

# **Loyola College (Autonomous),**

**Chennai – 600 034.**

## **Dept. of Service Learning (Outreach)**

### **Annual Report 2017-2018**

#### **Introduction**

The Department of Service Learning (formerly called Outreach) was introduced in Loyola College 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 Loyola College students to commit themselves to create a better nation by getting involved in the neighbourhood community. With this spirit, the Service Learning unit works in 41 slums (urban villages or sub-standard settlements) around the college campus. The department has been collaborating with Chennai Corporation, 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 undergraduate students from all departments of both Shift I and II, numbering to about 1850 students are involved in various activities. The activities are streamlined and focused on General Health, Children, Youth, Women, Disabled and Elders, and other concerns of our times. They visit the slums two days per week.

**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 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 the 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 to realize our duty towards serving the neighborhood communities.

**Areas Adopted**

The neighbourhood areas covered under this project are the revised zones of 5, 8, 9, 10 and 13 in the Corporation of Chennai. This includes slums in and around Choolaimedu, Nungambakkam, Kilpak, Chetpet, Saidapet and Chindathiripet areas. Totally we are involved in 41 slums for community service.

**COMMON PROGRAMS:**

**REFUGEE AWARENESS PROGRAM**

The Awareness program about Refugees was conducted on 20th June at LICET Auditorium and more than 300 students from Loyola College attended the Program

along with the students pursuing Political Science at Madras University and students from MCC College. Rev. Fr. Rector welcomed the Resource Persons, Special Invitees and Distinguished guests for the event and he mentioned about the state of Refugees in the Country.

Prof. Ramu Manivannan spoke about India and its history with Refugees. Mr.Satchithananda Valan Michael, Associate Repatriation Officer, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) highlighted the issues faced by refugees in India.

## **SCHOOL OF SERVICE LEARNING SUB-URBAN OUTREACH PROGRAMME – ORIENTATION**

The School of Service Learning (Outreach) organised orientation programmes for the 2nd year post graduate students on 24th July,2017 at LICET.The programme started with a beautiful prayer song, followed by a welcome address by



Dr.D.Robert Selvam, Vice Principal of Shift II, who gave a wonderful speech, explaining the importance of the service learning which imbibe the love and concern for others. He also motivated us to dedicate ourselves to community service, that shapes us as men and women for others.



Then Dr. Bernard D’Sami, Coordinator – LISSTAR gave us an informative speech on slum statistics in India, especially about the

conditions of urban slum. He spoke about the challenges faced by city corporation upon proliferation of slums in urban areas and the socio-economic problems that they bring along in their wake.

Prof.S.Antony Samy, faculty of Dept. of Outreach, gave a power point presentation outlining the structure of the whole programme and he summed up briefly the upcoming events. The vote of thanks was delivered by a student and the session ended up with the national anthem.

### **Department of Service Learning Stall in Seva Mela Chennai 2017**

**Event Date/Time :** 1 Oct and 2 Oct 10:30AM



### **Actor Surya keenly listening about Outreach activities**

**Event Venue:** Seva Mela Lady Andal School, Harrington Road Chennai -31  
Seva Mela, an initiative of Chennai Mission Trust and CIOSA is an opportunity for every Chennaiites to experience the wonderful work that the NGOs of the city are doing under one roof and across two days.



More than 60 Non-Government organizations presented their impacts in working areas on issues of health, education, elderly care, and domestic violence. It has inspired the visitors to be part of their journey in whatever way they could be. The Department of Service Learning also put a stall to motivate the student's fraternity to involve in service learning while their pursuing their studies and it also encourages the well wishers for supporting for the welfare of widows, elders and children in working areas (slums).

### **DINNER WITH DIGNITY**

Dinner with Dignity was jointly held by Hot Breads and Chennai Volunteers at Food Court in Loyola College on 4th October 2017. It was an initiative to serve the homeless a hot, healthy meal. The idea is to know who and where the homeless in your locality are and feed them a decent meal once a week, without any judgement. Thus the Dinner with Dignity was arranged for Scavengers of the Chennai corporation limit. Mr. Mahadevan, Popularly known as 'Hot Breads Mahadevan', the owner of the multimillion dollar bread enterprise with his Fellow companions and Chennai Volunteers, headed by Mrs.Rinku Mechari facilitated the event.



## SWACHHATA KI SEVA

Swachhata ki Seva is a nationwide campaign and it is celebrating its third year anniversary on 2nd October. The minister of water and sanitation initiated the fifteen days campaign from 15th September to 2nd October 2017. The main aim of the campaign is bring awareness on Swachh Bharat and it's bringing the people's participation in sanitation to achieve Mahatma Gandhi's dream. Swachh Hi Seva campaign is to promote cleanliness and free from open defecation. The Department of Service Learning, Loyola College involves the students towards nation building through learning and working with people. In this process, the under graduate students have placed in forty-one slums for the Service Learning in Zone: 5, 8, 9, 10 and 13 out of 15 Zones in Corporation of Chennai. The Department of Service Learning has been organizing various activities in slums towards clean environment. As part of the clean environment the Department of Service Learning has interested on Swachh Bharat Mission and it has planned to organize various activities as part of the campaign like: Rally, Cleaning the common areas and create awareness to achieve the mission (clean India) from 29th September to 2nd October 2107.





**REVISITING MODELS OF WIDOWS EMPOWERMENT IN SUB-STANDARD SETTLEMENTS (SLUMS)- Seminar. Date:20/10/2017**





The Department of Service Learning has made many intervention programmes for children, women, youth, differently-abled and senior citizens in the zones 5, 8, 9, 10, and 13, Corporation of Chennai. The department strives to help widows who are facing a lot of difficulties and struggles in achieving empowerment. The Department has organized various training programs in tailoring, candle making, mushroom cultivation etc. It also provided educational assistance to the widows' children, through Revolving Fund which has been constituted for micro level business (Idly shop, flower selling etc.) and job placements in Cantonment Board in Pallavaram, Chennai. The widows are facing a lot of problems like lack of support from the family members, insecurity of their kids, problems caused by family members, meagre income from their occupation and micro business,



inability to support their kids' education etc. The widows face a lot of pain in their life. They are not able to express their voice and demand for their rights in any forum. In spite of the repeated efforts by different State holders the widows could not empower themselves. There is a wider gap in attaining the empowerment to the widows. As part of intervention programme, our students who get involved in the empowerment activities for widows in the slums frequently inform us of the difficulties of the widows in Chennai. It shows that there is a need to reach out to the widows and it leads to the idea of organizing this seminar. Therefore, we have chosen to conduct a seminar with the objective of widows' empowerment models and analyzing the progress that they have achieved. Remedial measures will be highlighted in order to achieve widows; Empowerment and collectively searching for ways to prepare and sharing their people in slums to face the future.

### **LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION**

The Department of Service Learning organised the Literacy Day Celebration 25th September, 2017. The main objective of the programme was to motivate the children to continue education who are in slums. Around 500 children from 41 outreach intervention slums participated in the event. Rev.Fr. A. Louie Albert, S.J., Director Dept. of Service Learning (Outreach) mentioned about the purpose of the literacy day celebration and motivated children to study well. Rev.Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, S.J., Principal felicitated the gathering. Guest of honour P WAF Ym Mohan Daniel, District Governor come as guest of honour for the programme. Chief Guest HRM Ym Dr. Anand Jacob Varghese, Regional Director motivated the children. The study materials were distributed to all the children who are from 41 slums.



## **REVOLVING FUND PROJECT**

The Department of Service Learning sent the proposal for the revolving fund project to Mr. Mahadevan, Hot Bread on 19th September, 2017. The Department of Service Learning received an offer on 21st September 2017 to take part and make a presentation about their work for the Battle of Buffet and display their activities in the SEVA MELA event. More than 80 Non-Government organizations made presentations about their activities in working areas on issues of health, education, elderly care, and domestic violence. The Department of Service Learning also put up a stall to motivate the student's fraternity to involve in service learning even while they were studying. The Department of Service Learning was requested to present the project on 8th November, 2017. Rev. Fr.A. Louie Albert SJ., Director- Department of Service Learning presented the project for the women with a budget of Rs.2,05,000 on 8th November, 2017 at Hotel Marina, College Road, Chennai. Totally 60 NGO's presented their proposals out of which 36 NGO's were selected for receiving grants through Battle of the Buffet(fund rising event). The Department of Service Learning received a cheque worth Rs.2,05,000 for the revolving fund project on 7th January, 2018. Department of Service Learning, Loyola College had initiated an event to distribute revolving fund for the young widows identified at the outreach intervention areas, Chennai. More than 100 widows were identified by the students who were assigned to identify the

needy from most vulnerable backgrounds. CIOSA has provided Rs. 2, 05, 000 as revolving fund for 41 members (Rs. 5000 each), since there are 41 outreach intervention areas. Among those 100 identified young widows, 41 were identified as the most vulnerable and needy, they were gathered on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 and were given revolving fund as their investment for small business.



During the event, young widows were informed that they should pay back in small instalments of Rs. 500 every month and therefore they can give back the total amount of Rs. 5000 at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> month. Total amount will be pooled again and will be given to the identified needy. Prof. Mary Swarnambal, Department of Tamil Literature, Loyola College and Mr. Rajasekaran, MPP trust had motivated those young widows to utilize the amount in a constructive way and develop their business. The Principal Rev. Dr. Arokiasamy Xavier S.J., and the Director of Service Learning, Rev. Dr. Louie Albert S.J., blessed those young widows with the cheque Rs. 2, 05, 000.



Department of service learning had identified 12 school going children of young widows and gave scholarship amount Rs.1000 each.

### **Students – Admission from Outreach intervention slums**

Department of service learning (Outreach) has planned to organize summer camp for the students who have completed 12<sup>th</sup> Std for the academic year 2016-17 from 41 outreach intervention slums. They were identified by 2<sup>nd</sup> year UG students who were assigned outreach program for the academic year 2016-17.



Around 143 students were identified and enrolled for the summer camp. This program is primarily aimed at the development of their leadership skills, and also included carrier guidance. On the final day of summer camp, they were given guidance on online applying and course selection in Loyola College.



Out of 143 students, 58 students have applied various courses at Loyola College. Many were first generation students, brought up by single parent; vulnerable community had appeared for interview. They were scrutinized with many proceedings and finally Loyola College deserves to provide an

opportunity to 43 students. Students and their parents were very much happy to get admission at Loyola College and they are thankful to Loyola College.

### **SPECIAL VISIT TO FISHER FOLK AREA**

This event was held on 22/09/2017 for outreaching the fisherman community who had fishing as their primary and main occupation as fishing and have been fisherman for generation. We were told many things about their profession the hurdles that they face on a day to day basis and financial difficulties faced by them. Their hard time while the tsunami in 2004 followed by the effects of oil spill after tsunami and varadha cyclone which devastated them.



They say that their next generation is not ready to take up this as their profession as they feel that there is no guarantee for consistent income. They say that in spite of having all these hardships they are still continuing to do this as their profession as they want to continue the tradition which was left behind by their previous

generations. Topics on instable income and depletion of fish in the sea due to large scale fishing practices conducted by MNCs and natural calamities were discussed along with the lack of quality equipment's and the Government support to earn their livelihood.

## **Orientation program for post graduate students**

Department of Service Learning had organized orientation program for post graduate students on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2.30 pm held at LICET. Nearly 300 students from the department of Physics, Chemistry, Advanced Zoology, Mathematics, Commerce, English, Statistics, and Economics participated in the orientation program. Dr. Bernard D'Sami was the speaker for the orientation program since he has been working for migrant population and he is coordinating the LISSTAR program for the last 5 years. The faculty from the Outreach Department motivated the students about the activities which have to be undertaken by the students in the slums. Rev. Fr. Louie Albert, director for the department of Service Learning addressed the students on the responsibilities of students towards slum communities. He motivated the students to work towards the welfare of the slum dwellers for few days with the guidance of professors of department of Service Learning. Students were intimated that 60 hours has to be spent in slums, that is, 3 hours for orientation program, 16 hours for field visit, 20 hours for program rehearsal and the rest 21 hours for community program.



## ***MAGIS***

*MAGIS* is a pastoral experience of Ignatian programs and events meant to prepare young adults from Jesuit colleges, parishes, and ministries for the experience of

World Youth Day Organized by the Society of Jesus (also known as the Jesuits) and other institutions, the MAGIS initiative gets its name from the Latin word for “more.” The roots of the phrase come from St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who encouraged those who follow Christ to examine their ability to do more for him and, in turn, for others. It is an expression of an aspiration and inspiration of Ignatius and a tenet of Ignatian spirituality.

The MAGIS initiative began in 1997 before the World Youth Day held in Paris, France. In 2005, in Cologne, Germany, it was called MAGIS for the first time. Since then, MAGIS has been celebrated in Sydney (2008), Madrid (2011), and Rio de Janeiro (2013). World Youth Day is an international celebration of young people in the Catholic Church, organized every three years. Over the past 20 years, World Youth Day has been celebrated in Buenos Aires, Rome, Paris, Toronto, Denver, and Manila, where it was one of the largest gatherings in history. For the first time in the history of South Asia it was organized at Loyola College Chennai, from 12th January to 15th January.





The Department of Service Learning took charge on the third day and gave them exposure by taking the Magis participants to various slums and Voluntary organizations which work for the underprivileged, the destitute, elderly citizens, mentally challenged, orphans and terminally ill patients.

Most of the people in the slums celebrated Pongal and hence they warmly greeted the Magis Participants with Pongal and welcomed them into their homes. The Magis youth interacted with the slum dwellers and came to know about their socio-economic conditions and their problems.



Rev. Fr. Brian had said that he was impressed with the feedback which was given by the Magis participants during the reflection sessions and he praised the efforts taken by the Outreach department and thanked Prof. Francis Kumanan and other staff members of the Department of Service Learning for the wonderful experience given to the Magis participants.



## **UG Rural Camp-2017**

### **Rural camp for Digital Journalism at Thandalam, Kanchipuram District: 2017-18**

#### **Introduction**

Department of Service Learning (DSL) has been organising rural camps for post graduation students at Loyola College for the last 40 years. It was a yearly plan for 2<sup>nd</sup> year under graduate and 2<sup>nd</sup> year post graduate of Digital Journalism from the department of Kaushal Kendra, Loyola College to get expose rural scenario. Therefore, the department of Kaushal Kendra has prevailed on the need of rural camp for students of Digital Journalism, invited department of Service Learning to coordinate rural camp for the students.

Then the department of Service Learning had progressed by pilot visit to Kanchipuram district and scheduled an agenda for six days. Department of service learning had conformed day schedule from 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at St. Antony's Church, Thandalam, Kanchipuram district. Dr. Anand and Prof. Rathna from Department of service learning and Asst.Prof. Unnikrishnan from Kaushal Kendra have volunteered to accompany the students for rural camp.

Department of service learning did initiate orientation program for the students on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 which helped the students to get ready for the rural camp. After orientation was got over in - charge professor Dr.E.Anand and Prof. Ratna gathered along with the class representatives of 2<sup>nd</sup> UG & 2<sup>nd</sup> PG of Digital Journalism to make students to arrange for travel from Loyola College to Thandalam village (rural camp spot). Class representatives had booked travel which signalled green for the camp.

The Journey started on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 from Loyola College. Students gathered around 8.30am and boarded the bus. Journey started with attendance by Dr. Anand after then the director Ms. Malini madam had given



instructions and wished a safe trip. 100 tree saplings were taken from St. Joseph Higher Secondary School, Soosaipuram with the help of Prof. Allaguperumal in Loyola School of Business Administration. Soon enough the environment in the bus became cheerful as everyone started dancing to the tune of music.



Bus had reached the destination around 12 Noon which happened to be a campus of St. Antony's church school and R.C. Higher Secondary School at Thandalam. After reaching the school, students took a short rest before lunch was

served at 1pm. After having delicious lunch, students were gathered at multimedia hall of the school around 3 pm. Inauguration for the rural camp was organised at 4 pm. Rev. Fr. Prabhu Doss & Rev. Fr. Thomas addressed the students, followed by the faculties and community leaders.



**Tree**



**Plantation**



## **UG-Rural camp report – Valayaputhur**

### **Kaushalkendra – 3D Animation**

#### **Introduction**

Students from kaushalkendra – 3D Animation (UG & PG) had participated in the rural camp organised by the department of Service Learning (Outreach) at Valayaputhur, Kanchipuram district. 53 students of 2<sup>nd</sup> UG & 2<sup>nd</sup> PG along with Prof. Francis Kumanan & Prof. Priya from department of Service Learning and Prof. Saravanan from department of 3D animation Kaushal Kendra accompanied them for 6 days. The main aim of the rural camp is to get exposure of rural communities and their way of life.

Students were accommodated at sacred heart matriculation school in valayaputhur village. Rev. Fr. Victor Immanuel had provided a good accommodation for the girls and boys separately. There was enough water



facilities and sanitation was good. Food was arranged by Rev. Fr. Victor Immanuel and Bro. Arun Raj supervised all services provided to the students.

Students reached valayaputhur by 12.30 pm noon for lunch. Professors have introduced the day schedule to the students and asked them to abide by the camp rules and regulations. Inauguration session for the rural camp was organised by 6.00 pm and followed by Ice-breaking session and group formation.

### **Cultural event**

Cultural event was conducted at the ganapathi temple in valayaputhur. Students did a spectacular show with dance, songs, drama with awareness messages for the villagers. Since the day was vinayagar chaturthi, the local people were very happy that the students organised such a splendid show marking the occasion. This

event was organised on the last day of the rural camp (5<sup>th</sup> day).



### **Sports for the Disabled**

Parthasarathy Memorial Trust and Night shelter for disabled are the two organisations who were invited for the sports meet conducted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students of Department of Service Learning, Loyola College, Chennai. The students who were divided into different committees carried out their work in a diligent manner. Travel committee had arranged a van to pick those challenged people from their organisation to Football ground in Loyola College by 12.45 pm. Participants were ready with sports program.

1. Running race for wheel chair users
2. Running race for mentally challenged - Boys

3. Running race for mentally challenged - Girls
4. Musical chair for Mentally challenged
5. Passing ball for mentally challenged
6. Passing ball for wheel chair users
7. Ball throw for mentally challenged
8. Passing ball for staff and volunteers

After all the events, certificates and prizes were distributed to the winners. These events were organised with the support of the Assistant physical education director Mr. Pazhani. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year differently abled Students were very happy to organise the event for persons with disabilities, through which they learnt organising and communication skills.

**“The only disability in life is bad attitude” – Scott Himilton**





## **Motivational Program for Students (10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) from Outreach Intervention Slums**

The Motivational program for the Students appearing for their board exams from the Outreach Intervention slums was conducted in Y.D. Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.



Prof. Chitra Regis from Economics Department was the first Resource person for the Program. Besides scoring well in their exams, she also said that the students have to focus on learning certain attributes like working in teams, positive attitude and learning curve. Mrs. Christiana, Counselor from Aura, Loyola College was the other resource person and she spoke about how to prepare well for their exams.

She spoke about the numerous distractions which affect the students of today and to effectively deal with distractions.



Rev. Fr. Louie Albert spoke about the importance of conducting this program and he urged the students to do well in their exams and wished them all success for their future endeavors.

### **Embroidery and tailoring unit**

Students from the department of Plant Biology, Loyola College had organised an event, “embroidery and tailoring course completion day” 12 women (few widows and separated) received certificate for their completion of 3 month course. Women team had gathered women (few were separated and widows) from Jothiammal nagar, saidapet. One among them a woman Ms. Esther Rani, has come forward to teach tailoring and embroidery for those interested women. It was started in the month of October 2017 between 1 pm to 3 pm since they were occupied in the morning for daily or monthly wage.

Month crossed, at the end of January 2018 (4<sup>th</sup> month), trainer Esther Rani said trainees have completed their embroidery and tailoring course and next batch trainees are ready with their tools to join the program. She had intervened with companies to get orders to run a sustainable unit at Jothiammal nagar and clicked with one Export Company (bags to be stitched).



Prof. Rathna astonished by seeing their effort and regularity to complete the course and plan to run sustainable unit. For the “course completion day” on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018, Rev. Dr. Louie Albert SJ., Director, Department of Service Learning, Loyola College Students from Department of Plant Biology, and Ph.D scholars from Taiwan University who were in a visit for outreach programs on that particular day arrived.



Participants were embarrassed by seeing their hard work and enthusiasm. During the happy moment, Director of Service learning (Outreach) had donated a sewing machine and yet to give 3 more sewing machines to run a sustainable unit at Jothiammal nagar, Saidapet. Trainees were very happy to receive them and pledged that they will run the unit properly which help to develop their livelihood.



## COMMON UG PROGRAMS DONE IN SLUMS- DATA

	Number of Programs	Number of Beneficiaries
Elders Day celebration	18	469
Republic day celebration	23	1170
Literacy Day - Rally (Awareness Rally	4	400
Dengue Awareness programs -Nillavembu Distributions	25	3688
Carambord Competitions	10	350
Nutrition Day Celebration	5	180
AIDS-Awareness Rally	7	500
Smoke Free Bogie-Awareness programs for (school children)	12	677
Domestic worker -Awareness program on Domestic workers scheme	4	130
Counselling program for school children	5	138
Teachers Day celebration	2	400
Children programs	19	945
Women awareness programs	13	276
Medical camp	31	2910
Independence Day	13	1297
Eye Camp	12	985
Swatch Bharat	18	2027
Awareness programme on Health and Sanitation	13	1514
First aid demo	4	150
Awareness to plus two students	9	95
safe hand wash- program	5	125
RTI Filing- (Pension form status &others)	2	35
Physiotherapy	1	10
Educational Assistance	9	172
Youth Programs	16	259
Disposal of Non Bio-Degradable wastes	3	200
Creating Awareness about 104 Maruthuva Sevai	4	150
Environmental issues Presentation	5	320
Awareness programme about Cancer prevention	4	80

Tuition centre	5	55
Job for unemployed women	7	36
Pongal	37	2900
Hospital cleaning	5	500
Educational Assistance-Drawing	8	260
Yoga Day	1	15
Rangoli	21	416
school teaching programs	12	1334
Rural camp	9	500
Self-Employment training programs	3	90
Health tips for elders	2	40
Dengue Rally	1	125
Dropouts Enrolled in school	1	6
Sports for children	1	40
Christmas Celebration	6	350
Tailoring Celebration	1	12
Tailoring machine donated	1	1
Elders School	2	13

## COMMON UG PROGRAMS

### EYE CAMP:



FOR CHILDREN:



FOR ELDERS:



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION:



## REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION:



### Taiwan students visit



On 08<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2018 students from National Taiwan University had come to the Department of Service Learning (Outreach), Loyola College for observational visit.



The purpose of the visit was to know about the environmental sustainable program. Totally 7 students from different disciplines of courses had come. The department arranged a visit to the Sewage Treatment Plant, Loyola Men's Hostel. Dr. Thomas, Public Relation Officer explained about its functions and regular maintenance of the plant. He answered various questions, which was asked by students. Then, students visited biogas plant, which is run by food wastages. He operated some of the machines and explained to them how it works and he said that it produces 60kgs of gas per day and it is used in the men' hostel for cooking.

After that students visited Dr. Thomas Road, Teynament along with Prof. S.Antonymsamy and they interacted with slum people about their day to day today life and infrastructure available to them. After the lunch break, students went to Jyothiammal Nagar, where Prof. Rathna arranged certificates distribution function for women. Rev. Fr. Louie Albert SJ, Director, Dept. of Service Learning distributed certificates to women who had completed the tailoring class. As part of that, a sewing machine was donated from the department to start tailoring job. Students attended the function and they were able to understand about service learning.

### **Resettlement project in Semancheri, Tamil Nadu Focused Group Discussion**

The Department of Service Learning conducted FGD on 3<sup>rd</sup> February,2018 in the open space near # 5644, Semmancheri, Chennai. The purpose of the discussion was to know the livelihood of women and status of



education for the children and youth. Semmancheri people were evacuated from various part of the Chennai who were resided near the Covam river. The member of the FGD were resided at Sariroad, Stalin Nagar, and Jyothiammal Nagar. The reason for relocating the people was to build the elevated corridor bridge on the river bank of Covum river

The members have expressed mixed responses about the infrastructure available at Semmancheri. Some of them are satisfied about the space available at the outside of the building or house. But the space of the house is very less and size of the house is 10\*12 feet only, which includes a bedroom and a kitchen. The house allotted to them with rent amounts to Rs 250 per month.



They are supposed to pay the rent for 22years. In these houses, there is no privacy for the grownup children. Common water is available both in the morning and evening. Sometimes, water is mixed with sewage outlet. Other facilities are quiet good like road, park, street light and bus terminus. Waterlacks have happened during the last rainy season and

houses in the ground floor were affected.

The members are not happy about the infrastructure of the graveyard. It is operated manually, it releases bad smell and it has been polluting the entire environment of the area. It could be converted into electricity. The parapet height is very low and it must be increased.

#### PG Rural Camp

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach) has been organizing a rural camp for the postgraduate students every year from 1978 onwards. The first year PG students were taken for the Rural camp to villages in Villupuram and Thiruvannamalai Districts. Given below is the list of the departments who were taken to the different villages:

#### Rural Exposure Camp for I PG students (2017-2018)

Sl.No	Name of the department	No. of Boys	No. of Girls	No. of students	Date and Place
1.	M.Sc. Zoology, MLT and MA English	52	47	99	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov-2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec,2017 Mangalapuram, Villupuram District
2.	M.Sc. Chemistry, M.Sc. Bio-Tech and Media Arts	38	36	74	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov-2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec,2017 Sithanangoor Villupuram-Dist

3.	M.Sc. Maths and Vis.Com	39	33	72	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov-2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec,2017 Vikiravandi Villupuram-Dist
4.	M.Sc. Physics, MCA and MA Applied History	45	33	78	27 <sup>th</sup> Nov-2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec,2017 Alampadi Villupuram-Dist
5.	M.Sc.Comp. Science and MA Sociology	46	35	81	4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec,2017 Thatchur Thiruvanmalai-Dist
6.	MA. Economics and M.Com	38	51	89	4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec,2017 Keelpennathur Thiruvanmalai-Dist
7.	M.Sc. Statistics and Food Chemistry	33	43	76	4 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec,2017 Somasapadi Thiruvanmalai-Dist
<b>Total</b>		<b>280</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>548</b>	

Even though the words “education outside the classroom” were not used in formulating the Jesuit educational mission, Jesuit education has always valued the holistic development of students. Student affairs professionals are among those who value the education of the whole person and the learning experiences of students during their many hours outside of class. At its most general level, what distinguishes holistic education from other forms of education are its goals, its attention to experiential learning, and the significance that it places on relationships and primary human values within the learning environment.

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 endeavors 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. The students are given an orientation about the objectives of the camp and their roles and responsibilities in order to make them understand the importance of undertaking the Rural camp. Always the students are accompanied by their respective department staff members along with the Staff members of the Service Learning Department. After coming back from the camps, the students sit for a reflection session in which they talk about their observations, what they have learnt and the issues that have had a lasting impact on their minds.

### **Salient features of the Camp**

The students in each of the camps would usually begin the day with meditation and prayer along with meditation/yoga and a few physical and stretching exercises. A good start to any event is through prayer. The prayers were conducted in each of the different religious faiths to invoke the blessings of God. Meditation and yoga was practiced to help the students achieve a mentally clear and emotionally calm state. Then they would do physical and relaxation/stretching exercises to warm up the body and to relax and stretch their muscles in order to stay free from injuries while being involved in doing physical work which would happen in the morning every day.







The students in each of the camps would be involved in doing two to three hours of physical/manual work every day in each of the neighboring villages adjacent to the camp site. The task which was allotted to the students was based on the needs of a particular village and it was intended to be beneficial to the villagers and also to help the students understand and appreciate the value of physical labor while being engaged in it. The students were involved in doing different types of work like Planting saplings, removing weeds and bushes, cleaning the shores of the ponds, digging the ponds to ensure that more water is being stored, digging the canals, involving in construction work, ploughing and planting saplings in paddy fields, cleaning the areas by removing plastics, stones, and sweeping different areas,

cleaning water tanks, scraping school building walls and painting them etc. 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 in each of the camps would conduct cultural programs which were based on their personal experiences, their observations, learning's, the social issues and problems faced by the villagers and also what they dreamed about the village.

#### Exposure Visit to villages

The students would visit the villages in the afternoon to have interactions with the villagers to know about their socio economic conditions and understand the core issues and problems faced by the villagers.

#### Observations made by the students

1. The major problem faced by villagers in most of the villages is the **scarcity of water**, due to which many families had to leave farming and shift to other professions like brick making, daily wage jobs or the 100 days government scheme. Since crops like rice require high amounts of water, it isn't that prominent in these areas, rather crops like groundnut are more common due to the lower water requirement. These villages entirely depend upon the annual

rainfall for water. Apart from farming, milk production was found to be second major source of income, but only for a few months. None of the families seemed to have steady annual income jobs.

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. Dowry demands, lack of employment opportunities for graduates in the villages, lack of development facilities like hospitals, shops and insufficient teachers in government schools apart from the sub standard quality of education in government schools
3. The second major concern of these villages was found to be lack of sanitation. Many families complained about the roads being dirty, no proper garbage disposal systems and this was a major cause for concern. Transportation is also a major concern in many parts of the district as they have to walk for longer distances to the nearest bus stop and the frequency of buses is not frequent. The villagers find it very difficult to commute to nearby towns, especially during emergencies. Health care services are very minimal and for professional medical services they need to travel to nearby towns, but due to lack of proper transportation this again becomes a hindrance.
4. The **lack of sanitary latrines** was also a major issue in these villages. Many villages were promised toilets but the actual construction never took place and in many parts the proposal of building toilets itself wasn't raised. A few well to do homes had built toilets by themselves but majority of the people still practice open defecation in the fields and along the roads.
5. The students could observe that the dominant caste tenements were away from the fields and were spaciouly divided, unlike the oppressed caste areas which lined the fields more numerously. The dominant caste houses had more facilities and were of stronger construction. In some of the villages, the students observed that even the buses stop only in the villages inhabited by the dominant caste people to pick up the passengers.
6. 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 important skills and other factors. Their inability to converse in English has also denied them many opportunities.

7. The farmers are aware about the modern farming techniques and regularly consult with experts from nearby towns or cities regarding what kind of crop they can grow and soil quality, manure use, etc. they are aware, but they lack the means to implement these techniques. After interacting with all these families the students learnt that villagers lack the basic necessities of life like sufficient nutritious food, healthcare, water, education, sanitary latrines, etc. Regardless of these problems, when students asked the people if they are happy, every single family said they are content with what they have and that they live in a strong knit community where they support each other and still hope for a better tomorrow but also believe in being happy with their present.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- March-7, 2018- NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESPONDING TO CHALLENGES OF SERVICE LEARNING
- February-28, 2018- ELDERS DAY CELEBRATION WITH THE ELDERS FROM SLUMS
- March-13, 2018- OUTREACH DAY

Finally, the department thanks the management, officials, staff and students for the support it receives from them. True to the spirit of Jesuit vision of creating men and women for others, Outreach of our college remains as a flagship programme that complements the formal higher education.