

# **Institutional Distinctiveness**

## **The Thrust**

The Brothers of St. Patrick, who run the college, have a rich tradition and practice of reaching out to the poor and the marginalized through their community services for the past 210 years. Keeping in line with this legacy, the college gives priority to engage all stakeholders in reaching out to those in need. The College vision and mission statements reinforce their commitment to build human resources with values for community engagement. This vision of the college has been translated into social service projects carried out periodically. In the past, the College has reached out to homeless and destitutes, mentally and physically challenged, women and children with special needs, and victims of natural calamities. Visit to Old Age Home, Cancer Hospital, rural and slum areas have been isolated attempts to involve students in community work.

## **One Distinct Area – Patrician SEEDS (Formalised Outreach Programme)**

Over the years, the College has been experimenting to bridge the gap between campus life and the need to connect with community with different interface models. At present, the College is executing its Pioneering Outreach Project called – ‘**Patrician Students to Educate and Empower the Disadvantaged in Society**’ (SEEDS) and we are proud to present SEEDS as the distinct feature of the institution.

## **The Beginnings**

The college did not have a policy and SOP for the execution of outreach projects. Depending on the availability of resources the students were organised to undertake projects. This informal approach led to inconsistency and lack of involvement of all the students. For more serious engagement, the need was felt to evolve a policy wherein all students would be motivated to productively spend time in community work. Series of deliberations at different levels resulted in the formulation of a Policy that outlined the framework formalising the outreach programmes of the college.

## **The Formation:**

On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019, the ‘**Patrician Students to Educate and Empower the Disadvantaged in Society**’ (SEEDS) emerged as an outreach programme with the Patrician pedagogy of reaching out to the unreached. The Programme is dedicated to anchoring outreach projects with a view to cultivate Service culture in the young minds of Patrician Students to create a better society. The Programme is anchored by a core committee consisting of staff drawn from various academic departments and supported by student representatives. The core outreach committee is responsible to formulate policy, planning and monitoring of the program.

**Vision:**

To develop a responsible student community geared towards building a better society by producing changes in the grassroot level.

**Mission:**

To enable students to create a new and just society through dedicated and committed team work by connecting the Poor and Disadvantaged people into the mainstream of life.

**Objectives:**

- To connect students with the community especially with poor, needy and disadvantaged and realize their duty towards the lesser privileged.
- To make students to understand the society and support the people to uphold and understand their rights and duties.
- To bring about attitudinal change and engage the students in social responsibility initiatives.
- To promote a value-based, casteless, violence-free and knowledge-based society.

**Policy**

- Outreach programme will be considered as mandatory requirement and integrated into curricular activities.
- All first year Undergraduate students will enrol for outreach programme.
- Each student will engage in service for 40 hours per academic year.
- Each Department's outreach programme will be monitored by a committee with HOD as Convener, one faculty as coordinator and two student representatives.
- Each department will work with One NGO / service area / target group.
- Service area should be within 5 km radius to the college.
- Need based Projects will be identified for implementation in the service area.
- Outreach day will be organized at the end of the academic year.
- Each department will submit a detailed report on their Outreach Programme.
- During the Outreach Day, presentation will be done by each department and beneficiaries may be invited for the programme.
- Best outreach department team will be identified and awarded.

**Execution and Performance**

The task of The Department outreach committee was to first identify the service area, and the projects to be undertaken. After series of deliberations each department drew up the blueprint for plan of action and obtained approval from the Core outreach committee. The department worked in close coordination with the NGOs and the local community identified.

At present, the SEEDS programme has 1232 first year students from 18 departments involved in 51 projects in 17 geographical areas within 5 kilometre radius of the college. The students have undertaken Community Awareness Programmes on Food and Nutrition, Cleanliness, Child Rights and Child helpline, Child Education, Health issues, and Good Samaritan Law. They have organized eye camps, blood donation camp, and Water bodies cleaning programme. Through Rallies, workshops, training programmes, demonstrations, street plays, and cultural programmes, the students have built positive relationship with the community.

### **Learning Outcome:**

Outreach has exposed students to ground realities of people and their environment bringing about attitudinal change from non volunteerism to volunteerism to engage in community work. Through this, the students have learned empathy for people and their compulsive situations. They have built a sense of accomplishment of having contributed their time and resources for the marginalized.

### **Conclusion**

From its inception in 2001, the college thrust was on developing the curricular aspects and building human resources and infrastructure for quality education. In its tenth year of functioning, the realization was to go beyond the curricular to offer holistic education which included the curricular, co- curricular and extra-curricular activities. As the college entered into its quinquennial year, the motto to serve the less privileged emerged strongly among the stakeholders. This spark was ignited to culminate into a visionary thinking of formalizing an outreach department incorporating it into the mainstream and sensitizing the students about the importance of service mindedness as an integral part of education. The opportunity to share the distinct practice of the institution is very encouraging. The institution has tremendous scope to fine tune the channel to engage the students in their responsibility to contribute to society.