

Social Outreach Programme 2021-22

*It's not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts ~
Mother Teresa*

The Social Outreach Program has completed its 16th 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 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 2021-22 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 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 and 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 56 groups with 5 students each. The online SOP program began on 28th October 2021. In all 268 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, Meet and greet with the 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 Deogoan 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:

KISHORI GROUP thought us that whatever happens good or bad just pick a positive outcome and move forward. We heard their struggle, and we could relate to them. Our experience with them was very good. The girls were very enthusiastic and supportive. It was a new experience for all of us- Amisha Bait(BBI)

We had an amazing experience, we think it's incredibly astonishing to see how these children are learning and growing up. We learned so much from these children. They taught me even though We don't have everything in life we can still find happiness in the little things -Lobhe Shweta Kamlakar(BAF)

My SOP journey has been great. I have always dreamt of being part of an outreach program and learning various things from such programs. It was a very blessed experience to know the ladies and talk to them. It felt nice to talk to the SHG group ladies and listen to their experiences of being in an SHG group. Hoping they will put into practice what we as a group presented and explained. I hope they all will benefit from all of the topics we have explained and will also encourage others. Due to the pandemic, we could not meet them in person but I hope we do get to meet the ladies soon. I wish them nothing but good health and happiness.

May they all do well in the future together as a group -Soumya Shibu (BMS)

We learned various topics on child rights, mental health, and the right to education, we learned how the government has made education compulsory for children, and also researched and acquired knowledge about mental health and its effects in our day-to-day life. Everyone had a good learning experience as we got to see and understand first-hand how children perceive information. With this experience, we improved our methods to teach children about their rights and various other steps ensuring that they would be taken care of in all aspects of life -Dean Rodrigues(BSc IT).

We honestly learned a lot from them and the biggest learning was to see big dreams. These students were so passionate about the things they want to become in the future from astronauts to IAS officers every one of them has their career path. We know they are so small for the real world but still, they have managed to create a goal and it was too overwhelming and a great learning experience for us. And not just that we understand the pain of teaching, it's really difficult to learn how to teach and how to make your presentations engaging. We also learned teamwork though it was really hard to manage the teams because of the lack of communication in the online space we somehow managed and learned a more efficient way to communicate with each other -Abhishek Tiwari(BMM)

Prof. Rachel Shinde & Prof. Candida Gomes
Professors-In-Charge of SOP
Self-Finance Course