

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Consultation on Loyola Relief and Rehabilitation Services (LRRS)

on July 14, 2016 at J.D. Hall.

Total number of participants: 33

Objectives of the Consultation:

- To specify and prioritise the rehabilitation services in the selected areas.
- To formulate strategic planning for the involvement of LRRS with a particular focus on Cuddalore

Review of the relief operations undertaken by LRRS and others involved in Relief and Rehabilitation: Rev Fr. Rector addressed the participants about the work which was being done by LRRS since its inception. He informed us that Rev. Fr. Henry Jerome SJ will shoulder the responsibility of Loyola Relief and Rehabilitation Services with a particular focus on Cuddalore. Rev. Fr. Rector commended the efforts of LRRS members and that Loyola as an academic body should focus on disaster preparedness, disaster assistance documentation, process in which we can create public opinion and concern and to influence policy making in our country apart from providing holistic rehabilitation services.



Mr. Thomas the PRO of our college, said that around 1200 people have supported financially since the floods and that the amount of money spent for relief work would be around 10 crores. Mr. Thomas explained to everyone about the discussions with different funding

agencies regarding the Project proposal prepared by the Outreach department. He mentioned that a donor is willing to fund the construction of a community hall in Avvaipuram as well as the construction of a drainage system in Avvaipuram and Jothiammal Nagar.

Rev. Fr. Jacob SJ, Vice Principal - Loyola College informed the gathering that 600 starter kits were distributed to the 600 families who stayed in our college for more than a week. The worth of the starter kit was Rs. 8000 - 300 students of our college who were affected by the floods were also given starter kits worth Rs. 2000.

Rev. Fr. Sebastian SJ from Jesuits Migrants Ministry, spoke about how they first began their work at Periya Kattupalayam where eight Arunthathiyar villages were washed away in the floods. He also spoke about the work which is being done in some of the villages of Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur district where they have helped the people to obtain duplicate ration cards, community certificates and other important documents. They are now working with the local Tahsildars to enable the villagers to get land in order to construct houses.



Mr. A. Sarvesan, General Manager - CSR at Strides Shasun mentioned the operations which his company had undertaken at Cuddalore and Pondicherry. His organization along with the support of the volunteers from Mahatma Gandhi Institute distributed rice packets to the tune of 1 crore rupees.

Prof. Gladston Xavier, the Head - Department of Social Work spoke about Disaster Mitigation and about the five different stages involved in it. He also spoke about Disaster Risk Reduction and about Infrastructure development.

Dr. Bernard D' Sami, the Director - LISTAAR mentioned that the relief efforts did not reach the interstate migrants as they were not getting the desired attention and most of them have gone back to their homes in Orissa or Assam.

Panel/Group Discussion

- Mr. Nicholas from Brotherhood Mission suggested that Disaster Risk Reduction mapping can be done to identify the disaster prone areas and to lessen the impact of disasters in the future.
- Mr. Thomas, PRO - Loyola college said that Legal support systems have to be in place as the lands of farmers have become unsuitable for cultivation as a result of being buried under three feet of sludge after the flood waters had receded.
- Rev. Fr. Sebastian from Jesuits Migrants Ministry, emphasized the need for giving priority for education as the Irular children drop out from school after they reach their 5th Standard. They feel ashamed of themselves and also because of the way in which they are treated by other children.
- Mr. A. Sarvesan, General Manager - CSR at Strides Shasun spoke about creating a Resource list of people who will contribute during the flood. He mentioned the wonderful work being done by L & T in training the youth for jobs in masonry and carpentry and placing them in jobs not only in India but also abroad. The mindset of the youth is such that they do not want to leave their local village and migrate elsewhere and hence the youth have to be prepared for taking up challenges.
- Mr. Gowrishankar from Give Smiles NGO explained the necessity of creating an application software in mobiles and laptops to ensure connectivity and accessibility of resources.
- Dr. Revathy Robert spoke about collaborating with University departments and also including our Engineering students for rehabilitation services. It was also felt by others that networking with Geography/Geology departments of universities is essential for imparting training on Remote sensor knowledge of Disaster prone Areas.
- Dr. Bernard D' Sami, the Director - LISTAAR spoke about starting a campaign for stopping eviction and mapping the slums of slum dwellers..
- Prof. Gladston Xavier, Head - Department of Social work mentioned that the Rehabilitation work can be carried out by dividing the areas for intervention into three geographical blocks. We need to have standardized operating procedures and the community should be strengthened to take up challenges.
- Rev. Fr. Henry Jerome SJ, Director of LRRS & Outreach Department said that rehabilitation has to be need based as it is not necessary to replicate the operations in Thiruvallur district at Cuddalore as well. He said that the Outreach department will be organising a two day conference on Post flood Chennai and they will also think about taking up a Stop eviction campaign. He mentioned that networking will be done

to connect the people with resources to the needy by establishing a regional co-ordination centre.

- Rev. Fr. Eugiene SJ from Jesuits Migrant Ministry expressed the need to have a Conference on Post Flood Cuddalore similar to the one proposed for Chennai as we need to take stock of the needs of the people and connect them with the resources at our disposal.
- Rev. Fr. Kumar, SJ, Director – Social Watch summarized a few of the important points discussed during the course of the discussion and he mentioned that the most vulnerable groups have to be identified and that their needs have to be prioritized. He emphasized the need to create resilient village ecosystems and that the productive assets of the communities have to be improved for economic resilience. He spoke about constituting a Task force and Prioritising the list of activities, thereby creating systems and Mechanisms to achieve the desired outcome.
- Rev. Fr. Henry Jerome SJ assured everyone that LRRS will be active and Loyola College being an academic institution has its own characteristics and will not be like any other NGO. All the people involved with LRRS will be sent the details. He thanked all the participants and he hoped that with the support of everyone LRRS will move forward in the desired direction.