

Social Outreach Programme (SFC)

“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 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 centers 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. It also gives them a sense of responsibility and makes them aware of their society. Giving them an opportunity to have opinions of their society and express their gratitude, building them emotionally and spiritually.

The list of centers we have associated with this academic year include, St. Catherine’s Home, (Bandra), Navjeet Community Centre, (Bandra), Spastic Society of India, (Bandra), Umang Foundation Trust (Santacruz), Muskaan Foundation, (Andheri), Jeevan Asha Old Age Home, (Andheri), Logic Centre and Community Welfare Association (Powai), Prayatna (Malad), Karuna Hospital, (Borivali), I. C Women’s Cell (Borivali), Ashray Care Centre, (Gorai), Roshini Graha Community Centre, (Kandivali), St. Theresa’s Welfare Trust, (Kandivali), Vatsalya Trust, (Sanpada), Bless Foundation (Mira Road), Snehasadan (Vasai), Cardinal Gracias Hospital (Vasai), and Akanksha Foundation (Chinchpokli).

The work undertaken by the students at the various centers included teaching the under-privileged, 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 were “Being a part of this social outreach not only thought me new things but opened my eyes to see how different and difficult can another person’s life be. In this experience I learnt how my values should be. As a whole, the few days I spent at Little Angel’s School and the things I learnt, I will always carry it on in life and were some of my best days there.”- Kristen (SYBMS)

“This was my first ever experience interacting and dealing with children. As much as I enjoyed it, I also had a lot to learn and share from it. The time I spent with them was worth it. I would love to continue to do this. I shall cherish this experience forever.”-Glendon (SYBSc-IT)

“SOP was actually a learning experience for me, because it taught me how to value even small things in life & how to be happy even if you don’t have something that you want. SOP also made me a bit emotional too.”-Merwyn (SYBBI) Profs-in-Charge: Rachel Shinde and Jill Lobo