

## **Distribution of Covid Home Care Medical Kit to Loyola Outreach Community Leaders**

Department of Service Learning with the financial support of Loyola Alumni Association has started an initiative to prevent the rapid spread of Corona Virus infections in the intervention areas of Loyola College. Faculty members of the department of Service Learning with the help of the community leaders identified five volunteers from each intervention area and in turn, 184 volunteers from all the intervention areas to work in the initiative and prevent the rapid spread of Corona Virus among the communities of intervention areas.

As the initial step of consciousness raising, a training program was organized for the community volunteers on May 16, 2021. Under the guidance of Rev. Dr. A. Thomas, SJ, Principal and Dr. Gladston Xavier, a team of three doctors namely Dr. Ganesh Kumar, Dr. Rubesh and Dr. Sivakumar who have been associating themselves with ICMR and Chennai Corporation trained the community volunteers virtually to know the importance of vaccination, create awareness about the symptoms of Covid -19, the importance of testing and isolating oneself if tested positive, the diet to be followed, the unwanted attention given to Remdesivir, procedure of using the oximeter, myths and FAQs related to Covid-19 and other vital details required to handle the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

On May 18, 2021, the medical kit containing finger pulse oximeter, sanitizer 500ml, face shield, three ply face mask - 30 nos, zinc-vitamin tablets - 30 nos, kabasura kudineer - 50gms was distributed to the identified leaders from the intervention areas on the premises of Loyola College in the presence of Rev. Dr. Francis P. Xavier, SJ, Rector, Rev. Dr. A. Thomas, SJ, Principal, Rev. Dr. Selvanayakam, SJ, Secretary, and Dr. K.S.Antonymsamy, Head, Department of English who had organized the press meet. The leaders subsequently distributed these medical kits to other volunteers in the intervention areas. Rev. Dr. Louis Arockiaraj, SJ, Director along with three other faculty members, Department of Service Learning visited 11 intervention areas himself and distributed the medical kit to the volunteers on May 19, 2021.

The community volunteers from 39 intervention areas were involved in screening the households and giving them awareness about the symptoms of Covid-19, the importance of vaccinating, wearing masks, checking the oxygen levels of the people. They further ensured the distribution of kabasura kudineer periodically in the intervention areas. In addition, the volunteers created the awareness for corona patients the need for isolating themselves in quarantine center at Loyola Campus and the other such centers closer to their locality.