

Social Outreach Programme 2020-21

True Charity requires courage: Let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help those in need ~ Pope Francis

The Social Outreach Program has completed its 15th year. In 2006, the outreach program was promoted by our Principal Dr. Marie Fernandes in collaboration with Fr. Allwyn D'Silva. The objective of the program is to sensitize students, in keeping with the teachings of Christ, to the hardships faced by the poor and marginalized people of the society. The Social Outreach Program is mandatory for the Second year students of St. Andrew's college Degree, as well as Self-Financed courses and, are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of social service. In the end, they have to submit their work record signed by the respective NGO head along with their Report.

The Social Outreach Program (SOP) in the Academic Year 2020-21 for Self-Financed (BSc I.T, BMM, BBI, BAF & BMS) students was conducted through an Online medium(Google Meet) due to the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. Our Collaborating NGO partner CSA (Centre for Social Action) implemented by Fr. Mario Mendes (Director of CSA) helped us in designing the SOP for this year. For this purpose, an MOU was entered between the Centre for Social Action and the College. An online orientation program was held for students on 13th & 14th January 2021 by the Professors-In-Charge & Centre for Social Action team. At the orientation, students were briefed about the Social Outreach Program, and detailed guidelines for completing online SOP were given to students.

The Centre for Social Action team prepared an outline of the program, identified groups across the DI, Raigad, and Mumbai which had network connectivity. Groups like Self Help, English Language Class (ELC), Financial Empowerment Program, Farmers Group, Domestic Workers, Bal Sabha, Gavki, Livelihood & Digital Literacy. In all, there were 66 groups with 5 students each. The online SOP programme began on 18th January 2021. In all 327 students enrolled for SOP.

The SOP activity was conducted through Google meet, students were given 2 hours to complete their tasks. The Plan Of Action was Group type specific Orientation – 2 hours,Needs assessment with CSA group – 2 hours,Preparing sessions for the group – 2 hours,Other Activities – 12 hours & Report and Documentation – 2 hours.A Google form and task tracker were implemented by the CSA team to keep track of the activities done by the students. Each group

member at the end of the session had to enter their work completed for that particular session.

Some of the activities included Teaching Online Sessions on topics such as health & Hygiene, Mobile Addiction for the BAL SABHA group, Teaching on Topics such as Four-letter words formation with Vowels "a", "e" and "i", reading & writing these words, Counting numbers from 1-50 for the English Language Class group, Working on Smart Village ideas with Digital literacy for children in Degoan for the Digital Literacy group, need assessment session with Dedhan group, Explanation of business ideas, Explanation of book keeping and Management for the Self Help group, preparation for SHG module and money management, Online teaching sessions based on Needs assessment livelihood group, conducted interactive sessions based on module study and financial planning, budgeting, banking services and Money management for the Livelihood group, Online sessions on importance of banking activities for the Domestic Workers group, Online sessions on Government schemes, Market Explore, Banking services , Types of Accounts , Types of Loans, Importance of saving account, KYC, Cheques and Slip, Branding , Packaging, hygiene, weight measure, Transportation for the Farmers group, online session on Banking services, Government insurance schemes, Financial Diary < Planner and Ponzi SCHEME for the Financial Empowerment Program group.

Some of the testimonials by the students are:

It was a really good experience as we got to learn from them as well. Sharing knowledge with others always feels good. The women were very nice and paid attention carefully to everything we taught. It felt really good to teach these women and also learn from them at the same time – Aaron Nazareth(BAF)

As a member and group leader of group 13, I had a wonderful experience interacting with the beneficiaries. I also gained a lot of knowledge regarding a few government-related schemes and insurance policies which I was unaware of earlier. It was an amazing opportunity to experience the lives of people living in the rural areas, the problems they face due to financial instability, lack of employment opportunities, etc. Overall it was a good experience and learning to interact with the beneficiaries- Rebecca Baptista(BBI)

It was a good experience since we could also understand the problems of people who need help and we could also help them with regards to their problems in small ways. We learned a lot about certain group members and how they struggle to make ends meet. We asked them few questions on how they are coping with the current situation- Nikita Almeida(BMS)

Our experience as a group was great as each member of our group was so interactive and helpful. Not only were our group, but even the children from the village also very interactive and inclusive. Had we been in the village it would

have been a different experience altogether nevertheless owing to the conditions we are in we are very thankful for this- Olivia Ambrose (BSc IT).

They say every good thing comes to an end; this statement couldn't have been any true for the past two months that we spent with the lovely children of the Bal Sabha. Every Saturday we hopped on a call with the children and we shared our insights with them on topics like Health and Hygiene, Addiction to mobiles, child rights, and so on. We could agree to the fact that our group members had more to learn from them than they learned from us. After every session with the respected Bal Sabha groups there came a huge bubble of excitement from the kids as they wanted to sing along with us, dance as well, this bubble could only be burst with a fine needle of comfort that we definitely provided them and so did they. We had gained more knowledge compared to the children as we understood positivity and kindness are the two important keys to the doors of tough times- Sancia Ferrao(BMM)

Prof. Rachel Shinde & Prof. Jordin Carvalho
Professors-In-Charge of SOP
Self-Finance Course