**Institutional Distinctiveness: Social Outreach Programme**

St. Mother Teresa who was awarded the Padma Shri and the Nobel Peace Prize, for her care of the destitute and the poor, laid the foundation stone of our college and we received, as it were, a mandate to do likewise

Therefore, the distinctive feature of the institution, is that we attempt to remould the urban materialistic mind set of our students towards the joy of giving, inclusivity and reaching out to the marginalized sections of society. St Andrew’s College admits people from all sections of society, including a large number of first-generation learners, to empower them and help them partake in integrated learning Students from such modest backgrounds would have a strong desire to enhance their socio-economic status, but with this practice we instill in them the necessity of dedicating their time and energy into giving back to society, which is deeply fulfilling for the college. This practice blends well with the ethos of the institution and the NEP at large, as its prime focus is community service, environmental education and addressing the needs of the elderly. Such activities inculcate development of ethical, Constitutional and universal values in students. A majority of second year students opt for the SOP as they get to interact with various NGOs and work for the underprivileged sections of society, making community service an integral part of our college.

The Social Outreach Programme (SOP) was initiated in the year 2006 under the guidance and vision of our Principal. The college Social Outreach Programme has successfully completed 16 years and witnessed significant success in these years. An MOU is entered between the third party and the college to carry out the Social service work. There are individual MOU’s with NGO’s where students perform social work.

St. Andrew’s College stands for academic excellence, development of skills, and especially character formation based on the love of God and service of people.

The objectives of the programme :

● To sensitize students to the hardships faced by the poor and marginalized section of the society.

● To be aware of social, environmental, and gender issues, and inequities in society.

● To create a civic sense among the students.

● To reach out to the less fortunate ones and assist them.

The programme is mandatory for the Second year Degree College (Aided ; Self-Finance) students, and they are required to complete a minimum of 20 hours of social service. At the end of the SOP completion, the students have to submit their work record signed by the respective NGO head along with a Report. An orientation programme is held for the students. The aim of orientation is to prepare the students to undertake their SOP with the right mindset, familiarize them with the design, the requirements, and the time period of the SOP. The college has tie-ups with numerous social service centers.

During the academic years 2017-2019, the students were physically present at the NGO and volunteered for a variety of activities depending upon the NGO in question. The programme undertakes a plethora of events ranging from :

● Beach cleaning drives

● Self Defense camp; Football training

● Coordinating programmes with disadvantaged and special children

● Working in orphanages, assisting in aged homes and hospitals

● Conducting slum surveys for sanitation/energy usage/health

● Taking up environmental issues

SOP for the Academic Year 2020-21 & 2021-22 for the Aided & Self-Financed students was conducted online through Google meet &WhatsApp due to the ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic.

For the Aided section, the NGOs designed the modules and implemented the online mode of SOP. Modules included themes like:

● Each One Teach One

● Helping Aged

● Covid 19 issues

● Climate Change issues

● Farm Laws

● Anti-Ragging.

● Simple fitness at home: during and post lockdown, etc

For Self-Financed students, The CSA (Center For Social Action ) implemented by Fr. Mario Mendes helped in designing the following groups:

● Self Help

● English Language Class

● Financial Empowerment Programme

● Farmers Group, Domestic Workers

● Bal Sabha, Gavki, Kishori

● Livelihood

● Digital Literacy

Based on the Covid-19 protocol all SOP activities were undertaken online.

Following methods were used for undertaking the SOP:

● Need Assessments

● Online Sessions

● Interviews

● Case studies

● Developing/Initiating online campaigns in some themes.

Some of the activities included Teaching Online Sessions on topics such as:

● Health & Hygiene

● Mobile Addiction for the BAL SABHA group

● Teachings related to English Language and helping the financially poor and academically weaker students with their studies.

● Working on Smart Village ideas with Digital literacy for children in Degoan

● 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

● Needs assessment and Money management for the Livelihood group

● Sessions on importance of banking activities for the Domestic Workers group

● Sessions on Government schemes, Market Exploration, etc

● Session on Banking services.

● Conducting interviews on simple fitness at home: during & post lockdown, the impact of COVID 19 on them, their family and livelihood.

● Conducting an online fitness survey

● Helping and assisting the aged through Phone calls.

● Group report on Anti-Ragging campaign

Whatsapp groups, Google form, and task tracker were used to keep track of the activities done by the students.

The experience reports submitted by each student at the end of the programme indicated that our students were moved by compassion. Most students expressed their realization to be grateful for what they have and to be generous with their time and resources.

Students are selected for the SOP scholarships based on their academic excellence and performance at the centre. The scholarships are awarded at the Annual Day function. At the Annual day function held in January 2019, 4 students were awarded the Social Outreach Programme Scholarships for the year 2018-19. 4 SOP scholarships were declared to be awarded for the year 2019-20.

The students of St. Andrew’s college participate in the social service work with great enthusiasm to give back to society and transform it to make it a better place.