

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034

Department of Service Learning Embroidery and Tailoring Unit

Introduction

It was about crowd at the one of the terrace in Jothiammal Nagar, Saidapet. Students from the department of Plant Biology, Loyola College had organised a course completion day on “embroidery and tailoring”. During the programme, 12 women (few widows and separated) received 3 months course completion certificate.

Jothiammal Nagar, Saidapet

In the month August 2018, Prof. Rathna had identified Jothiammal nagar, Saidapet at the bank of River Cooum. It was first initiative of Loyola College getting into Jothiammal nagar. The slum dwellers Were Telugu speaking people settled for 3 generations. Most of the slum dwellers were occupied as sanitary workers for Chennai Corporation. They used to clean the sewages of government offices. Women were engaged with domestic help. Present generation were enrolled in school with the support of NGOs which are working in the neighbouring slums.

Department of Service Learning (DSL), Loyola College

Department of service learning (DSL), Loyola College makes each and every student to realise their responsibility towards their society through the outreach programmes. Though it is a credit based system for the department, every student has to work in the slum of Chennai.

DSL Intervention

The second year students from department of Plant biology, Loyola College, were sent to Jothiammal nagar to observe, study the community and to initiate programme based on the needs of the community. They were divided into many groups such as Education team, health team, Women team, Youth team, Elders & disabled team. The students were guided throughout the academic year by staff of Department of Service Learning and helped them to organize various events at Jothiammal nagar.

The Education team arranged tuition centre for school going children at the terrace of Rajammal's house, one of the slum dwellers of Jothiammal nagar. Around 20 children were part of the tuition centre. Health team had organised awareness programmes on health issues for children, women and elders. Recently health team had organised an awareness programme on health and sanitation for children. 10 children had participated and the team had trained those children to keep their body clean and neat.

Embroidery and Tailoring Unit

Women team had gathered women (few were separated and widows) from Jothiammal nagar, they got to know their interest to learn tailoring and embroidery. One of the women from the community, Ms. Esther Rani, had 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 their daily job during the mornings.

Month crossed, at the end of January 2018, Esther Rani, the trainer said that the trainees have completed their embroidery and tailoring course and next batch were 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).

Course Completion Day

Prof. Rathna was astonished by seeing their regularity and effort to complete the course and planned to run sustainable unit. She decided to recognise their effort by organising "course completion day" on 8th February 2018. She invited the Rev. Dr. Louie Albert SJ., Director, Department of Service Learning, Loyola College. The students from Department of Plant Biology and Ph.D scholars from Taiwan University were also present for the programme. 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 promised them that they would be given 3 more sewing machines to run a sustainable unit at Jothiammal nagar, Saidapet. Trainees were very happy to receive them and pledged that they would run the unit properly which will help them to develop their livelihood.

Conclusion

At the end of the event, trainees have showed their models to the participants. The Tailoring program team was well appreciated for their quintessential initiative.



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Course Completion day
(08.02.2018)

