

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI.
RURAL SOCIAL WORK PERSPECTIVE
SHIFT I 15PSW BATCH**

PLACE: MANAPAKKAM, CHENGALPAT

DATE: 04.01.2016 –09.01.2016

NO.OF DAYS: 7 DAYS

Introduction

The social work students of Loyola College had organized a rural social work perspective in Mampakkam, Chengalpat. The students were asked to gather in their respective classroom at 8.15 A.M. The faculty in charge Prof. Kirubakaran and Prof. Nerenjana clearly instructed the students about the rural camp activities and the norms to be followed during the camp days. They were also instructed the various committees to be well prepared for the respective committee works. Each committee should take in charge of the tools and instruments which were taken from the department. Travelling from college to Chengalpat was well arranged by the camp coordinator (camp leader) Mr. Ranjith Mathew and the traveling committee. The students were asked to go to the Nungambakkam railway station to board Chengalpat electric train. The Students left the station at 9.00 A.M. and reached Chengalpat railway station at 11.00 a.m. From there the students reached Manapakkam. 11.25 a.m by share autos. Separate accommodation were arranged for boys and girls.

Objectives of the Camp

- ◆ To build a good rapport with the community.
- ◆ To understand the rural community.
- ◆ To observe the socio-economic status of the community.
- ◆ To examine the educational status of the community.
- ◆ To acquire knowledge about rural occupation and other functions.
- ◆ To experience the rural life style.
- ◆ To understand the cultural activities of the community.
- ◆ To verify whether there is any discrimination among that community.
- ◆ To acquire some professional learning from the society.
- ◆ To know about the difficulties of the rural community.
- ◆ To examine the cause and consequences of some social problems this prevails in the rural society.

Description about camp activities:

The entire camp was planned for six days from 04.01.2016 to 09.01.2016 in a village called Manapakkam which is situated in Chengalpat District. It is a remote village which strives for basic amenities. There were no proper toilet facilities and sewage system. As a pre camp work, a team of social work students went for a pilot visit and came up with their opinion. They shared their experience with their classmates and the students had planned the camp work based on the requirements. The students started their work in the village by mobilizing the community. Each day's work are as follows:

Day 1: 04/01/16

The students with their faculty in charge reached the Manapakkam village nearly at 11.25 a.m. and went for refreshment and food preparation. The lunch was served at 2.15 p.m. –3.45 p.m. As per the schedule the students organized the inauguration programme at 4.00 p.m. It was held at church which was situated at the center of the village. The programme was started with prayer given by Fr. Sujeevan followed by prayer there was a prayer song by students. Welcoming address was delivered by Ms. Divya. Camp leader Ms. Bhavani explained the students about the norms to be followed during the camp and also the objectives of the camp. She also explained us the schedule for the 7 days from 04.01.16 – 10.01.16. Then village panchayat president gave the presidential address for the inauguration programme, Head master of the school Mrs. Valliyammal gave some information about the village and contributions of village panchayat president, facilitating address was given by Fr. Jacob S.J and he also asked the community gathering in the programme about their suggestions. They expressed that the plans and schedule were comfortable and there is no other suggestions other than that. The inauguration was concluded with vote of thanks given by Ms. Divya at 4.45 p.m.

After the inauguration programme the students with their staff in charge went to tea break from 4.45 –5.20 p.m. after the break the students were asked to do gather in church for the exposure and introductory visit to the streets. Those students were equally divided into two groups according to odd and even register numbers. The groups were lead by two parai artist among the students. Mr. Ajanth lead the odd group and Mr. Stephen raj leads the even group. Each group went to four streets and gave a self introduction about the purpose and objectives of the visit using various art forms and cultural songs. There was an effective interaction between the community and the students and the community was eager a watch such art

forms and hear what the students were going to say and it was an extraordinary visit with lot of sharing. The visit was concluded at 7.00p.m. And the dinner was served at 8.05 –8.45 p.m. The day was concluded with the evaluation of the day with some personal learning shared by the students and the camp leader shared the next day schedule and committee in charge and prayer service of the next day. The staff shared their observation during the entire day.

Day 2: 05/01/16

The student's wakeup at 5.00 a.m. refreshed them and assembled for the prayer session at 7.00 a.m. the members of the documentation committee of the previous day conducted the prayer service and read some quotes from Quran, Bible and Bhavatgeetha. They conducted meditation followed by eyes breaking session in order to know about their committee members as well as their colleagues. Breakfast was provided at 8.00 a.m. After the breakfast the students were involved in labor work. They cleaned the bushes and thorn around the church according to their committees. Then nearly at 1.15 p.m. the students had their refreshment and had their lunch at 1.15 p.m. from 2.00 p.m. –2.30p.m.

The students asked to take rest and the gathered sharply at 2.30p.m. And they were voluntarily chosen for various art forms such as oyil, karakam, saatai kutchi, parai and also for street theatre. And they were separated for the practice of art forms and they practiced until 4.30p.m. Then the students were asked to go to home visit as a committee. The objective of the home visit is to know about the socio-economic status and educational status of the community and the problem faced by the community. They expressed that there was no proper transportation facility and proper drainage facility. Most of the villagers pointed out that because of no permanent work they have to work on the basis of daily wages and they face lots of financial issues. They also told that there was no street light from the railway gate to village, it is considered as a security threat for women and children in the community and government should take initiatives to solve their basic needs.

Nearly at 7.00p.m. The children and adults from the community came to the church to watch the cultural dance performed by the students. After the programme the supper was provided at 8.40p.m. At 9.30 evaluation of the day was done on two aspects, i) learning from the home visit ii) Area of improvement. The evaluation was finished at 10.00p.m. And the students went to bed.

Day 3: 06/01/16

The day began with prayer by invoking god's blessing upon us. And the prayer committee gave a fruitful mediation which was conducted by Fr. Devasundararaj followed by the submission of the committee wise report by the committee leaders. After the prayer session the students were asked to have their breakfast from 8.00 – 8.45 a.m. Then the manual work started at 9.00a.m.-11.30a.m. Each committee was assigned to clean the rest of the area around church. Few members were asked to clean the public toilet during the manual labor activities; there were six volunteers for the cleaning work. The equipments were provided by the community.

In the second half of the day after the manual work, a training session was conducted by Mrs. Udhyakumari from CRDS Chengalpat. She taught us awareness songs and kummi aatam. Then the students gathered for the lunch break and after the break the students had a small nap. Then the students resumed their manual work from 2.30 –4.00p.m. They cleaned the area around the church and planted few saplings around the church and removed the plastic and other non-biodegradable waste and deposited in a separate place far away from church. Then the students had a tea break from 4.00 –4.30p.m. After the break the students started practicing for the cultural dances. Then the students went to the community to invite them for the sports event which is going to be held on 7th January for the community people. On this day there was a change in the schedule, first we had the evaluation followed by dinner. During the evaluation the students shared that the manual work was too hard and tiring for them and also mentioned that we should involve the community in all our planning, it was accepted and the day was concluded after the lunch.

Day 4: 07/01/16

The day was started with prayer which was conducted by group 3 followed by a silence prayer and meditation. They also gave some breathing exercise during the session. Overall report was read by the documentation committee and the day was briefed by the camp leader. The breakfast was served from 8.00 –8.45 p.m. sports events were planned by an individual sport team which was a volunteering activity. The committee leaders were assigned specific games for the students in the school. The game was conducted for the children from 1- 5th standards. Games conducted were listed below:

- Bomb in the city
- Running race
- Balloon bursting

- Stone picking
- Fire in the mountain
- Straw and paper
- Treasure hunt...etc

The sports event was concluded with a group photo with the teachers and also with the students of MSW department. The lunch was served from 1.00-2.00p.m. From 3.00 –3.15p.m. A planning meeting was conducted in the church for the community sports events. The students went in groups to give a reminder about the sport events.

The community sports events were conducted on either sides of the church. The community gathered nearly at 4.30p.m. And the sports committee members conducted games like bomb in the city; bottle filling; dragging the rope, etc...the evaluation of the day was moderated by Fr. Packiaraj. After the evaluation the core committee leaders and other committee leaders had a meeting with the faculty in charge which was exclusively for planning and programming for the upcoming days. After the evaluation dinner was served.

Day 5: 08/01/16

The day was started with the prayer by Ms. Vinitha and Ms. Sowmiya followed by prayer song and mediation by Ms. Rebecca. The documentation committee presented their overall report and it was read by Ms. Dipika. The breakfast was served by the food committee around 8.30a.m. Common meeting was conducted from 9.15 –9.40 for the division of labor work. Then there was a meeting for boys about the area of improvement in the camp and also few suggestions were shared by few boys.

Each group went for labor work which includes library cleaning, school premises cleaning, toilet cleaning and temple cleaning, digging pits for garbage disposal. At 11.15a.m. Small break was given to the students and food committee served tea and kasseri during the break. Then the labor work was continued till 1.00p.m. The lunch was served at 1.00p.m. This was prepared and sponsored by the community people.

Then the labor work was continued from 4.00p.m. –5.15p.m. During the manual work awareness was conducted on good and bad touch for 1st, 2nd and 3rd boys and girls at the school for about 30 students. At 5.15p.m. There was a meeting followed by core committee meeting.

At 5.45p.m. Cultural practice was started and they practiced for cultural programme and street theatre was also practiced with the committee members and volunteers. Around 6.30p.m. The students went to the community to inform them about the cultural programme. 6 members along with the faculty conducted an

awareness programme on health and hygiene and it was concluded at 7.35p.m. The evaluation was moderated by Mr. Mathew and the students shared that the real rural camp was started today and an objective was achieved by the students. Next day schedule was briefed by the camp leader. Dinner was served by the food committee followed by them there was a core committee meeting along with the committee leaders.

Day 6: 09/01/16

The day was started with the prayer service. The students had given awareness on personal hygiene and cleanliness to the community people. After the session the students and the faculty in- charge departed from the village. They started their journey to Chennai by train.
