

SOCIAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME 2022-23

Small Acts, when multiplied by Millions of people, can transform the World- Howard Zinn

The Social Outreach Program has completed its 17th 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 2022-23 for Self-Financed (BSc I.T, BMM, BBI, BAF & BMS) students was organized by our Collaborating NGO partner CSA (Centre for Social Action).

The Centre for Social Action, headed by Fr. Joseph Gonsalves (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 & Transgender.

This year the SOP activity was conducted offline, and 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.

In all, there were 52 groups with 5 students each. In all 258 students enrolled for SOP.

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 Deoan 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. Assisting the Transgenders group to create their Resumes and other technical support.

Some of the testimonials by the students are:

This Social outreach programme was a great learning overall. I never thought I could teach anyone, but that prejudice was broken and turns out kids were very excited to learn from me and my team members. I mainly taught them Math and English and the kids were very responsive during the sessions. Largely, we had a lot of fun. – Shreya Deshpande (BAF)

In this SOP outreach program, I got an opportunity to interact with the Transgender group and to know about them. I came to know all the difficulties faced by them, how cruelly they were treated, for being a transgender. The overall experience with them in Canossa school felt very homely, enthusiastic, and enjoyable. - Merlin Mercy (BSc IT)

It was a great experience, and we learned a lot about teaching- both from the students and from ourselves. One of the most important lessons we learned is to be flexible and adaptable. As a teacher, we found ourselves having to adapt our teaching style based on the needs of each group of students. Some students were more receptive than others; some asked questions while others were hesitant. The SOP was a great opportunity to reflect on the social work profession and its values. It allowed us to think about what it means to teach someone something, what our role is in society, and how we can best help those who need us most. - Sibel Barreto (BMS)

We learned that we come from privileged houses and we have a lot of resources that we can put to use to help others around us. Only because we were brought up in financially stable houses it isn't necessary that our peers must have had the same upbringing, which is why it is crucial for us to have a sense of empathy at all times. - Beneeta Basil(BAMMC)

I learned that while we all had the knowledge of these things, not everyone has that knowledge and we had to explain it in a simple language that will make them understand and clear any doubts that they may have on this or related topics in a simple manner, which they will understand.- Dwayne Dsa(BBI)





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