

ANNUAL REPORT: 2019-20

Introduction:

The Department of Service Learning (formerly called Outreach) was introduced in Loyola during the academic year 2001-2002, with a view to make the students experience and express concern for the society, especially the disadvantaged sections. The idea of this extension programme is to make the students of Loyola College commit themselves to create a better nation by getting involved in the neighbourhood community. With this spirit, the Service Learning Unit works in 43 slums (urban villages or sub-standard settlements) around the college campus. The department has been collaborating with the Chennai Corporation, the slum clearance board, the corporation schools and like-minded NGOs and institutions in the neighbourhood ever since its inception. To make the initiative a reality, the second-year under-graduate students from all departments of both Shift-I and Shift-II, numbering to about 1900 students are involved in various activities. The activities are streamlined and focused on General Health, Children, Youth, Women, Elders and other concerns of our time. The students visit the slums twice a week.

Vision:

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

Values:

With love and concern for others, students should 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.

Objectives:

- To enable students to learn their social responsibility through outreach.
- To provide an exposure to slums and create an ambience to reflect on the possible ways of development.
- To learn from the people's living experience and try to create facilities that would empower them.
- To initiate team processes with the student groups for societal change.

- To make our institutions and individuals realize their duty towards serving the neighbourhood communities.

Areas Adopted:

The neighbourhood areas covered under outreach program are the revisited zones of 5,8,9,10 & 13 in the Corporation of Chennai. This includes slums in and around Choolaimedu, Nungambakkam, Kilpauk, Chetpet, Saidapet and Chindathiripet areas. Altogether we are rendering community service to 43 slums.

EVENTS :

UG Common Orientation: June 26th to July 1st,2019.

PG Urban Orientation: July 28thto 29th, 2019

Flood Relief Camp: September 22ndto 26th, 2019 (Wayanad and Nilgiris)

Grama Sabha Meeting: October 2nd to 7th, 2019

Rural Camp Orientation: November 13th to 14th2019

Christmas Day Celebration with Widows and Scholarship Program to schoolchildren from slums: December 18th 2019 (20 Schoolchildren, 1000 INR)

Rural Camp for B. Com (Hons), BBA (France): January 6th to 11th, 2020 (Ongur Camp)

Revolving Fund: February 11, 2020 (14 beneficiaries, 70000 INR)

Disabled Sports Event: February 12, 2020

A Day with Elders: March 10th, 2020

Outreach Day: March 10th,2020

Common Programs:

June-July

UG Orientation:

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach) organized orientation program for the second-year Under-Graduate Students from 26th June, 2019 to 1st July, 2019. The Shift-I and Shift-II students attended their sessions in the respective schedules. Rev. Dr. Louis Arokiaraj, The Director of Department of Service Learning (Outreach), the Outreach professors and the college officials motivated the students over the course of the orientation.



In his address, The Director explained to the students the needs of community service. The Outreach Professors highlighted the importance of knowing the needs of people in substandard settlements and various societal problems. The College Officials explained that outreach is a credit-based course and hence they insisted that the course be done in its entirety. The regular sessions began with a prayer led by the students, after which, the outreach professors began the orientation. They shared their experiences about playing their role as a faculty from the Outreach department, and how they felt during their visit to the Outreach destinations. The third-year undergraduate students who had previously completed their outreach shared their pleasant Outreach area memories and learnings. During the orientation program, the water scarcity problems among the community were also discussed. They were informed about the alarming threat of declining water supply in the city of Chennai, the daily amount of water for the average person, and measures to save water at an individual level. The sessions usually ended with a Vote of Thanks delivered by a second-year student.



August-October

Grama Sabha Meeting

The Central Government initiated the Unnath Bharath Project which Loyola Outreach has adopted in 5 villages, namely Vembedu, Manabatthi, Sirdavoor, Melayur and Aalathur. Grama Sabha Meetings are an integral part of grassroots level administration and the Outreach Department Professors attended the same, playing their part in them. In addition to the participation, the Outreach professors handed over cloth bags to the public, thereby encouraging the public to avoid the usage of plastic bags. This was done keeping in mind to support the initiative by the Tamilnadu Government which had banned the usage of one-time plastics.



Flood Relief

The Department of Service Learning conducted a Flood Relief program for the flood affected victims of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The floods had occurred due to the Southwest Monsoon rains. Prior to the camp, there was cashbox collections in the campus and students were encouraged to donate how much ever they could. More than 11.7 lakh rupees worth of materials and money was obtained from Loyola College and various other organizations. That money was used to buy relief materials such as bed sheets, blankets, utensils and buckets.



As a follow-up, two student teams reached Wayanad, Kerala and Nilgiris, Tamilnadu. The students were taught about the lifestyle of the tribespeople. The students split into groups and delivered the supplies to the identified remote villages, particularly for the tribespeople. The last event of this program was the valedictory session and every single student shared their experiences. Almost all the students had a new experience and they appreciated the simple life of the tribespeople. The program thereafter successfully concluded.

PG Urban Intervention - Orientation

The Department of Service Learning organized Orientation Program for the Second Year Post-Graduate students as part of their course completion requirements on July 28th and 29th, 2019. The PG Students who had completed their rural camp, during the first year attended the orientation. In his address, The Director, Rev. Fr. Louis Arokiaraj SJ, appreciated the students for their rural camp completion and said that Loyola PG Students are privileged to have both the rural and urban exposures, as these both give different perspectives to the students. He asked the students to observe the slums in Chennai from a common man's perspective.



Nov-Dec

PG Rural Camp – Orientation



The orientation for the first year Post-Graduate students was held on November 13th and 14th, 2019. The orientation helps the students to understand the camp's day-to-day schedules and the mode of operations in the campsites. The Director

and the professors from the Service Learning department informed the students about the 6-day program, explaining to them the problems in villages such as caste discrimination, open defecation, challenges among women, functioning of MGNREP etc., and how to approach the village folk and understand their situational needs.

Rural Camp (Schedule):

Sl.No	Name of the department	Date and place
1	M.Sc Maths and M.Sc Bio Tech	18 th -23 rd Novmber,2019 Allalapatti, Dharmapuri District
2	M.Sc Physics and M.A. Applied History	18 th -23 rd Novmber,2019 Parangipettai, Cuddalore District
3	M.Sc Comp Science and M.A. Sociology	18 th -23 rd Novmber,2019 Namagiripettai, Salem District
4	M.Com M.Sc. Data Science	18 th -23 rd Novmber,2019 Aathur, Salem District
5	M.Sc zoology and M.A. English	2 nd to 7 th December,2019 Thirumanoor,Thanjavur District
6	M.Sc Chemistry and M.Sc Vis.com	2 nd to 7 th December,2019 Vikkiravandi, Villupuram District.
7	M.A.Economics M.Voc Digital Journalism and M.Voc Animation	2 nd to 7 th December,2019 Mangalapuram, Villupuram District.
8	M.Sc Statistics and M.Sc Food	2 nd to 7 th December,2019 Aalambadi, Villupuram District.

PG rural camp

Uniqueness of Loyola PG Service Learning (Outreach) :

In Loyola, the PG students are given exposure to both rural and urban, in their first and second years. There is a balance between both rural and urban exposure. The students of Loyola feel that the outreach program is about giving, contributing and helping those who cannot help themselves. The students go to the rural camps where others don't, and reach out to those who aren't reached out by others. It's also a great opportunity for the younger generation as it influences them to give back to the community. It helps the community grow in a substantial way. The outreach helps to nurture and build the character of a student. In the rural camp, exposure helps a student to understand the grass root realities such as caste discrimination, open defecation, challenges among women, functioning of Mahatma Gandhi rural employment programs etc. During the rural camp, the limited usage of mobile phones among the student community helps them to understand their own classmates in an effective way. The house visits not only helps the students to interact with the villagers but also makes them realize the struggles faced by the people for making a their livelihood. At the end of the rural camp schedule, a community program that is conducted in an identified village make the students to introspect their own hidden potential to get exposed.





As Loyola College includes the Service learning in the academic curriculum, it becomes mandatory for each and every student to participate in it. The learning that the students acquire from the Service learning helps them for the future endeavors as in many foreign countries, Community service has become as important as working for the growth of the firm. Hence Loyola College is providing the students a great platform for all the students to showcase their skills and talents which will contribute towards the growth of the community which cannot be found in most of the colleges and universities across Chennai.

Christmas Day Celebration



The Christmas Day celebration was held on December 18th, 2019. To spread the Christmas Cheer, selected widows from the outreach slums were given free sarees in the Lawrence Sundaram Hall. Twenty schoolchildren from the slums

were also given scholarships worth 1000 rupees each. It was sponsored by the Physics Alumni of MPP batch.

Jan-Feb

Leadership Training

Department of Service Learning along with Department of Social Work organized a Leadership program in a joint venture as a new initiative. This was conducted in view of motivating the best volunteers in their service learning activity during the previous academic year (2018-2019).



Rev. Dr. Jerry was the resource person for the training which was held on 4th February 2020. There were 35 participants for the training. The brief description of Citizen Amendment Act was explained to the students. The impact of the introducing the act was discussed and the responses were analysed. All the leaders who attended the training expressed that they have learnt the intricacies of the act and voluntarily they proposed that this should be taken wide for providing awareness to the general public.

Revolving Fund:

The Department of Service Learning had initiated an event to distribute a small sum of 5000 rupees for the deserving women from slums as part of empowering entrepreneurial pursuits. The amount was credited directly to their bank accounts. They are required to repay the amount in ten instalments of 500 rupees.



The event was organized at Fr. Principal's office, in which the 14 beneficiaries received the loan amount on 11th February, 2020. Rev. Fr. Principal in his message encouraged the women to repay their instalments without fail so that many more such deserving women will be benefitted.

Sports Day for the Disabled

The department of service learning in Loyola College, Chennai conducted a sports day for the persons with disabilities. The program was held on 12th February, 2020 at the Football Ground. The inauguration began at 2:00 pm. The sports day was inaugurated by the Rev. Dr. Selvanayakam, SJ and the welcome speech was given by the Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arokiaraj, SJ, Director, Department of Service Learning. The chief guest for the function was Mr. Joseph D Ravi, Retd. District Differently-Abled Welfare Officer in Chennai.



Four events were conducted by the students and 28 members enthusiastically participated in it. The events of wheel chair race, running race, shot put, passing ball were conducted. At 4:00 pm, the valedictory function was held and Br.

John Xavier addressed all the participants. Prizes were distributed by the chief guest and staff. All the participants received prize kits from the staff. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Prof. Ratna. The purpose of the program was to give differently abled persons an opportunity to show their talents in front of public and it did so, successfully.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS IN SLUMS

AWARENESS ON MEDICINAL PLANTS - SOUTH BOAG ROAD TENAMPET

The Youth development Team and Palvadi Team of Loyola College have conducted a camp providing Medicinal plants on September 13, 2019. On the particular day, we made everyone gather near the temple in South Boag road, Prem Nagar colony opposite to Krishnaswamy Kalyanamandabam. We purchased different kinds of medicinal plants such as Tulsi, Thoothuvalai, Pirandai, Poonaimesai, Palvalipoondu, Vidaamoongin, Thippili, Insulin etc. The students explained them about the medicinal values of each plant and its purposes. The students also explained how to use the plants as medicine and also how to maintain the growth of the plant as well. The programs highlight was the **sapling distribution** to the people of the community.



CANCER AWARENESS PROGRAMME – Dr. THOMAS ROAD

The students of Commerce 2nd year 'B' sec conducted a special event on Cancer awareness for the people of Dr.Thomas road. It was conducted on the 13th February. The event was conducted under the guidance of Prof.Antony samy. We approached the **Apollo Cancer specialty hospital** for the awareness camp. The guest speaker had come from Apollo hospital to deliver a speech and create awareness among the people. She made them understand the need for a balance between a healthy diet and lifestyle. After the end of the programme, the students provided refreshments for the all the people. The Event was a great

success as the people blessed all the students for conducting the Awareness Programme.



EENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Ms. Shubha Lakshmi, a resident of the Egmore slum area learnt embroidery on her own. Soon she taught her **magnificent embroidery skills** to other ladies in the neighborhood as well. During the outreach visit the students of B.com general of section A found out about these talented women and helped them flourish their talent by contributing various fabrics to them for them to practice on it. The students organized a five day long entrepreneurship training program to skill the women efficiently. At the inauguration ceremony of the entrepreneurship training program. The chief guest Dr.Siva Kumar, president



commerce forum motivated the women to achieve their desired goals and start their own business. At the valedictory ceremony students distributed sarees to all the women to celebrate their growth and commitment towards their skill.

IMPORTANCE OF “KAAVALAN APP” – WOMENS SAFETY PROGRAM

The students of Commerce E section visited the G3 women police station in Kilpauk and invited the Police inspector Sudha and three women constables to address in the gathering. The primary purpose of the program was to spread awareness about the Kaavalan App. She humbly accepted our request. The students also invited Miss. Ulagammal, an expert on women's counselling, to give counselling for the community women. The inspector demonstrated how to use the app, its purpose being that if a women feels uncomfortable at her travel at night, she could use the app to request a pink police patrol to drop the concerned women, the inspector ended her speech by requesting the students to spread the word about the app.



QUIZ COMPETITION FOR CHILDREN. - PUDUPET

The students of history department conducted the quiz competition for the children in the Pudupet slums in Chennai. The school teaching group took the initiative for this program and they decided to give prizes to the winners. The students select questions only from the general topic. The program was conducted on 2/02/2020. There were twenty to twenty five students actively participated in the program and it became a better experience for the students for acquiring the knowledge. The school teaching team coordinates all the activities and makes program a grand success. The program became a benefit to the children to achieve the knowledge and it approximately helps more than 30 students in the Pudupet slum.



Siddha Awareness Program – INDIRA GANDHI NAGAR

In accordance with the department of service learning the Elders group of Mathematics Shift 2 conducted a programme for the elderly people residing in the slum of Indira Gandhi Nagar with the experienced Siddha doctor Dr Juliet. L (Siddha Central research Institute). The program took place on 21st February 2020. The students summoned all the elderly people in the hall . The program began with the doctor’s speech and she gave a lot of ideas about Siddha and home medicine, followed by Prof. Milson’s sensational speech concerning the hardships of living and about the importance of siddha and homemedicine.



In total seven Independence Day programs, three Republic Day programs one Elder’s Day program has been held as part of commemoration in addition to eighteen pongal celebrations.

Health Camps: In total twelve Eye Camps and seventeen General Camps were conducted besides five Physiotherapy Camps in the slums for the community people.