

Social Outreach Programme 2018-19

“Let us never forget that authentic power is service”- Pope Francis

The ‘Social Outreach Programme’ for the self-financed courses at St. Andrew’s College promoted by Principal Dr. Marie Fernandes and Bishop Allwyn D’Silva began with an orientation conducted by Prof. Kevin Miranda (Head of the Accounts Department). The second year students were oriented with the essence of the programme thus making them eager to start working with the underprivileged and different sections of society.

Students were allowed to make their own groups and select centres based on their preference of location. The mandate for every student is to complete 20 hours of social work. This is done to inculcate concern and sensitivity in the students for the poor, the marginalized, the old, to respect what they have, learn the quality of sharing and to empathize with their sufferings. This is in accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures; “Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”- Timothy 1: 6-18

The list of centres we have associated with this academic year are mentioned here below:

1. St. Catherine’s Home, (Bandra)
2. Navjeet Community Centre, (Bandra)
3. Spastic Society of India, (Bandra)
4. Umang Foundation Trust (Santacruz)
5. Muskaan Foundation, (Andheri)
6. Jeevan Asha Old Age Home, (Andheri)
7. Logic Centre and Community Welfare Association (Powai)
8. Prayatna (Malad)
9. Karuna Hospital, (Borivali)
10. I.C Women’s Cell (Borivali)
11. Ashray Care Centre, (Gorai)
12. Roshini Graha Community Centre, (Kandivali)
13. St. Theresa’s Welfare Trust, (Kandivali)
14. Vatsalya Trust , (Sanpada)
15. Bless Foundation (Mira Road)
16. Snehasadan (Vasai)
17. Cardinal Gracias Hospital (Vasai)
18. Akanksha Foundation (Chinchpokli)

The work undertaken by the students at the various centers include teaching the underprivileged, kitchen work, laundry, handicraft, educating teenagers on information and communication technology, organizing workshops, events and recreational activities, cooking for the poor and laughter sessions for patients.

Some of the testimonies of students are:

“It showed us how privileged we are with the blessings we have received from our eternal Father and how we should appreciate all the little things in our lives.”

“It was sad to see how some people refuse to take care of their parents when they need them the most. But during my SOP, it made me feel good to bring a smile on their faces. Helping other people for their needs without getting anything in return is a great feeling”.

“The Social Outreach Programme was a great experience as we came across other aspects of the society. Teaching the kids at the NGO was really amazing as we had the urge to teach and they had the passion to learn.”

“The experience of teaching these young children is one that I will cherish for a long time. This programme has helped to put into perspective how fortunate I am to be born into the lap of luxury and given me a renewed outlook on giving back to those who are not so fortunate.”

Students reported that the experience was fulfilling as their outlook on life changed completely after learning about how difficult most people had it through their lives.

The social outreach programme truly inspires our students to act righteously!

- Professors in-charge: Dr. Sharon Gonsalves Durham and Prof. Rachel Shinde