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Loyola College (Autonomous)  
Chennai – 600 034.

**Department of Outreach**

**Scholarship and Sewing Machine Distribution Programme**

The Department of Service Learning (Outreach), Loyola College organized a 'Scholarship Cum Sewing Machine Distribution' programme on Tuesday, 29th September 2015 at Lawrence Sundaram Hall. The main purpose of the programme was to distribute passbook to the underprivileged children of widow living in informal settlements in Chennai after crediting their account with Rs. 500 each for the child's higher studies. It pledged to credit similar amounts until the child attained the age of 18. Sewing machines were also distributed to four of the women for encouraging self employment.

The response of the people were overwhelming, nearly hundred people attended the function. Even before the formal function began the audience was enthralled by the performance staged by the children affected by Down syndrome. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosome arrangement which causes intellectual and physical disability and medical issues. The Down syndrome Federation cater to the special needs of these children and enable them to become independent. They carry out a number of activities including counseling sessions, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, which enables them to be independent and earn money. These children entertained the large gathering by showcasing their talents in dancing. They synchronized their steps for a group dance. Cinematic and classical dance were the highlights of the show. This proved that they were in no way inferior to other children of their age. The audience applauded the effort of the children.



The formal function began with the welcome speech and a brief note on the agenda of the function by the head of Department of Outreach, Prof. John Kaviarasu. The function was graced by the presence of Rev. Dr. G. JosephAntony Samy, S.J., Principal and Prof. G. Ramamurthy, Deputy Principal. Rev. Dr. G. Joseph Antony Samy, S.J. Principal, delivered the chief guest address. He encouraged the people of the slums to be self employed rather than taking up the domestic chores in others houses which fetches them meager income. He emphasized on the importance of cleanliness in their shops and a clean environment would attract crowds and it will add to their business. He stressed that Loyola College was committed

to the needs of the poor and are always willing to lend a helping hand. He also added that the

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college is coming with a certificate course in vocational jobs such as tailoring and will provide adequate finance to encourage self employment.

The distribution of passbook to the children gathered formed the next part of the Agenda. The accounts of the children were credited with Rs. 500 each. For those who did not have accounts new ones were open in their names. The initiative was taken to enable the students to continue their higher education after schooling and also to develop among the children the habit of savings. They were asked to deposit any amount they received, however small it may be into this account so that when they reach the age of 18 sufficient funds will be available to pursue college. The college also assured that they would deposit similar amounts to these accounts regularly. Sewing machines were also distributed to four of the women who were willing to take up employment.

The distribution was followed by the address of the deputy principal, Prof. G. Ramamurthy. He too encouraged the people to take up employment on their own. He also asked the people to come forward and put their problems to students who came to their area for their service. He said that the very existence of the Department of Outreach is for the betterment of the poor and the less privileged.

The Outreach department (now Service Learning) of Loyola College has been established with the sole objective of creating men and women for the society. Each section is allotted a specific informal settlement where they have to identify the problems faced by the residents and conduct events which are aimed for the betterment of their lives. This is compulsory phase that each student has to go through. This initiative promotes the creation of a value-based, equal, just and a violence-free society.