

Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai - 600 034

Department of Sociology

Report on International Migrants Day

The UN has designated 18th of December as the International Migrant Day. It was observed by Loyola college students by performing a street theater on the plight of migrants. The central theme for the year 2021 is "*Harnessing the potential of human mobility.*" In commemoration of International Migrants Day, the Department of Sociology at Loyola College, in collaboration with Jesuit Migrant Services (JMS), has organized a set of events on December 17, 2021, on the college campus.

According to the International Organization of Migration (IOM), 281 million people were international migrants in 2020, representing 3.6 percent of the global population. It shows the necessity to look into the causes of the increasing migration and to solve the issues of identity and trafficking by bringing them into the spotlight of the world's eye.

A Tribute from the Department of Sociology: Street Play

The students have organized a street play at 11 AM and 1 PM with the theme "*Day in a Migrant's Life*", which has showcased the various situations, miseries, and how migrants become society's victims in many cases. The play was performed at the junction near to the library and commerce block, portraying the plight of migrants facing widespread stigmatization, inequalities, prejudice, gender-based violence, sexual abuse, and racism. With borders closed during the pandemic, many migrants were stranded without income or shelter, unable to return home, separated from their families, and with uncertain futures. The play eventually achieved its goal of attracting young minds in college to set their views and make them understand the hardships and traumas that every migrant in the world goes through. It

has also stimulated awareness and made the audience to empathize with migrants issues. After the street play, Fr. Louie Albert, SJ, addressed the gathering about the importance of International Migrants Day. In his address, he stressed how migrants have beautified the cities and educational institutions, yet they are denied the right to educate their offspring. He emphasized the gathering to understand the problems of migrants and treat them with humanity, taking a step towards bettering the lives of migrant populations by recognizing their rights and identities.



Poster competition and exhibition

The intra-college poster making competition was conducted on the theme ***“Life Torn across Borders”*** has attracted participants from various departments. The students have expressed

their creative ideas through painting, collage and poetry writing by addressing the underlying drivers behind migration, including deep inequalities, migrants rights and human trafficking. Three winners were selected from the 18 entries. Rev.Fr.William SJ announced the winners and Dr.Gautaman, Head, Department of Sociology appreciated the students with the certificates. Along with the posters, placards and chart works done by students have been displayed/exhibited on the campus. These posters have attracted students to think and learn about the Migrants and their struggles.



Conclusion

The International Migrants Day succeeded in reaching the objective of inculcating awareness among the student population about migrants and problems, covering dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. The events sensitised the students to reaffirm their commitment to safe and dignified migration that ensures the inclusion of migrants to build more resilient, just and sustainable societies.