



Community Outreach Programmes (COPS)

"Lend a Hand, Nurture the Society"

BEST PRACTICE-II



TKM COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
KARIKODE, KOLLAM

Best Practice II

"Lend a Hand, Nurture the Society"

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of COPS are listed below:

- Energize community development through social empowerment
- Develop a spirit of empathy and compassion for the underprivileged, among students
- Gain direct, rather than theoretical, understanding of problems faced by the marginalized and devise viable solutions for the same.

The Context

T. K. M. College of Arts and Science has always held community engagement as a necessary requisite for a well-rounded education. The vision of the founder was to mould generations of students who would 'lend a hand' for the upliftment of the society over and above individual gain and success. In 2018, the college institutionalized and codified its various community engagements, being carried over the years, under one initiative titled Community Outreach Programmes (COPS). This initiative is well co-ordinated with various central and state government schemes/initiatives aimed at facilitating community development through the involvement of teachers and students, such as Unnath Bharat Abhiyan, Poshan Pakwada, Swatch Pakwada, Swatchatha hi Seva.

The practice

The college has organized various kinds of initiatives ranging from awareness programmes to relief work during natural disasters. The specifics of the various initiatives are given below

• Awareness Programmes/Knowledge Sharing

The college has organized multiple seminars on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse over the years. In an initiative titled Vimukthi, TKMCAS in collaboration with the State Excise Department, has regularly participated in door-to-door awareness campaigns in the college neighbourhood.



The faculty and students of TKMCAS have been active volunteers in organizing oral cancer awareness programmes in susceptible demographic areas in and around Kollam.



The students of the college not only attended Lifestyle Diseases, AIDS and Hepatitis Awareness classes conducted by experts in the field but also been active volunteers in spreading information in the backward areas around the college.



The students of the college staged street plays which propagated the message of women empowerment.



The college has organized Plastic Vimuktha Gramam initiative to mobilize students to engage in grassroots level awareness campaigns with regard to the eradication of plastics

• Social Change through Community Engagement

Since 2014-15, the college has been actively cultivating the habit of caring for the elderly through organizing visits to old age homes. The students are encouraged to spend a significant amount of time engaging with senior citizens providing them necessary amenities and the comfort of company.



The students of the college are active volunteers in cleanliness campaigns thereby imbibing the spirit of the message propagated by the Swachh Bharath Mission of the central government and the Shuchitwa Mission of the state government.



As part of the Plastic Vimuktha Gramam initiative, the students engaged in massive collection of plastic waste from the Kottamkara Panchayath.



As part of the Ecosystem Restoration (E-Res) initiative of the college, the students distributed saplings to homes in the college neighbourhood to spread the message of organic farming. As part of the same, the students cultivated vegetables in the college campus and paddy in a waste land in the Kottankara Grama Panchayath area. The vegetable harvest was distributed among the needy.



The students organized and volunteered at free eye check-up clinics primarily targeting the elderly in and around Karicode. Free clinic to monitor dental health was also conducted.



As part of the Palliative Care programme, students distributed food and medicines to patients.



Disaster Management

The state of Kerala, on account of being in an ecologically fragile zone, has been ravaged by natural disasters like floods and landslides. The college responded to this collective threat by mobilizing the staff and students into organizing various kinds of relief measures as well as other mitigation work.



When Kerala was wrecked by consecutive floods, a large number of people were forced to seek shelter in relief camps. The college responded to this disaster with a sense of civic consciousness and participated in relief work such as food distribution, clothes distribution, volunteering to clean houses wrecked by flood waters, and financial aid.



In the aftermath of the floods, students of the college embarked on a collection campaign putting together textbooks, notebooks and other stationary items for distribution among school children in the flood-hit areas.



The students and staff of the institution actively participated in mitigation measures during the time of the CoVid pandemic. Financial resources were mobilized to procure smart phones for students in tribal areas who did not have access to such technology. The money thus collected was also used to buy television sets for the school children who did not have the provision for following the classes aired on Vickers channel. Students also created YouTube videos on various aspects of the CoVid pandemic to stop the spread of misinformation among the general public as well as to create awareness about the proper protocols to be followed. They also conducted surveys in the neighbourhood to understand how the pandemic has affected the livelihood of the general population.



Evidence of Success

Students visited the elderly at Gandhi Bhavan, Pathanapuram and the Old Age Home at Keralapuram distributing basic amenities like food, clothing and offering companionship.



As part of the cleanliness drives, the students of the college have cleaned a two kilometre stretch of the Kollam beach, Pandarakulam water body in the college neighbourhood, the Blind Federation office and premises, Kilikollur railway station premises and Karicode bus stand, KSRTC bus station. The Alumni of the college contributed for the installation of resting bench at the KSRTC bus depot.



As part of the Plastic Vimuktha Gramam, the students collected plastic waste from houses in Kottankara Panchayath and handed it over to the Grama Panchayath officials for proper disposal.



As part of the E-Res initiatives, hundred saplings were distributed to households in the Kottankara Grama Panchayath area.



The number of volunteers participating in COPS have seen a progressive rise with each year.

100 percent staff participation in the salary challenge advanced by the Government of Kerala for flood relief work.

The College has been selected for Green Campus Award, by Haritha Kerala Mission, as recognition for the initiatives and activities organized to promote green protocol inside the college campus.

