of World Elders' Day, the students celebrated elders' day in twenty slums and blankets were distributed to the elders. Several general health camps were organised for the elders. Four physiotherapy camps were arranged to address physical treatment. The students organised awareness programme on Provisions of Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 so that the elders would be aware of their rights. The students helped elders to get Old age pension and assistance for differently abled persons.

COMMON PROGRAMME

On February 22, 2017, Department of Service Learning organised a programme for Elders' from many areas in and around Chennai. The students of Loyola College helped organize this event by taking initiative to bring 1000 elders to the college. The programme took place in the Bertram Hall in Loyola College.





We thank

Fr. S. Lazar SJ, Secretary, Loyola College for gracing the occasion

Ms. Sneha Mohandoss, Food Bank for the sumptuous meal

Mr. Elangio Rajarathinam, Help Age India for being the Chief Guest

Dr. Dilli for donating blankets on the occasion of his retirement

All the students and others who donated blankets for all the elders

An interactive session took place where the members from the audience shared their experience about how these Outreach Programmes have helped them in life and how they have benefited from them and those who spoke thanked the college for this initiative. They also graced the day by their singing and dancing on the stage and it was wonderful to see how much energy and potential they have even at this age. Mrs. Jaya from Shanthy Colony spoke some motivational words for the audience and encouraging the college to take more efforts and blessing the students.



HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAMMES

The students belonging to the health and sanitation teams have network with local primary health centres and hospitals to organise free health check-up. The students conduct free eye camps to identify the cataract problem with help of Sankara Nethralaya Hospital. The people with problems in their eyes underwent free cataract surgery. Students also organise free medical camps to provide medical help for the malaria and typhoid patients with help of primary health centre and private hospitals. Health awareness programme are organised on importance of protected water, environmental cleanliness, AIDS, dengue, malaria and cancer. Free dental camps are organised in the slums. The students organise health camps and awareness programme which help them to be aware of health issues and treatment facilities are made available for them.

We thank the collaborators of medical camps. Hospitals and dedicated doctors and nurses are always available for this noble service.



LOYOLA RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Chennai was hit by heavy rains and floods. The worst affected people were the slum dwellers, though it did not spare anyone in Chennai.

Loyola Outreach jumped into relief action immediately.

About 3000 people were housed for more than a week and their needs were taken care of.

Relief materials were distributed to all the people with the magnanimous people in the city and other places.

A survey was done whether the people were given enough relief from their flood-wounds.

Very few are out of their woes and still many others grapple with the gravity of problems created by the floods.

Loyola students were in full force to support them.

Before the wound was healed, a

seminar was organised by the Outreach to understand the prevailing situation...

'VOICE OF SLUMS IN POST FLOOD CHENNAI: FUTURE CONCERNS'.

The people discussed about their hardships during the floods and some of the people spoke about the Government's decision to evict the slum dwellers and forcing them to occupy the housing board settlements. They fear that they will lose their means of livelihood and that it was unfair on the part of the government to evict them. The participants were introduced to the Provisions of the the Tamilnadu Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Act, 1971.

Special Thanks to

- Mr. Mani, a Senior Journalist
- Mr. Natarajan, the community development officer, Slum clearance board
- Mrs. Vanessa Peter, Social Activist and Policy Researcher
- Mr. Devaprakash, Regional Director, CARE India
- Dr. Balasubramanian from Regional Meteorological centre
- Mrs. Esther Mariaselvan, Regional Manager, Action Aid
- Bhoomika Trust and Chennai Volunteers, Representatives
- And all the other NGOs and organizations who made themselves available for the event.

The students learn the lessons of life from the suffering masses of the slums!



FEEDBACK OF THE STUDENTS

Rahul, II BBA



My name is Rahul and I feel proud to have participated in the activities of the Outreach department during the entire academic year. I had the experience of helping the people and to organize and conduct programs for the Senior citizens and the differently abled, helping the slum youth to understand their responsibility and to make them aware about the employment opportunities available for them. Whenever we conducted programmes in the slum we were encouraged to see the happiness in the faces of the people with whom we were doing our intervention. This to me is a precious gift from the people and a wonderful source of encouragement for me and it has given me the inspiration to continue to serve the people in the future.

Sathish, II B. A. History



I first started doing my Outreach intervention reluctantly, even though I always had some interest to serve the people. Slowly my interest grew as I learnt about RTI and pension procedures. I nearly submitted 30 pension forms for the senior citizens residing in the slums. After interacting with the slum people and by understanding them and by involving myself in the activities of the Outreach department, I could feel that my personality has

changed to some extent. During the fourth semester I was involved in programmes for empowering women, and for the welfare of senior citizens, I was also taking classes for school going children from the slums for three months. I have realized that “service to man is service to God” as God wants us to take care of the needy and the underprivileged. I thank Loyola college and the Outreach department and my Professor Mr. Richard for guiding me and giving me the opportunity to work for the underprivileged.

M. Joseph Irudhaya Antony, II B. Sc. Maths



When we were first given instructions that we were supposed to take up the Outreach programme for two days in a week and for two hours every day in the slums, I was excited as well as unhappy about the fact that I should be spending four hours a week in doing community service in the slums. But as I started to work and involve myself in the activities of the Department, my perception changed gradually. The people in the slum shared their experience, their struggles in life and I got to understand the people and their living conditions. This was a new and meaningful experience for me. I realized that these people are living in the most unhygienic and unsanitary conditions and I was determined to do something to improve their living conditions. The people are warm and friendly and some of them offer us tea and refreshments when we visit their houses. I wish to help these people in the future as well when I

graduate and take up a job. I thank the Outreach department and my Outreach Professor, Mr. Melson for guiding me and giving me the opportunity to serve the people.

Aravind Prabhakaran.S.G, II B. Com



The outreach programme has helped me to understand the realities of the world, to understand about poverty and the socio economic conditions of the underprivileged people of our country. The people of the slums live in pitiable conditions and getting to know about their social issues and problems has had a bigger impact on the mentality of us, which definitely makes us a good humanitarians. I believe that something needs to be done to improve their standard of living and the programme has brought about an attitudinal change in me.

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE

Aadhitya, II B. Sc. Stat.



As students of Loyola College (Arts & Science), we are required to do social work under the outreach program. We are required to provide our services to selected back alleys (slums) in and around our college. A back alley was selected

in Indira Nagar, Naduvankarai for our Outreach Intervention. First, we thought why should we provide. As we went to the area and looked at their livelihood, we were stabbed deep in our hearts about their condition which contradicted most other people's livelihood.

We then conducted a census in that area to find out their profile, income and profession. We found out in what ways they needed help. Then, in cooperation with our Outreach Professor we were able to conduct physiotherapy camp and health camp. We had also celebrated Independence day, Children's day, Pongal festival and Republic day along with them by conducting events, quiz etc. We had also taken measures to spread awareness about communicable diseases and prevention measures and we conducted programs for the senior citizens and for the empowerment of women.

In conclusion, this outreach service program has helped me to realize the condition of the other side of the city. Moreover, it had motivated me to do service later on in my life. **"One of the main reasons God created humans was to be helpful to fellow beings, why not start with our own kind"**

Rachel Jeevaraj,
II B. A. French



This was a new experience in my life, having lived a comfortable life all along and seeing human life with a lot of trouble and suffering was a new experience for me. As I was in the elders team I had to frequently meet the senior citizens and some of them would cry when they were speaking with me. They would tell me

that their children do not take care of them or even provide them with the basic necessities of life. So we as a group tried to get the government pension for them. I have learnt about the value of life, education, money, food and thanks to Loyola College and the Outreach department for giving us this experience.

Dinesh Ananth,
II B. Sc. Vis. Com



This outreach program was a great learning experience for the students though at first the students showed disinterest in the activities it all changed as time passed. Each event was a different experience and we all loved to work in the field. This was a great learning experience. I thank Loyola College and the department of service learning for giving me this opportunity.

Vinoth Srinivasan,
II B. Sc. Comp. Sci.



I had never visited slums before. Never spoke with such people, who reside there I was told that they weren't good and was never allowed to speak to them. It was the Outreach which taught us who they are, how they feel when we help or serve them. Outreach taught me leadership skills, Hospitality and Patience as well. I learnt the amount of patience people need to perform one job. Team making and co-ordination is an important skill, which is mandatory. Each one needs it.

Group discussions, enjoyment with friends, people from these residing areas, were my colleagues and they helped me and motivated me. And the events which we conducted in Thideer Nagar, Saidapet, will be fresh in life forever. My personal thoughts will always be with them. They assumed us (students of B.Sc. Computer Science 'A' Loyola college) as their fellow mates. And our Outreach Professor Dr. E. Anand helped and guided us throughout from all the hardships we faced when we organized many events like Medical camp, Eye camp, Christmas celebrations, Pongal Celebrations. One of the residents of the area, invited us all for the wedding happily. I still remember the words which he told. He told " We are special, and never will be forgotten "

Thank you Loyola college, the Outreach department and my classmates for making it special

Roy Samson,
II B. A. French



I as a student went and served the people in New Colony. Each of them are from different backgrounds. Everyone I went and spoke, they came up with different kinds of problem and they told me about the struggles which they undergo. I worked in the Elders group, and it was an overwhelming and heart awakening experience for me to face. They came up with the different issues that they are facing while being there. The senior citizens have been affected in many ways. They had a very poor place to stay and sleep and there was no one to take care of them as t their sons or daughters are living elsewhere. If possible, in the future I would always be willing to help them.



RURAL CAMP FOR POST GRADUATE STUDENTS

OBJECTIVES OF THE RURAL CAMP

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach) has been organizing a mandatory rural camp for the postgraduate students every year. Holistic education is a philosophy of education based on the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections with the community, with the natural world, and with humanitarian values such as compassion and peace. The department feels that the rural camp which is organized every year for the Post graduate students would definitely contribute towards the holistic development of a student. We believe that the rural camp gives an enormous opportunity to the students to understand the socio- economic conditions of the people through manual work and by their interactions with the villagers

Service learning endeavours to bring about an attitudinal change in the students as the students are made to develop a critical understanding about the problems and the prevailing social issues faced by the villagers. The major objective of this program is to enable the students to develop people oriented attitudes and to imbibe the spirit of concern for others.

Prior to going to the camp sites, the students are well oriented with the objectives of the camp and roles and responsibilities of the camp participants. Always the students are accompanied by their respective department staff members.

After coming back from the camps, the students sit for a reflection session in which they bring out the learning points and take-home elements from their hands-on experience in the

rural camps.

The Department chose CUDDALORE as the venue for the current year rural camp for the first and second year post-graduate students. Around 1000 students took an energetic part in the camps.

First year PG:

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach) organized a rural work camp for the first year post graduate students from 28th November -03rd December, 2016. Around five hundred students attended the camp and the camp was conducted in seven places in three taluks of Cuddalore district. The taluks are: Panruti, Chidambaram and Kattumanorkoil.

Second year PG:

The Rural camp for the 2nd year Post graduate students was conducted in Cuddalore from 22nd August to 2nd September. It was a work cum exposure camp and the students were exposed to many of the nearby villages apart from the six villages (camp sites) in which the camps were being organized. The six villages are Valuthalampattu, Sirupalayur, Nochikaadu, Chinthamani kuppam, Kadampuliyur, Silambinathan pettai. Physical or manual labour as a component of the camp was introduced this year.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE CAMP

The students in each of the camps would usually begin the day with the meditation and prayer along with a few physical/stretching exercises. The students have felt that meditation has helped them to stay focused and relaxed. The student would also do a few stretching exercises in the morning to improve their energy levels and to increase blood flow.

The students in all the camps were involved in doing three hours of physical work in the morning. The work done in each of the villages was based on the need of the particular village as the major objective of this activity is to do something that benefits the village apart from the students understanding and appreciating the value of physical labour.

The students were involved in doing different types of work like removing weeds and bushes, adding manure to the fields, planting saplings,



cleaning the farmland to ensure the continuous passage of water cleaning the common places, deepening the irrigational channels, whitewashing the school and cleaning the ponds. The students observed that working together as a team they were able to accomplish a task in a productive and effective manner. Even though many of the students are not used to doing demanding physical work, they enjoyed doing it and they were happy to contribute physically for the betterment of the village.

The students perform cultural programmes at the end of the camp for the people about what they witnessed, what they learnt and what they dreamed of the village.

EXPOSURE VISIT TO THE VILLAGES

The students would visit the villages in the afternoon to do a survey about the impact of the floods in Cuddalore and to interact and have a broader understanding of life in the villages and the livelihood of the villagers.

OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE STUDENTS

1. The students have observed that though many have suffered as a result of the natural disasters and some

have lost their possessions and their livestock, they were able to return back to their normal activities in a few days. But in some villages, the recent floods had destroyed almost all of their properties and had left an incurable scar in their hearts.

2. The major economic issues prevailing in the villages are low wages, indebtedness, lack of proper transport facilities, unstable homes, poor market in the villages for their goods and the involvement of middlemen. High dowry demands, lack of employment for graduates in the villages, lack of development facilities like hospitals, shops and lack of teachers in government schools.

3. The students could observe that the dominant caste tenements were away from the fields and were on a higher ground (higher altitude), spaciouly divided, unlike the oppressed caste areas which lined the fields, more numerous. The dominant caste houses had more facilities and were of stronger construction, which we observed during the survey. In some villages, buses through Cuddalore stop only in the dominant class areas of the village to pick up the passengers.

4. Most of the men and women in the villages are farm labourers and very few own small parcels of land. They have to go the towns for manual work in the off season to supplement their



meager income. In some areas, the income of the farmer is supplemented by income sent from relatives or their offspring working in their cities.

5. The villagers who are graduates and post graduates are working in the fields and doing odd kinds of jobs in factories, shops and small firms and a considerable number of them are unemployed due to lack of interpersonal skills and other factors. Their inability to converse fluently in English has denied them many opportunities.



Distribution Of Woolen Bedsheets

The organization Tex Valley which is based in Erode donated woolen bedsheets to 200 beneficiaries to the poor at Shenbaganur, Kodaikanal through the department of service learning.



The Environment team received the support of Tex Valley to grow 250 two-year old tree saplings planted in the campus after the Vardah cyclone. Thanks to the team of Tex Valley.



After the rural camp at Cuddalore, we have taken some efforts to support the neediest people in the district. The All India Bank officers' Association helped us by funding the construction of roofs with galvalume sheets for the most damaged 25 houses in the village Palli Neerodai. Thanks to the All India Bank Officers' Association.



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES IN THE CAMPS:

- Being exposed to a completely different atmosphere, therefore helping to adapt to any situation on faces in life.
- Free from personal responsibilities, staying with a relaxed mind.
- More knowledge about agriculture.
- Learning to be punctual.
- Adjusting and managing with limited

facilities, contrary to the luxurious life usually led.

- Very fresh air.
- Learning from the affection and concern of the inhabitants.
- Better teamwork and spirit.
- Learning the value of money.
- Learning to interact with people regardless of their gender or caste, and being treated with great hospitality.
- Manually working by coming down to nature and soil, while leaving phones and other gadgets behind.
- Learning that hard work pays off.
- Learning that family members must always support one another.

of food after seeing the effort taken by the farmers to produce food products. I learnt about the difficulties faced by the villagers. I developed my leadership skills and I was given an opportunity to express my talents and skills. As a leader of the Time Management team, it was my duty to ensure that the people got early in the morning and are ready for their activities. I was surprised that the villagers have ensured that their children get educated and most of the villagers in the village that we went for house visit are ensuring that atleast their children get educated enough to pursue a degree even though they do not have enough money to support their education. We could see that even though the municipal and local bodies are functioning, they do not have proper water, health, sanitation and other facilities.



STUDENT FEEDBACK

A. Shyam Prabhu, M. A. Eco.

I had a very good experience during the rural camp which was organized for the PG students.

I learnt about agriculture and the burden and the hardships faced by the farmers in producing food and I learnt the value

Overall, 'Rural Camp' is an important lifetime experience. It helps the students improve a lot of life skills like critical thinking and personality development, while also boosting their self-confidence. While staying with the people, the students get in touch with the ground-reality of our nation.

Give Life Cafe



An initiative of the Department of Outreach, in concordance with the Jesuit principles, was the outlet with social entrepreneurship objectives called “Give Life Café”. This took roots in the year 2008 in order to cater to many needs, namely extending part-time employment opportunities to students, providing quality food in the campus at economic costs, training students to improve their culinary skills and utilizing the generated revenue for the upliftment of the underprivileged target groups, henceforth called beneficiaries.

This social entrepreneurship initiative was conceived initially as a joint venture with Oriental Cuisines. The latter being a conventional entrepreneur offered to train people for the café and also to maintain the venture as an act of good-will during the embryonic stages of the cafe. The component of sustainable development in this initiative can be bifurcated: the first apportionment comprised of supporting higher education for the children of the underprivileged and those belonging to the marginalized sections of the neighbourhood communities and the second consisted of women empowerment, widows in particular. Thus the beneficiaries of this social entrepreneurship were the children and widows from the neighbourhood slums.

As said earlier, the students who faced a financial crunch in remitting their tuition fees in concession were provided part-time jobs in the Café. This provision was based on the requisition submitted by the needy students.

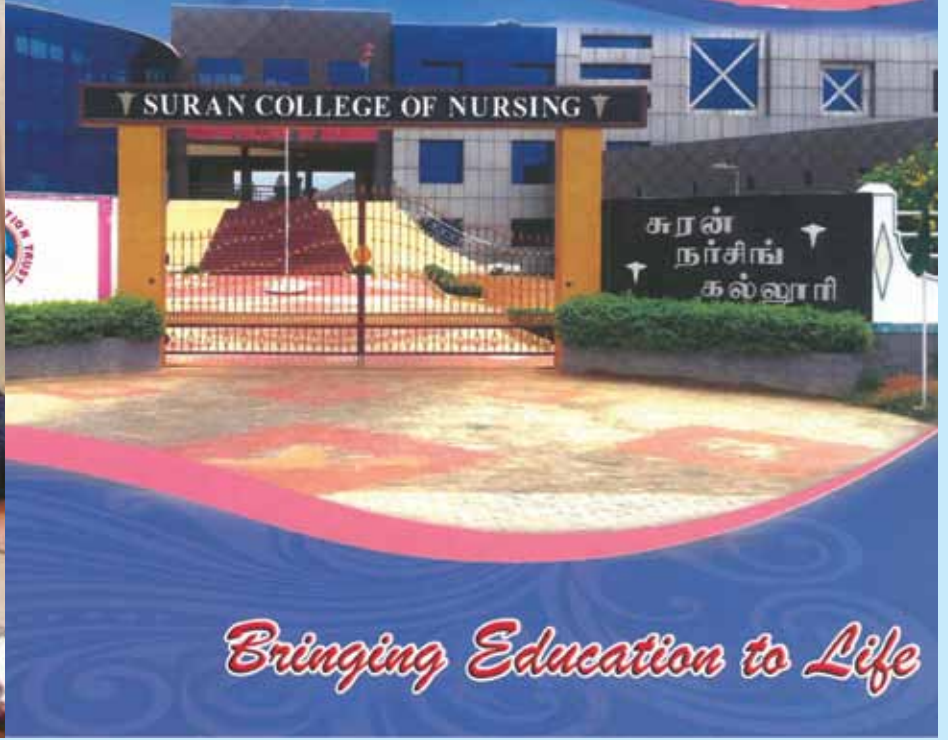


The Café requires the work efficiency of 12 people who could exclusively be students. The students have flexible work hours and are paid on hourly basis. The remuneration has been revised regularly considering the growing living costs. Thus, the employment provided income which would support their higher education. Nevertheless, this opportunity also helped the students develop their entrepreneurial skills. These students gain experience on hospitality, cash handling, price determination, turnover calculation etc. They develop their communication skills, critical thinking, crisis management and all other skills associated with business tactics. The final dimension of students working during leisure hours is the promotion of qualities like self-confidence, self-dependence and self-respect.

Another noteworthy effort of Give Life Café was to boost the morale of widows and make them self-dependent and self-sustaining. The beneficiaries are identified through field visits, interaction and interrogation. These stakeholders received financial assistance to meet the expenses of the education of their children or to look after their medical woes. Social entrepreneurship hold the key to unlock critical social issues which do not lie in the focal length of government or business sectors.

- **Mr. Jai Prakash, Asst. Professor - Department of Outreach**

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Loyola Service Learning is armed with professionally trained social workers. Along with the Director and the Head of the Department, the department is staffed with Ms. I Priya, Dr. E. Anand, Mr. S. Antony Samy, Mr. Baskar Jeyabalan, Mr. P. Jaiprakash, Mr. M. P. Richard, Mr. Arogya Sahaya Melson, Mr. Antony Anbarasan, Ms. P. Rathna, Mr. Kumanan Francis and Ms. Buela.

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Service Learning is a joy of learning through service!



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