

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Department of Service Learning (Outreach)

Orientation Programme

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach) organized an orientation for the undergraduate students of shift I & II from 24th to 29th June, 2015 at CET-11 in their respective timings. The main purpose of the orientation was to explain the dynamics of Outreach, concerning the needs of neighbors and educational theory into practice among the less privileged people. The staff in-charge from various department participated along with students. The Department invited eminent resource persons for eight sessions to motivate the students on the purpose of Outreach (concerning the neighborhood) in informal settlement. The orientation sessions were headed by the Head of the Department of Service Learning (Outreach), Prof. John Kaviarasu. All sessions began with a prayer song by the students of the respective departments. Prof. S. John Kaviarasu explained about the dynamics of the Outreach programme and theme based approach in informal settlements.



Sessions were facilitated by Rev. Dr. G. Joseph Antony Samy SJ, Principal, Loyola College. It was inspiring to see the principal attending all the sessions besides his busy schedule. Fr. Principal started with his blessing and he specifically dropped an idea which the students can practice and convey throughout their life that “No life should suffer from hunger, thirst and other basic amenities.” He added that an 'informal settlement' should be looked at as a lab or

testing room where the students can learn who they really are. He also believes that a degree without an event of this magnitude won't be worth enough.

The resource persons shared the purpose of the Outreach which were inspiring; involving different power point presentations about life lessons. They also interacted with the students and made them feel comfortable about the idea and purpose of the outreach programme. They further encouraged the need for focusing on social reforms and also appreciated the concept of the outreach. Through this Outreach programme

the students could see a whole new perspective of their surroundings, then responsibilities.

The Outreach experiences were shared by the final year students from various departments about their experience through the Outreach activities and their journey of learning. They told the students about how the program had given them a surge of excitement and an opportunity to interact

with and serve different levels of the society. It is a rare opportunity that no other institution provides and it brings out a new self in the students. They also explained to the students that it was all about two important aspects, one, to satisfy the people they are serving and secondly, to satisfy themselves by serving the people. As they recalled their experiences of helping others,



winning their blessings and finding new emotions hidden in them, they slowly engulfed the 2nd year students into the depth of the program and made them feel comfortable about outreach which was a completely new dimension in their curriculum so far. They always focused on the fact of giving you to that part of the society for the given time and putting oneself in their shoes to understand their needs and emotions. They also focused on the fact that nobody likes something new but ensured the students that they will be different people by the end of the entire program. They concluded by thanking the professors for giving them an opportunity to speak and the students for their attentive listening.

“When ends be looked at as new beginnings, the journey will go on forever”- Anuj Malu; this was the motto of the vote of thanks given by the students. It marked the end of the inaugural session by thanking the Professors, Fr Principal, the Chief Guest and the students. However the focus always remained on the fact that the end of the session marked the beginning of the journey of the students at the Outreach department, a beginning that will help them find a new end in themselves and their feeling of contentment.