

ENGAGED KNOWLEDGE BUILDING: **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2018-19**

Engaged Knowledge Building (EKB) is one of our distinctive areas of functioning. EKB is a phrase we have used to denote the process of learning through engagement. Students are encouraged and often mandated to engage in learning at 4 levels: A) curricular engagement, B) co-curricular engagement; C) extra-curricular engagement and D) community engagement. Curricular engagement happens through a number of practices that are part of the curriculum like seminars, assignments, exposure visits, field work, action research projects, lab, dissertation etc. Under co-curricular engagement, students are given opportunities to attend value-added courses, like Induction, Street Theatre, Life Skills Training, PRA, Excel, SPSS, lectures, seminars, conferences, workshops etc. Students are also encouraged to make representations at different platforms as part of competitions or with poster and paper presentations etc. Debates, quizzes, film screenings etc. are also organized as co-curricular activities. Under extra-curricular engagement, students actively lead and take part in a number of activities that build their capabilities. PIMER is a best practice we use in this regard to build team work, leadership and organizing skills of students. Under community engagement, the college and its extension centre, the Loyola Extension Services (LES), undertake a number of extension activities in which students become active stakeholders.

We can confidently claim that Community Engagement is a distinctive area of our institution. Being a social sciences college, our goal is to “mould men and women for others” and “foster excellence in service through engaged knowledge building”. Our dream is to become a centre of academic excellence that promotes social transformation. Community Engagement is practiced passionately by the college- its teachers, staff, students and alumni. This passion is however informed, disciplined and evaluated by the principles of engaged learning. Theory informs practice and practice is brought back to classroom for deliberations. We term this as engaged knowledge building.

This year Loyola College engaged deeply in a number of Community Engagement activities, more so because it was the year Kerala was wrecked by the August Floods of 2018. Hence, in addition to the general community engagement activities, the whole college, individually and in partnership

with governmental, non-governmental and voluntary organizations, dived into flood relief efforts. As stated above, there are usually two channels through which the college engages with the community- (1) Engagement by the college, its departments, student and alumni and (2) engagement through the Loyola Extension Services (LES). This document reports below our engagement activities in both these areas.

1. EXTENSION ACTIVITIES BY THE COLLEGE

A) Flood-related Extension Activities

The conscience of almost everyone in Kerala was awakened by the floods and they plunged into rescue and relief activities immediately. Loyola was quick to respond and every student, research scholar, teacher and staff of the college and its alumni, came forward to contribute in every way they could.

Relief Collection:

- Loyola College became a point for collection and organization of relief materials from Loyola institutions, especially Loyola School and the Loyola neighbourhood and surrounding areas.
- Teachers, Prasad and Francina, divided students into different groups and sent them to Sreekariyam and nearby places in the morning to collect materials. They continued collection for 4 days. At the end of each day, students would pack the items collected and transport them to different collection centres. On August 15, they reached the materials to the collection centre at Women's college along with Prasad and Fr. Sabu.
- Kuttanad Relief Support was organised by Maneesh, LES Staff and friends including rice, provisions, clothes, toiletries etc. Things were collected by the students also and contributed to this. It was brought to Kuttanadu by Maneesh and friends and distributed in Kuttanadu through Seva Bharati centres.
- Dr. Saji brought the relief materials collected by Loyola School along with some materials collected from the shops and people to the relief materials collection centre at GMV School along with Prasad, Fr. Roy, and some students. Fr. Saji and Fr. Sabu saw them off.
- Dr. Sonny bought some materials and reached them to the collection centre at GMV school along with Fr. Sabu and some students in the morning.

- Materials were collected from the students and alumni of Loyola School and a truck full of food items, clothes etc. are sent to Koonammavu Relief Camp. Fr. Provincial flagged off the vehicle in which Frs. Jose and Roy went.
- Materials were collected from Doha through the initiative of Joby and kept in LES.
- Medicines worth Rs. 70,000/- were collected by Nisha of Counselling Psychology and kept in the college.
- Prasanth, System Administrator, and friends packed 500 breakfast packets and sent to Chengannur.

Volunteering

- Some students worked as volunteers in call centres and collection centres.
- Alumni also accompanied Dr. Sonny in work at Barton Hill collection centre.
- Frs. Joye, Saji, and Sabu visited Relief Camp at Muttathara, Trivandrum.
- Visit to Jagathy Relief Camp
- Aby and Family, Anitha, Sr.Rosy, Prasad, research scholars, and students were working as volunteers at the collection centre in TSSS. Provincial Fr. M.K. George, Rector Fr. Sunny and Fr. Sabu visited them.
- Nanma, MAPM student was active in call centres related to relief.
- Ms. Manju, second semester MA student has joined as a volunteer for the Shramadan work at Chengannur organised by the University NSS cell.
- Sidharth Lal was part of the rescue coordination team of Alappuzha.
- Arunima S worked with the collection point organized at SMV School, Trivandrum
- The students of 2nd MA sociology worked at the collection camp that was organized at the Auditorium near to Trivandrum Central Railways.
- The students were also active in online coordination and telephone rescue teams.
- A group of four Jesuits from Trivandrum Loyola went and cleaned the Jesuit House at Edathua the whole day.

Psycho-social Interventions:

- Under the leadership of the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Kerala along with NIMHANS, a psycho-social support project was initiated at an NGO headed by our alumni called Bluepoint. DCPU also partnered with this project. Around 25 MSW

students, 1 Sociology student and a number of Alumni members joined this project. These students and alumni received training on psychosocial care on 24 & 25 August. They were put in various places in Kottayam, Alleppey, Idukki and Ernakulam in very difficult situations. Half of them started work on Thiruvananthapuram, the day after training and continued to work in remote areas till 6th of September.

- Dr. Sonny organized a workshop in the college on crisis intervention for the students and volunteers by a four member expert team from abroad.
- An International NGO Tithi offered a 3 day training programme for people interested in offering psycho-social support.
- MSW II Semester students were involved in a project supported by KAPS on recording voices of Children in the flood affected areas of Alleppey district.
- MAHRM Junior students, with Dr. Angelo, visited ICTA Kalamassery for the Psycho social care of the flood affected people.

Fund Raising:

- On first December 2018 second year students and Dr. Nisha visited Reshma Raveendran's house which was seriously affected by flood and handover an amount of rupees 50000/- as an aid for the renovation of her house.
- Food fest organized by NSS unit for collecting money for CMDRF. Rs. 30,000/- was collected.
- Rs. 75,000/- was given to CMDRF from the Relief and Rehabilitation fund raised by the college students, alumni, and well wishers. Handed over by Fr. Saji to Minister Kadakampally Surendran in a function organized at Govt. Arts College. Loyola's was the fifth highest amount in Trivandrum district. Being one of the smallest colleges in the district, this contribution was appreciated.
- Rs. 50,000/- was contributed from the college management to CMDRF through Deputy DCE. Draft was sent to the DDCE

Advocacy

- The Principal, Vice-Principal and the staff of the college engaged in various meetings organized by colleges and NGOs to express solidarity and share expertise in matters related to disaster relief

- Principal and Vice Principal attended the meeting convened by the Deputy DCE at Kollam Fathima College in connection with Disaster Relief.
- Dr. Sonny and Dr. Jasmine attended KAPS consultation meeting along with CWC and UNICEF in organizing a psycho-social project for children.
- Dr. Jasmine attended consultation meeting of the non-Governmental sector on Disaster relief.

B) Non-flood extension activities

This year saw most of the extension activities of the college shift to flood relief. However the students and faculty engaged in a number of extension activities, together as a team and individually.

- NSS Camp in Loyola is special in that all out first year students are mandated to attend the 7 day camp in a remote area. This year the camp was from March 3-9, 2019 at Karumkulam Grama Panchayat. Students lead and organizers of the camp. They collected complete information on socio-economic and political aspects of the villagers through a base line survey. They arranged various awareness sessions for the villagers and staged a street play and various cultural programmes.
- The college partnered with the “Sustainable Development Goals Public Awareness Campaign” by the Institute for Sustainable Development and Governance, Trivandrum. The flag-off of the programme took place from our college at 9.30 am in the Sutter Hall.
- The college partnered with the CSR project of NISAN Digital hub for the involvement in Coastal zones of Puthukkurichi and Thumba.
- The College partnered with the District Child Protection Unit and the National Health Mission in few programmes. A flash Mob was conducted by both MSW batches for breast feeding awareness in collaboration with ICDS. A flash mob and street theatre performance were conducted by both MSW batches in the city as part of Children’s Home Fest of Kerala.
- Our MSW students cover about 50 wards of Kadinamkulam Panchayath and offered case work group work services to the people in the area. 25 groups were formed and about 70 cases were handled by the students. Our students also conducted a number of programmes in these communities.
- MSW and M.Sc. Psychology students conducted projects in the neighbourhood of the college- Cheruvickal Ward.

- M.Sc. Counselling Psychology Students conducted Anger Management programmes for students of Boys Town and MSW students conducted Life Skills Programme for graduate students of Loyola Poovar.

2. LOYOLA EXTENSION SERVICES (LES)

The ultimate goal of LES is to enable and empower the marginalized and the vulnerable, extending services to rural and urban community development initiatives and thus functioning as a field laboratory where the classroom concepts and theories of Social Sciences can be field-tested, adapted and applied. LES has played pivotal roles in starting many social work interventions in the State of Kerala with a vision to the “Integral Development of all human beings and social transformation”. The Mission of LES is to function as a vibrant extension wing of the Loyola College of Social Sciences; mobilizing and empowering people through training, and activating them in participatory development initiatives in a sustainable framework. This report covers the activities from April 2018 to March 2019. During the period under report, LES concentrated more on training programmes and Child Rights activities. The following are the department wise activities during the period under report.

- **Loyola Family Counselling Centre (LFCC):** LFCC Counsellors attended 679 cases in 2018-19 in which 633 cases are closed and 46 cases are carried forward. The cases fall largely under the categories of problems such as marital, family, child, adolescent, psychiatric, alcoholic, career or educational. During this year LFCC conducted 70 awareness sessions for various groups.
- **CHILDLINE, Trivandrum:** During the year 2018 -19, CHILDLINE Trivandrum, in collaboration with Don Bosco Veedu Society, Railway Child Help Desk and TSSS conducted 1013 outreach and Awareness, 8 Open Houses, 430 Schools Visits, 223 Police Station visits, 365 Railway station visits, 365 Bus stations visits, 26 SHG Group awareness and Intervened in 2513 cases. In order to reach the public, mass awareness were conducted during the Vettukadu festival and Attukal Pongala. 124 trainings were conducted in the year 2018-19 for different stake holders and 6 Staff training in different subjects. Stake holders training includes Police-20, Teachers-14, Health department-1, DLSA -1, LSG-1, Railway 3, SC and ST-9, ICDS, school counsellors and others. Child Related Day observances: CHILDLINE Se Dosti; the

nationwide campaign was observed in Trivandrum with Komal Video Presentation, awareness classes, Awareness at Club Fm, Global Hand washing day, October 11th : Global hand washing day program was conducted in Thycaud school with demonstration of hand washing and awareness classes.

- Praveshnothsavam (Beginning of new academic year in schools) was conducted at Amboory Puravimala school and in collaboration with Sanchari FB online travel group; study materials were distributed to tribal students. On 12/10/18 Mr. Jobi participated in Samoohyapatam program, one hour discussion session on Child Rights and Child Protection was aired in DOORDARSHAN TV Channel. Training Given to two CWPO from entire Police Stations of Kerala in collaboration with UNICEF and Kerala Police Academy Thrissur. A number of 960 police officers were trained as Child Welfare Police Officers.
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:** LES has organized Loyola Vanitha Sangham (LVS) of women in nearby areas as part of the community involvement. The main objective of LVS is the integral development of women and children. This year the following programmes were organized by the LVS: Awareness classes for ICDS adolescent groups under Kazhakuttom block, session on Health & Hygiene for mothers in Chamavila Anganwadi, Three MSW students were placed in 3 communities for their field work this year at Chamavila, Cheruvickal and Ayodhya Nagar colonies. As part of their field work, students organised a nutrition camp at Chamavila colony.
- **KERALA CHILD RIGHTS OBSERVATORY (KeCRO)** is a platform for sharing insights, experiences and concerns for promoting Child Rights in the State of Kerala in consonance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Major activities of KeCRO this year: **a) Workshops:** Workshop “Portrayal of children in Media” was conducted at Ideal beach resort, Mahabalipuram on 4th May, 2018. Around 30 photographers from various media houses attended the two day workshop; Recognising Media personnel for propagating child rights at Hotel Residency Tower, Trivandrum on 16th February 2018; Youth advocates for social media engagements; Online Safety workshop for CHILDLINE, Online Safety workshop for youth; Workshop on Disaster Resilience and child rights at Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta and Trivandrum. **B) Involvement in Kerala Flood relief programs:** The activities in the second phase of KeCRO project for the year was mainly concentrated with the post flood rebuilding initiatives, Supporting UN Hub for Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA), Capacity building of Media, State media workshop for program executives of All India Radio, Workshop for the

coordinators of the department of culture and 'Radio saving lives' – Two day workshop for community radios; Youth engagement for community support UNICEF and KeCRO partnered with the National Service Scheme, Kerala to orient the youth on post flood disaster issues of women and children

- **TRAINING PROGRAMMES:** LES is an accredited Training Institute recognized by the Central, State Governments and UNICEF. LES designs and conducts purpose-specific and need-based training programmes for professional and Para-professional social workers, Governmental and Non Governmental officials, School and College teachers, social animators, students of professional colleges, etc. Besides conducting its own training, LES provides infrastructure facilities to other Agencies and Government Departments to conduct training programs at LES. LES organized and conducted 49 trainings in 2018-19.

PHOTOS

Relief Materials collected by LES staff, students, teachers, research scholars and alumni from Loyola institutions, neighbourhood and surrounding being organized.





Volunteering and Psycho-social Support



Voices of Children Project

Crisis Intervention Training



Flash-Mobs & Street plays: Child rights Awareness and breast-feeding week

