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Elderly dance away years at Loyola's annual event

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CHENNAI: The department of service learning of Loyola College celebrated its annual event, A Day with Elders, with senior citizens from the neighbouring slums on Wednesday. Around 700 senior citizens from 43 slums were escorted by students to participate.

They shared many experiences and participated in dance performances by students to huge round of applause. "This is the second time I've been invited. Everytime, I leave with a great feeling of happiness. I thoroughly enjoyed the event and am looking forward to next year," said 60-year-old P Minnal Kodi, of Wall Tax Road.

R Yashoda, of Choolai, who participated for the first time, said. "After you grow old, and if you are not economically well off, people, including your own children, ignore you. For the first time in years I'm again feeling important and appreciated. I will always cherish this day," the 58-year-old said.

Actor Karthi who presided over the event lauded the college for the initiative. "As a child, whenever I returned home from school, my father would first ask me to meet my grandparents. I now realise its importance. It is our moral responsibility to look after them when they need us. A country's growth is also measured on how we treat our senior citizens," he said.

College principal rev Dr F Andrew S J said, "Elders are the pillars of our society and they must be treated with due respect."