



DEPARTMENT OF
SERVICE LEARNING

LOYOLA COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)

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2022

SPARK

A MEMOIR TO BE CHERISHED



EDITED BY

Rev. Dr.A. Louis Arockiaraj, S. J.
Prof. K. Arokia Sagaya Melson

SPARK

(Case studies from Urban Intervention of Loyola Students)

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Rev.Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J,

Prof.K.Arokia Sagaya Melson

Department of Service Learning

Loyola College

Chennai-34

2022

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Life is a God-given gift. Everyone perceives it differently and responds to the life's vicissitudes in their own ways. There are many people who get involved in social service and take efforts to mitigate the social issues. Their persistent actions have changed the life of many people who were in unimaginable problems.

As we are in this mission, our thoughts are the main agents to transform our life and the deeds are the manifestations of the changes that take place in our neighbours. We find most of the people strive hard to realize their dreams. We can strongly say that our life is built on the different experiences that we encounter every day. Change in the life is inevitable. There are many ways to experience changes within oneself and the places around.

Spark that arises in the inner hearts of the individuals turns the life and the trajectory is made according to the lessons learnt from the experiences. Department of Service Learning, which works with students and community find transformations in the life of students and the community. The spark that changes their lives become the guiding post for many people to face every day challenges and make their life productive.

Spark carries 72 case studies and these lessons will motivate the individuals to transform the life towards their destiny. We believe that Loyola College continuously chisels the life of many people every academic year through this outreach activity. These testimonials will touch many hearts and throw lights in their life.

We wish to thank all the students and people in the areas of our intervention for providing their details and life changing experiences. We wish to thank Dr Anton Pushparaja M., Assistant Professor, Department of English for going through the scripts and made corrections. We wish to thank Mr. Tharun, 21-UCO- 023 for preparing the suitable cover page for this book.

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Rev Dr A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J,
Prof. K.Arokia Sagaya Melson



Children And Youth

SPARK-1



Rahul lives in Sathyavanimuthu Nagar, Pallavan Salai, Chennai-2. He has just completed his 12th standard in Emma Foulger Matriculation school and awaiting his results. He has opted for Commerce group with Business Maths. He loves Math and considers himself an expert in the subject. He scored well in his 10th, around 60%. He is a bright boy and gives a lot of credit to his teachers in school who teaches extremely well. Apart from his parents, his Aunt has helped him financially to progress in academics. He goes by auto and returns by bus. He is a very talented football player as well and has won a few medals. He also goes for Typewriting classes in Chinthadripet. He hopes to join reputed College and has been looking up to studying in Loyola from a very young age. He wants to pursue B.Com General or BBA, post which he aims to do MBA in Trading. His parents are Raj, his father, who is a Coolie and Fatima, his mother, who is an Auto driver.

What I learned from Rahul today

At a very young age, Rahul seems to have thought seriously about his life and has chalked out a plan for his education. The fact that he is born into a poor family where both parents are not educated has not deterred him from his goals. Though he has been raised in the slums, he does not have any of the habits that typically these boys succumb to. He is pleasing and wants to do well in life and take care of his parents and aunt which is a very noble intention. It is possible to rise above your circumstances, think high and do well in life.

VEDANT G, 20-UBU-052

I do well in life, because I think high-Rahul

SPARK-2



As I enter my Ninth standard, the month of March to May in 2022 was very interesting and unforgettable. Having missed my mother since my childhood the recent two years was sometimes boring to me. It is because of missing also my class friends and regular schooling. Online class were sometimes boring to the core and during such a time some elder brothers from Loyola college came to us to teach. I initially thought that they are also here to bore us further. But later I felt that I was totally wrong. It was in the opposite way that I began to search for their arrival to our area. They frequently motivated us holding many competitions and that too in a variety of modes. I saw my own video participating in the event and also online I saw my friends participating in the events very sincerely. I don't know that this online could be used for even conducting competitions. One of the unforgettable events I was involved in "Learn with Fun". With a set of five lines in English, one Anna spoke a variety of English Accents and also made me speak a fluent English. He made corrections in my Local English and I never imagined that even I would be able to pronounce with a stylish accent. **The book which I received as gift for that event has also made to know the importance of Book reading.** It is only after having participated in such events I have developed some confidence to speak and I have also said to those brothers that I would participate in speech competitions conducted in our school here by instead of ignoring. Not only myself. Most of my street friends are eagerly waiting for the arrival of the Loyola college brothers. I have planned to read a few books as per their suggestion. My thanks to Loyola College and outreach department.

With eagerly waiting by Nishanth of Ninth standard. Mangalapuram in Chetpet.

I started reading only after I got a book for the first time in my life -Nishanth

SPARK-3



I am Jaswant, studying 4th standard in Oxford Matric School, Saidapet, Chennai. My father's name is Sridhar. He is 38 years old and he is a courier man. My mother's name is Tamilselvi, 35 years old, is a homemaker. During covid times, we are very much bored because no one is coming to play in the street. After this covid breakdown Tamil department Students from Loyola College came and met me. **They taught many things to me and they helped me overcome my fear of not mingling with others by conducting various games.** I am inspired by the Annas who made me understand the importance of Education and the various opportunities to study. Now I Promise and commit that we all students from Avvaipuram in the enclosed picture will surely complete our under-graduation degree.

Thanks to all students from Loyola College outreach department. **Keerthivasan, 19-UTL-004**

“Isolation makes the life sad

Mingling with others makes us always happy”- Jaswant

SPARK-4



Abhishek is studying 10th std. He is a very active and talented person. He won all the chocolates distributed by us as prizes. He answered every question correctly. He is brilliant and wishes to pursue commerce. His ambition is to become a Chartered Accountant. He is ambitious for his dream. He is very good at analytical skills. He wishes to study at Loyola college. I'm sure he will study at Loyola. His dream will be fulfilled by his hard work.

‘I begin to analyse so that I get clarity’-Abhishek

SPARK-5



Ashwin was very curious about NCC. He even completed the NCC, A test. He was very passionate about NCC and sports. He wishes to serve for the nation as a military officer. He worked hard to get that result. He wishes to study at Loyola. He will also study at Loyola for his great sportsmanship. I am sure that he will get a good job and dream of life in the future. From the case study we found that everybody has inner talents which are manifold in nature. Slum or city doesn't matter. What matters is the passion and the spirit to achieve goals.

‘Service to others makes me always happy’-Ashwin

SPARK-6



Ranjitha aged 14 years is studying XI standard, Chennai Corporation School, Saidapet. She lives in Thideer Nagar, Saidapet. Mrs. Nadhiya is her mother working as a house maid and earns a monthly salary of Rs. 1500. The Department under its scheme to help children of widows, had opened an account for Ranjitha when she was in X standard for the purpose of receiving benefits from the state government. But because of no transactions in the account, the bank had threatened to close the account and the outreach department deposited Rs 500 into the account and the mother has now promised to maintain the minimum balance required in the account. Ranjitha says that as she will be further receiving benefits for the government during her XII standard, she will not have to run around to open another bank account for that purpose and is very thankful to the College and the Outreach Department.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here-Muhammed Ali

SPARK-7



Noma, the mother of **Vishal**, wants her son to study at Loyola College, Chennai. She always wanted to do something big to his son. One fine day her son got good marks in his 12th Board Exam. And her mother started applying for colleges for her son's admission, later she had a hope and applied for B.A. Economics in Loyola College. His name did not appear in the first two lists. The third list was displayed and she could see his son's name.

Now her son completed his Bachelor Degree at Loyola College, and started his own business and running a successful Event Management Company. The goodness which the college gave him was abundant and his skills were enhanced and he was well motivated by the college to select a field. To be part of Loyola College is still a dream for many students, but it has happened only for some in their career. His mother has been happy for her son's growth and achievement toward his life.

“Skill of waiting is the most important skill in the fast world”

SPARK-8



While the entire city of Chennai was under lock down at the time of government restrictions, Myself along with some volunteers visited Loyola College (No public movement) to receive the medical kit. When people were afraid of even nearing another person, who does not belong to their family, I was able to go near an unknown person to check the temperature which was sponsored by the Loyola College through the Outreach department. It was a new experience in my life. I have volunteered even during the December flood in the year 2015 but this volunteering is something unique which has built my confidence in serving the poor. Encouraging a few women volunteers to prepare Kabasura kudineer and to distribute it to the people in their streets has made me to improve my networking skills. Despite the fear of second wave when I reached Loyola College and noticed that they were able to provide medical kits to more than forty slums and after seeing this I felt increasing my volunteering spirit. The timely intervention through our volunteers in our area in Chetpet has also given me a good name in the locality. Even those who refuse to speak to me came with a smiling face to me and begin to greet after this particular volunteering. But more than these small publicities I have personally got a satisfaction in my life which I would not get with money. I whole heartedly thank the Loyola College and the outreach department for giving me such an opportunity which I would not forget in my life time.

With Love and care from Isaimani- Youth leader from Mangalapuram, Chetpet.

“To be self-confident, volunteer to help others”



Women

SPARK-9



Ms. Pushpa is living in the Gangaikaraipuram area near Nungambakkam, and has 2 daughters. She lost her husband in a lorry accident and living without him for the past 5 years. She works as a maid in Apartments and takes care of the children. She is an inspiring woman who is highly dedicated to live for her children. She was very weak and she has diseases as well. In the midst of all, she gives the best to her daughters' education. It is very pathetic to see the life of Ms.Pushpa, we could understand that the life of many is not easy in the community. Many women have more struggles and fears are involved as widows. Yet they are live with hope and positivity.

“Life is highly challenging yet hope builds it”

SPARK-10



Mrs. Dhanalakshmi is a widow; she lives in T.nagar with her two sons. Her husband was working in the field of construction. He met with an accident and died on the spot. Since she lost her husband at an early age, she struggled a lot to raise her two sons. But somehow, she tried to give good education to her sons. Her first son, Tamil Arasan dropped out of his BSC course due to family circumstances. He went for a job to support his family, but unfortunately, due to COVID-19, he lost his job. Mrs. Dhanalakshmi's 2nd son Manikandan who is a B.com graduate, passed out from Jain College in 2011, didn't get a job for his qualification, hence he is working as a salesperson in a shop.

Mrs. Dhanalakshmi has borrowed money for interest to undergo her hysterectomy operation, she has fallen sick and couldn't go for work. Her only hope is her sons, she says if they get a good job, it will be useful to run their daily life. I do not lose my hope. My sons are highly responsible and they will take care of the family.

“When children become responsible, the worries of the parents fly away”

SPARK-11



Pachaiamal is a widow and her husband passed away due to alcohol addiction. She was around 40. Pachaiamal was residing in her mother's house at Dr. Thomas Road. Her husband was from Kancheepuram where she could not have adequate safety and employment opportunity. So, she decided to live with her mother and son. Her son was studying in 10th standard, Chennai High School. Since her mother was old, she could not go for work. Pachaiamal worked as a clerk in a hotel called 'Urvashi Hotel'. Her earnings were small amount only and it was insufficient for the household expenses. She had spent some for her mother's health and taking care of her son's school fees. At this juncture, she approached the department of service-learning to start a micro-level business. She had a little experience in selling flowers. Department of service-learning gave Rs 5000 as a revolving fund for the women in the intervention areas. She started selling flowers after receiving the loan amount. She could earn small from that flower shop. She was very happy with the additional source of income through the flower shop. She thanked the Department of Service Learning for the loan amount.

“Self-belief and hard work will always earn you success”-Virat Kohil

SPARK-12



Devayani was living with her husband, son and mother at Dr. Thomas Road. Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board allowed a tenement to her family. Her husband had a temporary job and she was jobless. Her son, who was married, also had only a temporary job. She had some health issues and she could not go for the work. Her mother was a fruit seller and she could not invest any amount after the COVID-19 lock down. The family had a lot of financial issues and they were unable to meet the day today expenses. She was expecting some loan desperately. So, Devayani asked for the revolving fund, which was provided by the Department of Service Learning to reinvest in fruit selling. Finally, she received Rs 5000 as a revolving fund and she has willingly repaid the first due. She was very happy and thanked the Department Service Learning for the loan amount.

“Striving for success without hard work is like trying harvest where you have not planted”- David Bly

SPARK-13



I am Lakshmi. E, live in Gandhi Nagar B-block. Mr. Elumalai, known as Rocky is my husband. He goes for daily wages. He earns Rs. 500 per day. He does not get regular work. I am very proud to state that he is a volunteer for the Department of Service Learning, Loyola College, Chennai. When there is a need, I also help him in this voluntary work.

He did not have much work during covid-19 pandemic. We found it very difficult to manage our life at that time. I have two children. My son is 4 years' old and my daughter is 2 years' old. Our minimum expense is Rs. 200 per day. We struggle many a time for this amount. I wanted to get involved in water business, which is the most wanted in the area. I did not have initial invrdtment to start the business. I communicated to Prof.Melson and he promised that he would arrange a sum of loan to start the business. He arranged the loan amount from the revolving fund. I also started the business as I informed. Now I am earning Rs.200 from this business. I am happy that we do not suffer much for our daily expenses. I am always thankful to Loyola.

Volunteers do not have the time but just they have the heart-Elizabeth Andrew

SPARK-14



I am Ms. Selvi resides in Gandhi Nagar C- block. My husband's name is Arumugam and he died 5 years before. I have two daughters and the elder daughter has got married and the second daughter is unemployed. I work as battery auto driver in a corporate company. My salary is Rs.11000 per month and I have been working for the past 1 ½ years. I want to start my own textile business at home. If I start the business, my unemployed daughter will manage that business. She may earn Rs.1000 per week approximately. I do not have adequate money to start the business. If I get any loan, I will repay the amount. This was reported to the faculty member by the community volunteer. The department of service learning responded to my request. I was given Rs. 5000 in May 2022. I have started the business. I also promise that I will repay the amount without any interest. I feel proud that my request was accepted by Loyola College. I am also grateful for the amount and do promise that I will settle the amount on time.

“Idleness is dead sea that swallows all virtues”- Benjamin Franklin

SPARK-15



I am Lakshmi, live in Gandhi Nagar C- block. My husband is Mr. Venkatesh and he passed away 6 years before. I became depressed after his death. I began to work as house keeper and in the evening I prepare tiffin in front of my house and sell. My income from the house keeper is Rs.6000 per month. The income from the tiffin stall is Rs.300 per day. My daughter is studying 2nd B.Sc (plant biology) and my son is studying 1st year B.Sc (visual communication). I find some difficulties in continuing the business. We need to buy a new gas stove and new vessel, where she needs some amount. This was informed to the faculty in charge of Service learning. She got the amount Rs.5000 and she bought them. She is very happy that she got this amount without any interest, which is unimaginable in her area. Now she gets Rs.400 per day from her stall. This amount increased her income. She says that she will work hard for educating their children with this hard-earned money.

“Never stand begging for that which you have the power to earn”- Miguel de Cervantes

SPARK-16



I am Backialakshmi and my husband abandoned me a few years before. I have two daughters. They are studying in YMCA Corporation School. I am living in Gandhi Nagar C block. I got Rs.5000 from the Department of Service Learning in the month of May 2022. As soon as I got the amount, I started preparing Beef Briyani. That business did not go well. Immediately I started selling Bread omlete in the evening. As I do this business, I get Rs.200 per day.

Now I am able to cook food for the children. As I am doing this business in my area, my children do not feel that they are left out alone at home. I do promise that I will work hard and bring more income to my family. I do not feel bad that my husband abandoned me. I will utilise my talents and skills and manage my life peacefully. I also want to see that my children come up in their life. I am thankful to the department of Service Learning for granting the amount to start the business.

“A dream does not become reality through magic. It takes sweat, determination and hard work”-Colin Powell

SPARK-17



I am **Amala**, Community Volunteer from Samiyarthottam. With year in and out, I have been experiencing event, programs and generous funds, that Loyola College, Chennai has been providing to our community and me at Samiyar Thottam, Saidapet, Chennai. I have been helping the outreach program by coordinating with the member in the community. Communicating and helping the college students reach out to people within our area, it has been a positive experience and the outreach program organised here, blends with my interest to help people for the betterment of their lives, educate and motivate them to shatter their caged and restricted life within the area and providing them with help in upfronts of financial, educational and psychological aids. As a member of the community these programs stimulate collaboration and exchange of ideas through the generosity of the students, the professor and the college management, many people were benefitted, to mention, a few people from our community receive revolving funds to support their financial need, students in the community are given educational and financial help, and differently abled people are provided with aids like wheelchairs, white canes, standing aids and hearing aids and few are even supported financially to meet their needs.. I and my community people would like to thank students, professors, and officials taking part in this outreach program.

“You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give”-Winston Churchill

SPARK-18



I am Maheswari. I always see the Loyola college students coming to our community at least once a week. Initially they only used to ask questions which were generally regarding some kind of programs that we would like to attend. Being a petty shop owner, I used to answer whatever I could but always used to wonder how would it help me elevate my situation. Without thinking a lot on this, I used to help the students in whatever they asked. I always believed that since it is the Loyola College students and their professors it would be something meaningful. My belief came true on the day when their professor told me that I have been selected for getting a revolving fund from the Department of Service learning, Loyola College. Though the initial happiness was there, but there was always a thought at the back of my mind that how will I reach the college on time as it is far from where I live. Even this apprehension of mine was cleared when two days before the event was to be held, the Loyola students came and directly told me that they will be entirely taking care of my to and fro expenses to the college and back home. On the day of the event too, they were perfectly on time and booked us transportation to the college. Once inside the college, they treated us respectfully and were with us until the closure of the event. The revolving fund I received on that day came as a great help for me. The fund helped me to support my family as well as my shop. The fund helped me in a lot of ways to support myself in a better manner. In the end I would like to say that it is all because of the students and the professors of the Department of Service Learning of Loyola College that people like me also get an opportunity to enhance our life and get the help we need.

“I never dreamed about success, I worked for it”- Estee Lauder

SPARK-19



While having communication and interaction in the community of Saamiyar Thottam. I found out about this particular woman who had a local tiffin shop whose name was Saraswathi.

When I had conversation with her, I found out that she was a widow and had a mentally retarded child. In order to help her, I had to find some financial aiding programs and finally after consulting with my Outreach in charge Prof. Rathna we made her involve in the revolving fund donating program that Loyola college hosted. Seeing her struggle for so long was really heart breaking, but after her claim she had some room to push over and I felt really happy when she got what she required. Apart from this we helped her to claim some Government funds and pensions. On an overall this made her life better. The way she expressed her gratitude is still unforgettable. One afternoon at the Community interaction session, I saw this woman and talked with her. She welcomed me inside her house. As soon as I sat inside and began asking about her wellbeing, she started telling me about all her struggles. I enquired about her family status and found out what she needed.

Even though, I cannot say that I have helped her to lead a better life, I can say that I have made a contribution to make a phase of her life better. But having an interaction with her made me realize that there are some people who struggle to make a living at the bottom line of the society and it is our duty to help them in all possible ways that we can.

“When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too”-Paulo Coelho

SPARK-20



During our final days at the community, I saw this elderly lady, she was around the age of 65, whose name was Shanthi, when I having a chat with her, I found out that she was a widow with a daughter who is working. After talking to her, it occurred to me that these people especially in these areas are quite bored of their routine and monotonous daily life. So, we thought of conducting a musical event for her and some other people at the community. As I mentioned earlier, when I first met her, she was very bored and was sitting at the entrance of her house. But after the event, she was happy and at the end of the session they thanked us and appreciated the musicians for their talents. They experienced a joy ride to their past memories overjoyed as the music played were old classical melodies. It made us happy seeing them happy. It was a cloudy afternoon, when I saw this elderly woman. A small sprinkling of the rain had already started. Suddenly this elder started scolding our professor in charge on why she is making us young people roam around under the scorching sun, even though it was raining. Our professor convinced her regarding the need for outreach and we started to have a chit chat with her when she told us her past life. Later we came up with idea of the musical event and invite her to it. Due to the advancement of technology people think they are connected with others so strongly but the fact is that they are getting separated from each other. The one who are truly affected by this are the Grand dads and Grand moms who are isolated because of this. I also realized the importance of entertainment for these people who have a monotonous life.

“When ‘I’ is replaced with ‘we’ even illness becomes Wellness”-MalcolmX

SPARK-21



She is Anitha, aged 28 years living in Gangaikaraipuram and she has 7-months-old daughter, her husband died due to high intake of alcohol and drugs. She lived in slum since her childhood. She was forsaken by her family due to her love marriage and being a single woman, she works hard in order to give her child one time meal. She works as housekeeper in a local company and her salary is Rs.8000. She had a very bad years of living without her husband. Now she said that she only should stand for herself to bring a bright future to her daughter. By talking to Anitha, we understand the feeling of standing alone for her life; she has a lot of problems, in the midst. She is striving, her best in order to achieve it. Being a woman is always a race, fighting in covid-19 was her life changing matters; she was the only one without any support she made it happen. She told me life is uncertain and her life is different from others.

“You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep Spring from coming.”

— Pablo Neruda

SPARK-22



I'm Dharani, Living at East Namachivayapuum for the past 10 years. I'm 31 years old, with two children. My son named Vishvaraj 11 years old and daughter Jeevitha aged 3 years. I learned about Outreach Session by Loyola College two to three years ago. My Mother-in-Law gained some elders benefits during COVID times. Also, I have heard of people got benefited from this program during Flood times by getting bed sheets, rice, groceries etc. Student from Loyola College asked about our problem, as a part of the Outreach program. I have listed a myriad of problems. All I care about utmost is my children and their future, security, and well-being. So, these students educated and interacted with my kids and other children on measures to enhance their education and to make diversions from bad influences and peer pressures. I also said about the condition of many issues about the domestic workers face to meet our daily expenses. So, the students in their teams suggested for tutoring sessions for Children, Domestic worker vacancy allotment from Loyola College through Domestic Workers Federation, and Tailoring skill teaching sessions as the common Interventions for the problems addressed. These kinds of progressive and public-mitigating interventions are more likely to change the conditions and I thank the Outreach program of Loyola College, for addressing the problem and ensuring the intervention. **Tamizhselvan.S**
20-UPH-034

“The meaning of life is that it is to be lived”-Bruce lee

SPARK-23



Selvi Mary is a 38 years' old woman. She is living in Anna Nagar Saidapet who received a revolving fund beneficiary of Loyola College department of service learning. Her husband (Late) Lourthu Nathan who passed away 6 years' ago by heart problem. She is running a small petty shop from receiving Rs. 5,000 as a revolving fund from the department of service-learning Loyola College Chennai. She has 2 sons. Her first son is Vincent Fernandes who is studying B.A Economics at Loyola College with the help of department of service learning. Her second son Rocky is studying ITI in Chennai. They are all using a single toilet. For all purpose they are using a tap water only. Their sons are going to college by train. Her monthly income is Rs. 6000 to Rs. 8000. She is earning money from petty shop and help her sons in pursuing their higher studies without begging anyone to sponsor the tuition fees of her sons. She has not obtained an educational loan from the bank for the purpose of educating her sons and it has also paved the way for slowly withdrawing themselves from the hands of money lenders and pawn brokers. She is also taking care of her old father Vijayan 70 years and mother Sahaya Mary 65 years old, who have more health problems and buying tablets and medical treatment expenses from her financial support. They didn't receive money from anywhere. She is very grateful to the school of service learning (Outreach) Department and students of Loyola College for their help and support.

“Believe you can and you're halfway there” — Theodore Roosevelt

SPARK-24



I am Kalpana aged 40, I am situated in new Boopathy Nagar, Chetpet, Chennai. I am doing domestic household work and lead a poor life. My income is around Rs.8,000 per month. The main difficulty I am facing is the poverty. It's very hard to pay education fees for my children, because I have three children with two on the school level and one on college level. Without a proper support of any others, it's very difficult for me to lead and satisfy the basic needs of the life. As I am doing domestic house hold work in many houses, it made my life in very difficult situation. I am facing many health issues due to the work pressure and over work leads me to a mental tension. In this situation only, Loyola college outreach department students had come with an initiative to keep evening food stall, which will fetch me a greater profit. But in this situation also there is a need of fund for this. To solve this Loyola college outreach department offered me a revolving fund scheme, by which I got benefited. Due to the presence of Loyola college students and with their ideas, now I am able to lead a better life with sufficient fund to satisfy my basic needs and also the education needs of my children. Thanks to Loyola college.

**“it's not how much money you make, but how much money you keep,
how hard it works for you, and how many generations you keep it for?” Robert Kiyosaki**

SPARK-25



Mrs. Uma, is a widow aged 44 lives in the community area near Pudupet. She has 3 children who have got married. She owns a lunch stall and sells those prepared foods to manage her living. She opens the shop in the afternoon providing meals to those who needs it and can barely earn around 10,000 Rs. a month which is used for her daily needs and send some of her earned money to her children.

She has been facing some problems for the place of preparation. She has recently found a place but it costs Rs.4000 for repairs and advance which she cannot afford and is looking for finance. The area has a good quality school and provides good education to those people.

She has medical problem for which she uses allopathic medicines to treat the disease and manages to get/earn enough money to buy those medicines. In order to continue her business, she needs around Rs. 4000 to restore the place where she cooks and start it from there on. We were able to raise around Rs. 500 which we gave it to her to support her living in a small way. The students said that they would try to help her with more financial support by talking to a few donors. She also said that she will try to get a loan of Rs. 3000 from someone. The students also gave her some information regarding the government agencies which can be approached for providing loans.

**“Life is ten percent what you experience and ninety percent how you respond to it.”
— Dorothy M. Neddermeyer**

SPARK-26



Mrs.Rekha is a 38-year-old woman living in her mother’s house in Aynavaram. She runs a juice shop selling fresh juices and snacks. Her husband passed away 17 years back. She has 3 children, the youngest going to Grade 10 and the oldest working in a hospital, and is 22 years old. She works from morning to evening in the shop and earns approximately Rs. 500 a day to meet her basic needs. She has tap water as well as metro water facility in her house and uses the public amenities. She hasn’t benefitted from any government schemes and does not have any other source of income from them. She does not have any savings but she has a debt of Rs.1,50,000 which she took to educate her son.

She aspires to live her life healthy and tackle her problems when in need. She got married at a very young age and hopes not to make the same mistakes for her children and instead make them well educated. The students contributed Rs. 500 for helping her business and shared valuable tips to increase revenue.

“Don’t let mental blocks control you. Set yourself free. Confront your fear and turn the mental blocks into building blocks.” — Dr Roopleen,

SPARK-27



Mrs. Ravani is 50 years old women living independently in her own house in Pudupet. She runs a petty shop selling snacks and eatables for the past 5 years. Her children have settled elsewhere in the city after their marriage leaving her alone to live and manage the small shop without anyone's help. She works from morning to evening in the shop and earns approximately Rs. 10,000 a month to meet her basic needs. She has tap water facility in her home and uses the public amenities.

She hasn't benefitted from any government schemes and does not have any other source of income. She neither has savings nor debt. She aspires to live her life independently without the problems of debt. Her neighbourhood faces frequent electricity shortages which have been a major hurdle in storing goods in the shop's refrigerator. She needs some funds to meet the working capital requirement of the shop and scale her business. Students from Loyola College contributed Rs. 500 for helping her business and shared valuable tips to increase revenue.

**“Instead of worrying about what you cannot control, shift your energy to what you can create.”
— Roy T. Bennett**

SPARK-28



Ms.DHANALAKSHMI aged 50 years living in door no 167 in the streets, she is a married woman and has 3 boys and 2 girls. DHANALAKSHMI's, daughters are married and they left home years ago while-her sons have gone out to work in the city. She has lived in the slum since childhood I'm currently knows about the outside work. Her Husband works as rickshaw driver and his earning is very inadequate to fill their basic needs. The two of them don't have access to nutritious food or clean drinking water, and to add to these there are no bathrooms in their house. Students of Loyola College, during the program conducted by the outreach department, interacted with her to understand her problems. She reacted positively and discussed the ideas about how to work and support her family. She decided to use her talents in cooking to start Tiffin stall business. Her husband received counselling to support his wife and agreed to take loan for her stall. Her sons also started helping in the business and the family is currently in a stable position. She has overcome her depression and has developed a positive outlook towards her life She thanked the students for the timely help. There was no financial support from the side of the students. The advice given was highly effective and practical. Students felt very happy that they could make changes in the life of ordinary people.

“The words are like medicine to your soul, and it has the power to change your life”

— Joyce Meyer

SPARK-29



I am Kalai Arasi ages 30 years. My husband is Mr. Lalith and he is engaged in selling water can. The family was struggling without money and proper employment and Loyola college outreach team led by Ms. Priya provided them with a fund of 5,000 and helped them to start a small start-up or business.

After the support that was given by Loyola outreach team, they now have a happy life with their family. With the Rs.5,000 given by Loyola college they started a small business dealing with water can and water supply. They are distributing water cans to near-by areas. Their business is going very well for now and as it is summer time there is heavy demand for water so that the business runs smoothly. They are able to run this business successful. For now, there is no problem faced by them they are happy with what they have and are able to lead a happy life. They wanted to thank Loyola college and Priya ma'am very much for their help.

“Three Rules of Work: Out of clutter find simplicity. From discord find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity”- Albert Einstein



Elders And Differently Abled

SPARK-30

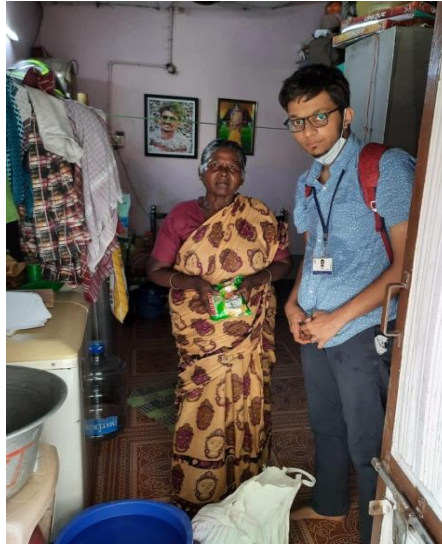


Mrs. Meenambal, aged 71 resides in K block-22, pushpanagar, Chennai-34. Mrs. Meenambal stated that, they're facing various difficulties and struggles as elders in every aspect in life, be it health wise or the social causes. She also said that she and other elders in that locality couldn't avail the benefits from the Government as they were unaware of the advancements in technology and also, they've never been educated about it. On that case she happily stated that the elders team reached out for them and listened to their difficulties and problems. She added that, though being isolated by their family for their misunderstandings with health issues the elders team came forward and helped them to sort out their issues, by organizing awareness programs, eye camps, etc... At last, Meenambal thanked the entire team and the Loyola College management on inviting and honouring them in the campus on the Outreach Day with elders. Visiting college campus made her happy and contented at her old age. This outreach intervention is an important initiative that has provided a great learning experience and discipline to us.

Joel Maria Joseph. T, 20-UCH-030

“Count your age by friends not years. Count your life by smiles not tears”- John Lennon

SPARK-31



My name is Mariyamma from Namachivayapuram East, I am 65 years old, my husband Pachaimuthu passed away a few years back. We have no stable income. I have 5 daughters - KUMUTHA, AMUTHA, SUMATHI, JAYANTHI, and ANAMIKA. My children give me 3 thousand rupees per month. My medicine alone costs 3000 rupees per month and I have to travel a few distances for that. I got fractured my right leg and other leg got swallowed from salt water disease (Uppu neer disease). I'm taking medicines regularly but with a lot of pain and in vain. I'm a flower vendor who earns Rs.50 per day and maybe little less or more than a day.

Students from Loyola College Outreach has helped me a lot. A student name Akash has given me cash a sum of Rs. 300 for my medicine during the rains and the Elders team have given me ration needs for 2 full months. This is a great help of feeding my hunger and it makes me feel good and made my job easier and for the first time I'm having good meals after many years. Thanks to the 20-UPH batch elders' team. They have also helped other elderly people in Namachivayapuram Street. **Akash. G, 20-UPH-008**

**“We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives”
John F Kennedy**

SPARK-32



I'm Shanthi, I'm residing at Valliyammal Thottam, Kodambakkam in Chennai. We are facing quite a lot of problems since years as we don't have a place to live. As we face problems like no patta, have no proper drainage system, drinking water facilities. The main issue of the day is we wash our clothes, utensils and bathe in front of our houses or in our backyard and this water stagnates. Also, our houses are built in such a way with no strong cemented ceiling and walls which bring huge problems during rainy seasons and all these years we never felt secured and safe. Constant power cuts in our place are also a trouble which we are facing `many years added to this domestic violence make our life more miserable.

The Loyola college students came to us regarding their outreach programs and have listened to all of our issues, pain and problems. They consoled us and they gave me some groceries. The students conducted an awareness program on human rights which all were very worth full and helpful. As students we have learned the reality of people living in slums. We came to know that what we feel when we help others, we also explored the living standard of people and put our legs into their shoes, empathize to understand what problems and pain they feel in their daily life.

Vinay Babu , 20-UST-083

“Gratitude is a powerful catalyst for happiness. It is the spark that lights a fire of joy in your soul”- Amy Collette

SPARK-33



Mrs. Ragini is a 68-year-old woman who does the business of a shoe cobbler in Pudhupet. She does not have a house, so she lives on the footpath near her shop. She has been doing this business for 10 years from now. She has 3 children who did not study and have settled elsewhere abandoning her. She earns only Rs 50-100 per day which is not sufficient for her to meet her basic needs. She uses water cans for drinking water. Since she does not even have a house, she has to use the public toilet in the area which is not well maintained. She has not benefitted from any government schemes till now. She has not been affected by any disease till now. She does not have any savings. She does not have any debt. She aspires to have a house with the help of the government schemes. The students contributed Rs. 500 for helping her and also shared a few government schemes which she can use to avail and help herself.

“When defeat comes, accept it as a signal that your plans are not sound, rebuild those plans and set sail once more toward your coveted goal”- Napoleon Hill

SPARK-34



Mrs. Arockia Mary is 77 years old woman living independently in a rented house in Pudupet. She runs a petty shop selling daily porridge for the past many years. Her children have studied up to 5th grade and settled elsewhere in the city after their marriage leaving her all alone. She is not having proper access to water sources nor toilet facilities; she depends on tap water and common toilet in the neighbourhood. She had tried for government assistance and aids available to her as an old citizen and an individual below poverty line, but all in vain. She earns daily a profit range of Rs. 300 to 500 from daily sales.

She is in need of dire financial assistance of not just, running her business but also for payment of interest towards shark loans, she has acquired and is now left with zero or no savings. The students donated Rs. 500 towards her working capital and assured her that they will come and meet her in the future and try to offer business related tips and some more financial assistance.

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle”- Albert Einstein

SPARK-35



Mr. Raja is 54 years old working as a construction worker and Mrs. Meena- 42 years old, is a house maid. Mr. and Mrs. Raja are living in a rented slum house for 8 years in RA Puram, Chennai. They together earn Rs.18,000 in a month. Their rent is Rs.3,500 per month. They have 3 children who live with Raja's sister and study but do not visit them often. Both have studied only till 10th grade. Due to COVID in 2020, both their earnings took a hit. Raja was an alcoholic at the time and wasted their savings on drinking. He is not abusive but he did not care to save money for any emergency or for medical needs. Only due to lack of alcohol availability and sales during COVID-19, and the death of his mother due to severe case of COVID, he came to his senses. But after normalcy returned, he got back to drinking. This has damaged the husband and wife's relationship to a great extent.

Unable to pay rent, they have been thrown out of their house with their belongings kept on the street. Whatever money Meena earns goes for their basic survival needs. Having studied psychology in my 11th and 12th, I gave a counselling session to them about the need to prioritize their savings. I also suggested free resources to take therapy and couples counselling to work on their relationship. My family also paid for their one month's rent until Raja can earn his salary and become a stable earner.

“You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life, but by realizing who you are at the deepest level”- Eckhart Tolle

SPARK-36



Manikandan is a 75-year-old, who lives in Kalapet and delivers the morning newspaper and at times milk to households in Pondicherry. He rides his cycle for almost 30-40 kms daily but due to a recent knee injury he has not been able to work. He can ride only short distances and thus makes only 200-300 rupees a day.

He lives in his own house in Kalapet and lives with his daughter. His daughter got recently married and moved away. Manikandan's wife passed away 2 years ago and he has no grandchildren. He says the children in the neighbouring house play with him sometimes and that makes him happy. His house has severe power and water supply issues. His daughter does not visit him but only sends 2000 rupees a month, but not regularly.

When asked for what type of help or assistance he requires, he mentioned there's nothing much he wants than to learn how to write his name in English. He said I deliver so many newspapers but don't understand anything when I try to read it. I taught him to write his own name and he was very happy. Also provided him with money but he refused to accept it. He is someone who likes to be financially independent and work on his own terms as long as he can.

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands, one for helping yourself, the other for helping others” Maya Angelou

SPARK-37



I am valliammal, aged 70 and reside at new Bupathy Nagar, Chetpet, Chennai. My family is not in a condition of taking care of me and my health. I have lost my daughters and live with granddaughters. I am suffering a lot with most of the aging problems and I have a major disability in hearing. My Grandchildren are not taking caring of me in any ways mentally as well as economically. In this situation Loyola college students helped me in getting hearing aid with disability certificate from the government. Though government only gave me all the hearing aids, but the whole credits will go only to the students of Loyola. This is because of the gap between me as an old disabled beneficiary and government. This gap is filled by loyolites which connected me to the government. Like this more people are in the society, and each and every one should get inspired by loyolites to do this kind of social services. I thank Loyola management to include this type of activities in their academics as it is a service. With the help of Loyola, I got my ears back and also my family. The family I mentioned above is my new grandchildren (the class students of Loyola college). I started behaving like her own grandmother and even the students behaved like my own peoples. Even they will ask my blessings and also my advises as a senior in life. At this old age the only one need to me is the unconditional love, which I got from Loyola students. Hope the same I will get from the upcoming batch students.

To my grandsons of Loyola: “I love you not only for What you are, but for what

I am when I am with you.... Grand sons Keep being you!”

SPARK-38



Mr.Arumugam aged 65 and Ms.jaya aged 60 years are couples. They live in T.Nagar. They had five children. The husband worked as watch man and the wife worked as house keeper. Now both are unemployed due to their age factors. All their children are married. The wage that they get is only adequate to manage their own families. They are not in a position to support their parents. Children are living in different places. This couple does not get any pension. They are in despair. They do not know what to do for their daily life.

There are many families living in this situation. Some of them go for begging in the slums. They feel ashamed to say that they are begging. Government has to take measures and justice needs to be given to these people.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”-Martin Luther King

SPARK-39



I am Kala residing in Gandhinagar. I am 60 years old. I have a petty shop and I could not do any work due to the cataract growth in the left eye. My eyes were highly irritable. I could not see things clearly. Tears were rolling down on my face due to the pain that I had on my eyes. I could not go to hospital since I did not find a suitable hospital and at the same time which is cheaper too. My problem was reported to Prof. Melson who used to come to our area for the outreach activities. He said that Students of BCom are arranging an eye camp with the support of an organization. He promised that he would inform the date of the camp which would be held in the same place where I was living. Students informed me of the camp. I was the first person to register for the camp. Doctors who checked my eyes informed me that I need to undergo a surgery. The same day I was taken to the Eye hospital for a cataract surgery. Now irritation is there but I could see things clearly. I am thankful to the Department of service learning and Loyola College for the great service that they render through the students.

“Thankfulness is the quickest path of Joy”-Jefferson Bethke

SPARK-40



I am Rajendran , 65 years old. I was living in Satyavanimuthunagar. I have been evacuated from this slum and now I am living with my family in Perumbakkam. Ms.Rani is my wife who sells flowers and becomes the breadwinner. We have a son who is married and has two children. His income is inadequate to maintain his family.

I had paralytic attack and thereafter I was unable to walk without a walking stick. I undergo severe back pain. Doctor advised me to have a belt but I could not afford to get that due to my family financial issues. My wife is also unhealthy and now and then takes tablets for her blood pressure. We came to see our mother-in-law in S.M Nagar. We shared our problems to prof.Melson, who is well known to us. He has already helped us in difficult times. He briefed the issues with III-year Economics-A section students during their outreach class. Students collected a little amount from the students who were willing to contribute. Gowtham and Rishi went and bought the belt and on the same day I was given the belt. It was not fitting me, immediately they went back and got the right one and wore smile on my face.

I am ever grateful for the great timely support. I will remember always and pray for these students who stretch their helping hand.

“The thankful receiver bears plentiful harvest”- William Blake

SPARK-41



Mrs. Esther is a 65 years' old woman living in 2nd solai street Ayanavaram. She was a Hindu and later converted into a Christian. She has three daughters and two grandsons. She lives with her second daughter and grandson. Her other grandson does not live with her and is not keeping well. She sells flowers for a living. Every morning she starts purchasing the flowers from the market at 4 a.m. and sells till 8 a.m. She also sells flowers in the evening. She does not have a fixed place for selling her flowers. Her business gives her profits every day and on Thursdays and Fridays she's able to get a higher profit of Rs 500. She stays in a rented house which costs her 4500 rupees a month.

She has an attached bathroom and has a water pump facility nearby which provides her and her family with drinking water. Her son in law works in a rationing shop and earns 7000 rupees per month. Their earnings together meet the household expenses and lets them stay debt free. However, they are not able to have any savings as all they earn goes into the household expenses. The savings she previously had along with a gold bangle had to be used for her breast removal surgery. Despite all the hardships she has undergone she still works tirelessly everyday so she that she is able to look after her family and contribute in every way possible. The students also decided to assist her and offered a small amount of Rs. 500 for her flower business. They have also referred a better job for her son and they have told him to think about quitting the job and taking up a job which offers a better salary.

“Your attitude, not your aptitude will determine your altitude”-Zig Ziglar

SPARK-42



Mr. Lokesh is a 52-year-old man housed in Royapuram. Over the past twenty-five years, he has been an auto driver, transporting patrons in and around Chennai. His basic needs are met by earning approximately Rs.700-800 a day for 6 days a week, where he works from morning to evening. No government program has benefited him or any of his sources of income. After his wife's death due to TB in 2006, Lokesh's children settled elsewhere in the city after their marriage, leaving him alone to live and manage his livelihood without anyone's help.

Mr. Lokesh developed alcoholism due to the problems he has been facing with debts and loans he is unable to repay. He needs some funds to reimburse the money lenders within their stipulated period. I tried to counsel him and speak to him with love and concern so that he is able to overcome his alcohol addiction. Then I realized that he needs expert attention and the students connected him with 104 the free medical help line which is run by the Tamil Nadu Government. The students told him that they will try to solve his debt problem by giving some financial assistance, but it will be done only if they are convinced that he has overcome his alcohol addiction to a considerable extent.

**“Change is inevitable
Growth is optional”- John Maxwell**

SPARK-43



Mrs. Parameshwari, who was living in the slum near, Bazar Street, Chindaripet. She stated that they lost her daily wages job and she could not go out in search of their needs. In the month of January 2022, during lock-down, some of the community members and she received relief materials from Loyola College. It really helped them for their daily needs.

The relief materials were included like Rice, Wheat, Dal, Sugar, tamarind, chili powder, turmeric powder, jaggery. The college also provided a pulse oximeter, forehead thermometer, and tablets in order to check on their health by themselves. Most of the time she felt sad about people living along with her due to the lack of necessary things.

She felt sad that people were working for daily wages. The wages were cut in COVID and not having proper work. She mentioned that Loyola College had been helping the elders, widows, and destitute women whenever the disaster comes. She expressed her gratitude to Loyola College wholeheartedly.

“Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity. It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all”- William Faulkner

SPARK-44



Mrs. Annammal was an old woman who was living with her grandson. She lived in a tenement house and it was allotted by Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board. It was not a permanent place to her. She had a daughter but she resided in another district. She survived with the income of her grandson. She did not get any benefits that are available to the senior citizens like pension benefits etc. She also had health issues like asthma, and leg paralysis. There was no one to take care of her in the needful phase of her life. During the covid period, her livelihood was affected more because of no income to her grandson. She couldn't afford to get the basic needs and medical needs of her family during the pandemic period. She expected help from society to overcome her family situation. In outreach class, while students took surveys and they found her and gave relief material (Door Dal, Urad dal, and milk). The students saw the happiness on her face which gives motivation to students to help more people.

20-UCO-329 & 20-UCO-324

When you are grateful, fear disappears and abundance appears”- Anthony Robbins”

SPARK-45



This is the story of Mumtaz begum 35 years' old. Her father passed away and since then she has been taken care of by her mother. She was born on 12 th March 1982 as the fifth child to her parents. She was born hale and healthy, but unfortunately her legs became paralysed overtime that does not allow her to walk. Her whole life, she has had very limited mobility until the students of Loyola College took the initiative to get her a wheelchair. Her mother does domestic work from 7 AM to 3PM. But on the days, she takes an off, she is able to sit her child n take her out to an extent. Begum who is completely restricted to one place now gets to see a little bit more of the world thanks to our students. Mumtaz begum resides in a small house, which is barely 80 square feet, at Kaalvankarai on the banks of drainage river, Saidapet.

She has been provided a wheel chair through the initiative of Outreach Department of Loyola College. With the help of the wheelchair given by the Outreach Department of Loyola College, she is able to commute with more convenience. She is feeling really happy and she has expressed her gratitude to Loyola College and the Outreach Department.

“A great relationship requires deep connection not perfection”- John Mark Green

SPARK-46



K Dhanalakshmi from Dr. Thomas road, T.Nagar, Chennai 600017. Her husband Gajendran was working as a hotel server and they have two children son and daughter. They were studying in the college and the son was doing a part-time job for his studies and his family. She was having a flower shop near her house. But she was unable to sell flowers due to the weakness of her health. she had been worried of her family background and the poor economic situation of the family. Mr.Tinu, the passed-out student met her and he collected information about her name, type of disability person, and requirements. During his field visit and he took Dhanalakshmi's name. She asked for a three wheeler to move around for completing the basic needs of the family. Mr. Prasad, III B.Com-CS, asked to collect information about the identity card and photo for the wheelchair. On 13th March, students prepared an application form and they approached the District Differently Abled Welfare Officer, DMS Campus, Teynampet Chennai. The department sanctioned the wheelchair after the verification of the documents.

On 4th April 2022, she received her wheelchair during a special event for differentially abled persons. She thanked profusely to the Department of Service Learning for the wonderful opportunity. Now, she can move in and around and do the basic work.

“You will never change your life until you change something you do daily.

The secret of your success s found in in your daily routine”-John Maxwell

SPARK-47



Mrs. Saratha was living in a small house at the corner of Rex Street in Chindhathripet. She was working as an assistant in a small 1.5msq hardware store where she records the transactions of the business for a very low salary. This has created a situation where she had to struggle every year to pay her son's fees despite the fees being provided at a concession. Her son moved from 4th to his 5th standard. The difficult circumstances had let Mrs. Saratha approach the students of III B.Com to help her. A few students first visited her house to see the nature of her economic needs. The students then asked her the details of the fees for her child. Mr. Ashish Pradip Singh (19-UCO-166) then approached a few charity organizations to see if they would assist in her needs. A charity by the name of Smt. Poppy Educational and Charitable Trust gladly took it upon themselves to arrange for the fees. What was left was to mail a letter to the trust with a passage providing content to the letter and a table with all the details of the fees which was done by Mrs. Saratha with the help of a few students.

Within a few days, a cheque was provided to pay the fees and students had the opportunity to see a family in great happiness. It was a wonderful experience to be of help in educating someone in the outreach conducted. The students were instrumental in bringing into action the trust and have gained knowledge about the lives of people in tough situations. The Department of service-learning for providing the students with the opportunity to help someone truly in need.

“It is not enough to be compassionate, you must act”-Dalai Lama

SPARK-48



Mrs Vimala rani is a widow. she lives in Gangaikaraipuram area. She has no husband. He was working as a construction worker. After the demise of her husband, she toiled to raise her two sons. Her first son Tamilarasan Dropped out of his B.sc course due to family circumstances. He went for a job to support his family but unfortunately due to covid he lost his Job. Mrs. Vimala Rani 2nd Son Manikandan who is a B. Com graduate passed out from Jain college in 2011 he didn't get a job for his qualification hence he is working as salesperson in a shop.

Vimala rani has borrowed money for higher interest to undergo her Hysterectomy operation. She has fallen sick and did not go for her works. She believes that she will regain her life when her sons are placed.

“A positive statement propels hope toward a better future, it builds up your faith and that of others, and it promotes change.” – Jan Dargatz

SPARK-49



Mrs. Chellamma, aged 80 lives in no. 21 B, Gandhi nagar at a very small household. She lives by herself after the death of her husband Mr. Muniyandi. The pair of Mr. Muniyandi and Mrs. Chellamma had a daughter, but unfortunately, she too passed away some years back. Mrs. Chellamma has had eye problems for the past 3 to 4 years. Owing to her poverty and family situation she could not reach out to hospitals and doctors. At this time, Mrs. Chellamma was helped by the eye camp conducted at Gandhi nagar for the people residing in the neighborhood. The camp was conducted by Third year B.Com -C students from Loyola college, Chennai. The doctors diagnosed Mrs. Chellamma with partial skin growth in her left eye, which has been causing her vision problems. Mrs. Chellamma was given some medication for time being and was planned for surgery by the doctors.

After surgery Mrs. Chellamma says her vision is better now. As a part of the medication process, Mrs. Chellamma has been advised by the doctors to use black cooling glasses for the next 4 to 5 months. Upon interaction with her, Mrs. Chellamma says her vision is better now compared to pre surgery. She has also been advised by doctors to wear powered spectacles after next check-up. She thanks Mr. Arokia Melson, who is the faculty who organized students for the camp.

SANTHOSH R19-UCO-414

“No duty is more urgent than giving thanks”- James Allen

SPARK-50



Arockia Mary is a 71-year-old woman who resides in the locality of Pudupet, near the Coovum river. Her family has been in the same locality for decades now. Her family comprises of her husband, two daughters and herself. Her husband, Mr. Natesan, passed away in the year 1987. After that, she had to take care of her two daughters. Arockia Mary used to work as a housekeeping staff member in the Eye Hospital in Egmore, Chennai. Her daughters Amoi and Sarala are now married by managing the wedding expenses on her own. Though their family has been residing in the same area for a long time now, Arockia Mary is still living in a rental house.

Arockia Mary does have a common tap water facility (corporation tap water) available for them. Not all houses have their own taps. There are only a specific number of taps in the entire locality. So, several houses need to use the same tap for obtaining water. There is only one common bathroom in the entire area which is to be used by all the residents. The people condemned that they didn't get any incentives even during their difficult times.

One of the major problems of Arockia Mary is that she has a debt of almost Rs. 15000. She hopes she will be able to repay all the debt with her earnings. She wants to open an Aloe vera juice stall near the Egmore Eye Hospital. The students offered financial support for her and she intends on using the money given as a capital aid for her potential business. We wish her all success in her efforts to succeed in the little venture and pay off her debts.

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the Soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” – Emily Dickinson

SPARK-51



M.Aruleeshwaran is living in Avaipuram near Loyola college, Chennai lives in a small rental house with poor facilities. He is 32 years old with “Mental retardation” disability with profound 80% and with physical impairment. Mr. Muthamizhventhan his father died few years back. His mother, Mrs. Thaiyal Nayagi takes care of him and all the family needs. She occupies herself with many jobs with meagre income as dishwasher, flower vendor, part-time tailoring and embroidery works. Mrs. Thaiyal Nayagi his mother works very hard to take care of his only son. As I am from elders and Differently abled team studied the need as the mom finds very difficult to make M.Aruleeshwaran move around few times in a day so she requested us to for a wheelchair for his comfort and to make him mobile with lesser constraints.

We addressed the need to the Department of Service Learning and as per the request the wheelchair was bought for Aruleeshwaran by availing sponsor from Government Differently able office and December 3 Movement. The poor mother was very happy and excited by putting son on the wheelchair and make him move around. It was a great moment for us. I thank the Department of Service Learning for giving me this opportunity.

Ananth DJ, 19-UST-001

“Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without the words and never stops at all.” – Emily Dickinson



Loyola Students

SPARK-52



As far as, this case study is concerned, I would like to share some nostalgic moments in our outreach program. Department of Commerce (shift -1) final year students had visited the Chintadripet as a part of our outreach program. The people look very good. They had made huge campaigns to get their needs done. There were so much of problems in the area. We had noticed that many people don't have proper sanitary facilities, good water facilities, hospitality, and unemployment. The young people were so encouraged towards in taking Alcohol and all other bad habits. Even some are addicted to drugs. So, the students noticed all the issues. They took the proper survey and took a report. Then they discussed how to control this kind of thing in that area which affects the people in a very bad manner. Such conditions will exploit the generation in the future course of time. So, students and our professors we're planning on how to control such activities and what are all the measurements they should. On the other hand, there are people who don't satisfy their basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter. So, the students also decided to make a survey on that. Noticing the people's needs we approached the College to contribute some relief materials. It's very fortunate to share that our Loyola College has immensely contributed lots of relief materials like Rice, cooking oil, and other provision to 40 families in the area of Chintadripet. It might not be fulfilled all their needs. But they always gave our best to our society. This is not the end of our journey as students. The journey of contributing will also be continued throughout their life irrespective of the designation we hold.

It was incredible to see how grateful everyone was during this initiative. He was able to understand that most of the families are still struggling even for their basic needs. It was an experience that will stay with me. It has changed many of my perceptions and impacted my perception of what I see, hear, do and believe. This experience has made me help the people in my own area and in nearby areas. Overall, this outreach program was a positive experience for me because it allowed me to learn about people from underserved communities through field visits and provided me with the opportunity to assist those in need. It provided me with a fresh perspective and exposure to the value of social service. Mohammed Rizwan K S 19-uco-143

“It all depends on how we look at things, and not how they are in themselves.” — Carl Jung

SPARK-53



As part of the community service (Outreach), I chose the school teaching team for the interaction and intervention with school-going students. I had a nice experience and good exposure. Due to the covid pandemic, in the initial stage, there were no schools to visit and teach the students. But still, I helped the poor people by providing some essentials and he also took part in an awareness event on the topic of government schemes provided for them. Later during the end of last academic year, the team approached a Chennai Corporation High School, Eldams Road, Teynampet. The school team organized career guidance program with help of Head Mistress and other teachers in the school. The event was for the 9th standard students which were very helpful for them. As part of the team member, I presented our ideas to them. That session was really awesome, as the students were interactive. Many students had some queries with me also and that was a good time to help them with their queries. Overall, the outreach experience was very productive and effective to society and my life as well. I thank profoundly the Department of Service Learning for giving me that opportunity and it helped me to understand the **real-life experience and problems of the citizens.**

Harisha Kumar (19-UCO-327)

“I am not what happened to me, I am what I choose to become.”

— Carl Gustav Jung

SPARK-54



I am pursuing my undergraduate degree B.COM (commerce) in Loyola college, Chennai. I did my outreach in the second year, due to COVID 19 lockdown online mode was practiced. After the COVID measures were loosened by the government, our instructor PROF.MR.ANTONY SAMY instructed us to complete the outreach in offline mode. Everyone followed all the safety measures during the outreach. The outreach program has taken place in DR. THOMAS ROAD, T NAGAR. In that outreach program, He organized events like eye camp and health awareness rally walk. I have never been in that place before and learned how people lived differently in different environments I came to know slum areas like DR. Thomas Road should have some necessary campaigns to create awareness among them. I came to know that still more families are struggling even for basic needs. In outreach as a student, I mainly focused on youngsters and women. They experienced inevitable unremitting stress, such as poverty, failing education and exposure to the community, and interpersonal violence, being aware or paying attention to a task, which was very difficult for them. I have done my work with a lot of passion, but since I started the outreach program, I gained a level of awareness that also gave me a much-needed compassionate space for his own suffering and made me get closer to my identity and purpose. This program helped me to engage with different people and **get to know their pain**. By outreach, I was immersed with lots of love. Overall, this outreach program is the best experience in my life because it made me think and do more in our society.

ANISH N 20-UCO-305

“Your pain is the breaking of the shell that encloses your understanding”-Khalil Gibron

SPARK-55



The outreach programme was not only a program but it was a platform because it helps the students to interact with the people who are economically backward. We are able to know about the day-to-day life and activities of a people through this program. I have gained many good things from this outreach program. Basically, I am not a sociable person. But this has made me sociable. I was part of the Youth Development team. The team members had many conversations with the youth and little children. With the help of that conversation, we came to know the life of the youth, children, and students in the slum areas. It has improved my ability to apply what I've learned in the real world. Positive impact on my outcomes such as demonstrated complexity of understanding the people culture and lifestyle, problem analysis and problem solving. I have improved my ability to understand complexity and ambiguity. I have Improved social responsibility and citizenship skills. I have greater involvement in community service. I have greater interpersonal development, particularly the ability to work well with others, and build leadership and communication skills. I have greater sense of personal efficiency, personal identity, spiritual growth and moral development.

I thank the Department of Service Learning for guiding and teaching us many things. I acquired many skills during this outreach programme. I have learned how to interact with people and how to behave in public and with them. During this outreach, I have also learned many things from people and it will help me to work with all people from youth to elders.

Prasad (19-UBC-254)

“I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can.” George Bernard Shaw

SPARK-56



I am Kishore studied B.A. Economics in Loyola College. I belong to the group, which aims to create awareness about health issues among the common people, hear their concerns and try to take them up with the concerned authorities. In the beginning, I was apprehensive about Outreach classes, as I was not experienced in going out to ground zero and taking part in field work.

But all the nervousness was set aside through our group's weekly visits and social service in various areas in and around Tenampet, Chennai. It was very fulfilling to help so many people and observe the living conditions of various groups of people in the very city we resided and studied. The Dengue Awareness rally conducted on May 12th 2022 by our group was the most special one, as we were able to reach out to many people and educate them about the dangers of the deadly disease and the measures to prevent it. The presence of the Service Learning staff Dr.A. Baskar Jayabalan was greatly inspiring in all of the group's activities. As an individual student, I have been greatly influenced by the Outreach activities organized by the college and they have imbibed a sense of service within me. I have also gained confidence by taking part in various group activities and have learnt the importance of team work. I would like to express my gratitude to the college for organizing Service-Learning classes for the students and the Department for helping students learn the value of social service.

“Successful people have a social responsibility to make the world a better place and not just take from it.” -Carrie Underwood

SPARK-57



I am Viswanath T.A (20-UBU-055) from BBA Department A section. On March 4th 2022 Me and My class had our first field outreach class, Where we visited a slum area at Park Town, Pallavan Salai known as S.M.Nagar. There we saw many people suffering for their day-to-day life without proper food and clothes. That perked our hearts.

We were also divided into different teams to cover the whole area and asked about their needs, so that each team can help them by conducting a program. We almost did our level best to serve and got satisfied.

I personally had an opportunity to lead the teams to get organized. I was able to play a vital leadership role in this activity. As we organized events, we came to know their struggles and made our hearts feel compassionate towards the people. I could understand the real world there. MY friends personally helped many individuals after knowing their health issues. It taught me to become socially responsible citizen in the society. I do promise that I will develop this concern and deliver good services to the poor community.

“Have absolutely no sense of guilt about being happy and successful if you operate honestly and with a sense of social responsibility.”

Norman Vincent Peale

SPARK-58



I'm Hari Priya 19-UVC-052 from the visual communication department. Our Loyola management department of service-learning conducts an Outreach program. Outreach gave me an exact meaning of good citizen. A good citizen is not only following rules and paying taxes the main is helping community people may be through your money if you don't have money, it's helping community people through your knowledge. Our Outreach Professor Rathna Mam, mam divided the students into several groups based on student involvement in the outreach program. The groups are Children, Youth welfare, Elder and differently abled, Women, Health and sanitation. Here I'm on the children's team in Jothiammal Nagar. First here we started tuition for children because our main aim is for children should understand the values of education and teach them moral activities, telling them how education is important and how education changes our life so we started the tuition program every Wednesday. In tuition, our activity is clearing their school syllabus doubts. we got many positive reviews from them and as fun plus entertainment we conducted a drawing competition on 20th April 2022 in this we aimed to explore the children's talent and equally keep them entertain and engaging with us and all the participating children got the crayons and pouch which indicates everyone is born to win and all are winners and at end of the event Everyone enjoyed and thousands of smiles in their face. My Personal learning Experience is When I was there, I experienced the good comfort that the people gave from their hearts they treated me like relatives and friends and this helped me to see new paths in dealing with new people. the children in the place were so enthusiastic and energetic, the opportunities to seek their dream must be provided to them, by exposing their various fields and areas and they can select where they excel, overall, I learned many things about communicating and I'm Thanking Management for this service program.

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

SPARK-59



I am Maharani (19-uvc-017) from 3rd year B.S.C Visual communication. I did my schooling in Kendriya Vidyalaya, Anna Nagar with 85%. I have been very much interested in helping others right from my childhood days. I have been involved in many activities and programs where I served for my country and the people of my country. I have achieved many awards to mention a few - Jenesis 2019 ,Rashtrapati award from the government of India etc. . Joining Loyola college made me continue my involvement in social service and other activities where I could help people. My family is an upper middle class joint family. I have learnt a lot through my family and family members. We have the same attitude of serving and helping others. I am from Theuerkadu, Chennai.

I first developed this case study during my outreach programme. It was an incident that I would never forget in my life where I came across many things which also taught me a lot of things. This study opens up the academic dialogue of “Educating children in slum” by illuminating the roles of a student of Loyola college through this outreach programme, while awakening the urgent need of re-configuring educational policies that could benefit the society and ecosystem with humanism. Through Komala valli’s case study, this expands the research of the slum contexts Where children with a lot of interest are in need of good teachers who guide them and make them achieve what they want to.

INVOLVING IN OUTREACH ACTIVITY.

I thank Loyola college for making me do this outreach programme . This was indeed an involvement where each of us were asked to perform a different task in order to serve the people of that community. I served in Numbal ,Thiruverkadu district, Chennai . I was involved in conducting tuitions for the children of that area, conducted classes, competitions and helped them by giving away many necessary stationeries to the children in need.

BEFORE INVOLVING AND AFTER INVOLVING IN OUTREACH AND IMPACT

Before being involved in an outreach programme I had no Idea how the children from the slum struggled for studying, for a strong support and much more. But after being involved

in this outreach programme it opened my heart, mind and myself. I strengthened my qualities of humanism and started having much more responsibilities. This programme gave me a whole new experience of the slum areas and the people out there. The way they treated us,

the way they looked after me cannot be said in words. This was a very helpful programme which every citizen of India should carry forward. Our Outreach guide Rathna mam is the sole responsibility for creating such an experience.

INCIDENT :

This case study mainly focuses on a girl named Komalavalli who is one among the slum where I served. She studies in 11th std in the government. School. She is very much interested in becoming a doctor but does not have enough money to get trained for her coaching. Her mother is a housemaid and she has 3 daughters. She was very much worried about her daughter and their ambitions. Komala Valli is a girl who studies well and does well in her academics. her mother says she was not able to buy them even school bags. All the three children do not have a father and single handedly her mother is working and running their family. I helped Komala valli with her subjects and helped her. I gave her a bag. After seeing she started crying saying that this was her first new bag in her entire life and she hugged and thanked me. This was a heart touching moment for me.

LEARNINGS :

About social responsibilities.

- Importance of educating others
- Helping others and involving in other activities that benefit them
- Social and supportive environment.
- Identifying one's talent and encouraging them.

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with What I can do” Edward Everett

SPARK-60



I NANCY VINISHA. W 19-UVC-048, doing my final year in Visual Communication. I have been a member in the Children team. I had a great opportunity to take tuition for the children. I helped the children do homework and clarify their simple doubts that rose from their subjects. While we were taking tuition, we felt that children need some entertainment while they concentrate on their subjects. I took initiative to conduct drawing competition for the children.

As a member of children team, I have gained a lot of experiences and knowledge. I have got an opportunity to know the standard of living and the life situations of slum dwellers. I have decided not to grumble much. People in the slums live with minimum facilities. We are blessed more. I also had a n opportunity to provide food for the elders. People wore smile on their faces after receiving the food.

I could experience a bonding with the children. They were welcoming us with a smile. All my experiences have given me good lessons which I could not get from the usual classes. This practical life experiences have moulded me and developed my personality

“Service to society is the rent we pay for living on this planet”- Joseph Murray

SPARK-61



As a student of Loyola College, I knew about the OUTREACH program before it even began for us. Truthfully speaking initially, I didn't think a lot about the outreach program, but once it began properly my view about it started to change. The initial classes of the outreach were just online sessions. I was apprehensive that how can online classes have any impact on the community which we are trying to help. Once the college started in offline mode, I went to my first offline outreach class. It was a new experience entirely. The first session I along with my teammates went to SRTC to help the staff there with filling of disability certificate application forms of people. It was at this moment that I realized that the outreach sessions were actually helping the community. This belief got further strengthened with the upcoming outreach classes where we used to go to Samiyar Thottam, Saidapet once in a week to help the community there in different ways. We used to conduct events for them, ask them questions and they always happily complied with our requests.

The day on which I and some of my batch mates helped bring people from Samiyar Thottam to reach the college, was very insightful into the lives of those people. The happiness that was reflected on the face of the people especially after they got the help they needed, told a thousand lines about them on that day. I believe that the outreach helped both the students and the community. For the community the help was evident and common for the most part, whereas for the student the help was personal. Every student must have learned something or the other from the outreach session. As for me I came as a student who had a linear image about the underprivileged people. The image that they would be sad and dejected about their lives and their general state of affairs. I returned as a student with a different image about the people. I learned that the people had the highest belief in the hope that they can make their situation better. They were least concerned about their situation when they used to come for events. They enjoyed themselves. All these things taught me that how hope can propel oneself to get up daily and work to change their life. The people that I met during the outreach were some of the very humble and insightful people.

“As we lose ourselves in the service of others, we discover our own lives and our own happiness.”- Dieter Uchtdorf

SPARK-62



My name is Prathyoth from 3rd year, visual communication. I am a member of the women's team. We have conducted two events and awareness programs to women. They are happy to participate in the events. Generally, women have less time to relax. We encouraged them to participate in the events so that they get some free time from their daily work schedule.

We had strong support from the department, which was very encouraging. We were given ideas and had an equal opportunity to organize events and activities. I would like to share my story of bonding with Suriya, a 9-year-old boy from Jothiammal Nagar, Saidapet. He eagerly waits for my arrival and says he is excited to see me. We spent time talking to each other, since he liked to share about his day-to-day life and about his friends. He is very kind and showed a friendly attitude towards everyone. He is a sports enthusiast and enjoys singing songs. He pays attention to me when I teach him. Outreach has given me a great opportunity to interact with and get know more about people. Through

“I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change; I am changing the things I cannot accept”- Angela Davis

SPARK-63

Taking up the Outreach program this semester which happened once a week spread over the semester's time, was an experience to cherish with a tinge of joy and anguished moments which eventually led to many perceptual shattering of the viewpoint I held on to. The program was introduced and inducted on a virtual platform with explanations and details furnished about the whys, hows, and whens of the program with details added about the expectation and course outcomes. Quite a few events were hosted virtually, which made me connect with the immediate society and friends around me, and these were my initial flavours of the outreach program. With a foresee and a positive outlook for the upcoming events, in due course, the program was transitioned to in-person interactions and activities. On the very first day, my navigation skills were put to test, with the search for the location where the event was hosted, and navigating within the place's narrow lanes was a puzzling maze, and our first activity helped solve it- designing a community map for the place. This was the time I interacted with my team and planned a list of feasible events we could host for the members of the community there. Our events were focused on themes around women and their empowerment as we choose to be part of the team titled- Women Empowerment, and adding to that I was elected to lead the team. No two days were the same, each week as we meet, we go out onto the streets of this community- Samiyar thotam, Saidapet, at times we were interacting with them about their viewpoints on matters of concern, at times you may see us taking surveys, opinions, and polls on varied subjects from women in the community, and at times organizing events that were a potential platform for us to collaborate and interact with people in the community. These events were a gateway for me and my team to improve skills like coordinating, planning, and communicating as a group and taking forward the motive of the outreach program. One such day unfolded early that morning and we were asked to mobilize people from the community at samiyar thotam to our college for an event, the activity in itself demanded our patience, waiting for people and boarding them on to vehicles. As we reached the place, we were guiding them to their allotted places and we were assigned a bunch of other activities within the program that day, and finally we arranged transportation for the people to get back to their place. As a team we were able to complete it successfully and as an individual it were many learning lessons that day.

If I didn't take up the outreach program, it was more to lose than gain, I would have failed to see the myriads of people, their perspectives and viewpoint on subjects that was impractical to be taught in a classroom setup. With the freedom and wings to explore, we saw the horizon where classroom knowledge and experiences gained, could be brought into action for the human good. Working with a team that was cooperative, enthusiastic and adaptable was a boon, and instrumental for my learning experience and to be selected as the best volunteer for the team. **20-UPB-040 Somesh Skanda**

“We rise by lifting others”-Robert Ingersoll

SPARK-64



I am Harish J, 20-UMT-225 pursuing 2nd year B.Sc. mathematics. Outreach, it was a wonderful experience that I had in Loyola college. Outreach gave me a different perspective of society and I met different kinds of people. Even, my ambition is to become an IAS officer, while I am doing outreach programs, I myself thought to be a civil servant. Outreach had given me a self-satisfaction, because I have done something for the needy for those who even don't have the basic needs of life. This would not stop here, even after I became an IAS officer, I would continue this kind of social works/services in my allotted cadre as well. In this outreach program, I learned the leadership skill as well.

**"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."**

SPARK-65



This is JAGANNATHAN P 20-UMT-315 from 2nd year B.Sc. Mathematics. Here I was given an opportunity to share my experience, feedback, takeaway points, and overall understanding about this outreach program. Outreach, it is the part of our curriculum which will give the best understanding about our society. As a future citizen of our nation each and every student should possess the basic knowledge about our society. To get this understanding, our LOYOLA college has made this outreach program. With the help of this program and as well as with the help of our professor in charge Prof. M.P. Richard, it came to our reality to know more about different people with different social status. Adding to this we as an entire class learned some of the basic necessary soft skills practically such as decision making, leadership skills, alternate thinking, problem solving skills which are so important to each and every one as a future civil servant to our society. This is very important to bring equality and over all development in our motherland INDIA. Thus, India will be in the path of developed nation among other nations. The takeaway points are “we should be the voice of voiceless people”.

“We outreach students act like a bridge between the government and the people who are in very poverty. This bridge leads our government to reach better to the people who are in need”

SPARK-66



I, Sathish 19-UTL-034 witness myself with new consciousness. The outreach programmes and interventions provided a platform to develop my interpersonal and intra-personal skills like good leadership, organizing skills, communication and managerial skills by working together as a team which gradually increased my self-confidence level to face new challenges in my life. I observed and learned the interventions of outreach aims to uplift and support the deprived sections of the society of certain services and right based. I explored and learned to give myself in giving, learning, social planning, health support programmes for the elders and differently-abled especially now I am proud to witness that I can register any disabled person for the UDID card since I have got the training from experts for the same from the Department of Empowerment of persons with disability.

I also volunteer for other welfare initiatives that was organized by my peers in the community. Now on my way to life I started to volunteer for any welfare programmes to build the goodwill of more pathways for the betterment of our society. I thank the college management and my professors from Department of Service Learning for making us to be a steward of change.

“The greatest discovery of all time is that a person can change his future by merely changing his attitude” -Oprah Winfrey

SPARK-67



I'm Samuel 20-UCH-010 from Department of Chemistry (second year). My Outreach course staff in-charge is Prof. Amala Anandhi. She allotted Pushpa Nagar near our college as our Outreach area. At the Beginning, we were divided into 5 various teams. I was one of the members in Health and Sanitation team. When the time came to proceed our work, I felt hesitant to interact with the people's living there. But the soothing and Warming Nature of the people made me to feel them like my fellow being.

Throughout the year, it is a two-way learning they helped us a lot to gather information about them with their active cooperation for our interventions and we planned and executed many voluntary works which we'd like to enact in that area. We have conducted many Programs which includes Summer Awareness program, Rallies, Career Guidance for people's and etc. All these activities really sculpted me as a person in my life. I've learnt that if people and students were joined together as two hands in body. There is nothing impossible in this world to be happen.

Even though we have been segregated as Various Teams the only one person who united us as a single **Volunteering Body** is our Beloved Mam. She shares the work one amongst another and she make sure that every person is working in our team. Actually, we felt very fortunate and favoured to have that people as well as our Mam in that course. This Outreach program literally unveiled and revealed another side of the society where we are not familiar with. I'm heartfully applauding the Outreach Department for rendering their Service to the Society and to make the Future Society like us to engage with them in their work.

'Play to your strengths. If you aren't great at something, do more of what you're great at.' -Jason Lemkin

SPARK-68



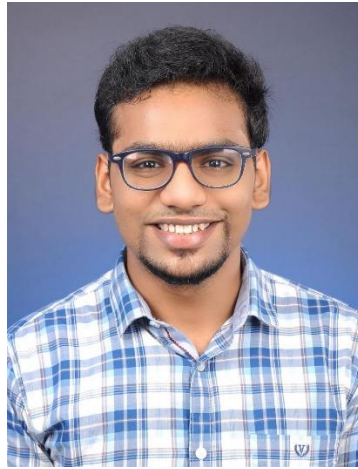
I'm Joe Marino Miranda from the 2nd UG batch from Department of Physics. During this Academic year, I was participating in the Outreach program which is a wonderful part of our college. I was allotted East Namachivayapuram to do my Outreach program. I learnt a lot from this Outreach program. I got an experience in doing social works and the deep process in doing it.

Every time, I go to East Namachivayapuram, get to know more about the life there, while talking with the people over there, I get a new understanding towards life. Since, I'm the Class Representative of my class, I also got to develop my leadership skills, be it organizing events, creating a Database of the people, motivating my fellow Classmates while doing Field work. The Outreach program has made me a better Leader and human. I thank my Outreach professor, Amala Anandhi ma'am for her endless support she gave us during the Outreach program. Without her, I wouldn't have made such progress.

'Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.' -

Harriet Tubman

SPARK-69



My name is Stephen Bernard, I am a second-year student in B.A. Sociology. The fieldwork I had done during my *Outreach program* helped me to work and interact with the *poor and downtrodden sections of our society. I was involved in being one with the poor children, playing educational games and giving them gifts to encourage them.

I also endeavoured to help *women realize their hidden potential/ talents* and this awareness helped to change their lives little by little and thus I enjoyed my Outreach project. Initially I felt shy to interact in public but the Outreach experience helped me to overcome my inhibitions. I also had a good experience in working with the children and in *women's empowerment. express my heartfelt gratitude to my faculty for encouraging and supporting me in this Outreach Program and the College Management for giving me this great opportunity. Stephen Bernard (20 – USO-035)

“To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” -Winston Churchill

SPARK-70



I'm Divya L pursuing my M.Sc. Food chemistry and food processing in Loyola College, Chennai. Department of service learning of Loyola college conducts an urban intervention program as part of outreach. It gave me an opportunity to visit Gandhi Nagar slum located near Chennai Central. It made me understand various types of barriers that pose direct and indirect threat to the livelihood of the slum dwellers. I observed their habitat, lifestyle, education and occupation which are the basic necessities for living. The houses in the surrounding were very much compact and the streets were going around the area like a maze. The premises lacked proper hygiene and sanitation. Those people lacked knowledge on keeping the environment clean and tidy. The garbage was dumped all around the streets. Most of the houses lacked proper bathroom facility. There is no regular and proper employment among the male population. Most of them work for daily wages. Food is another important necessity for living. These people were deprived of nutritious foods. They were highly dependent on public distribution system (ration shops). They were utilizing the basic food ingredients provided through ration shops for their meals. Overall, the living quality of these people was extremely low. The habitat was inevitable for living. People should be encouraged even more to acquire education and be aware of their own self and the society.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

-Nelson Mandela

SPARK71

Outreach is an integral part of the Loyola curriculum. It focuses on creating men and women for society and for others. It gave new experience and a very new perspective about life. We started our outreach this year with online classes, we were shown videos and taught about the situation of people who live in slums. In spite of COVID the college made sure we get the real experience to look at the reality of people. We had an outreach visit once every week to the Varadharajapuram government slum board. Every time we visited; we had a takeaway for life. We conducted 5 programs in our area, Christmas Day, Youth Day, Eye Camp, Elders Day and Women's Day. I would like to mention three important takeaways and the transformation I experienced from the program. First, I learned to be socially aware. To look around me and help the needy. And work for the people and the society. Seeing people work hard for every day food, taught me to value mine and I saw five families living in a single home which made me value my homes. I saw people suffering from various other problems and addictions which made me value the importance of life. I saw children struggling to go to schools which made me value education. I saw a different world before my eyes which made me aware of my life and gave me a heart to be part of their lives.

Second, it helped me to be more grateful, to thank every small blessing I have in life and to share that joy and happiness with others. I heard hundreds of stories, every single person living there had so many stories to share. They have seen the most difficult part of life and still continue to live in hope and share the love with others. Which made me realize the importance of people around me and my beautiful life.

And finally, I learned to be more patient. I felt going to outreach in this hot sun for an hour is the toughest thing, but I was able to feel the situation of people who live there and undergo the situation every day. People live there without homes, proper toilets, water facilities, electricity, proper education for their children, medicines and so many other basic things. They still are working hard to create their own lives. It was all very small things but that made a very big change in all my perspectives and behavior. I was able to see the transformation in me after every single class. From just going for attendance to finding my happiness, I grew in thoughts and actions. It helped me look at life from other's perspective and take action for others to grow with me. The learning I had in this will stay with me for life and I will continue to contribute to society and the betterment of every person I meet in need.

“There is nothing permanent except change.” -Heraclitus

SPARK-72



Loyola is known for its Life education as it provides a holistic formation for the students. The outreach program at Loyola has been a very touching experience for me. Even though we were familiar with empathy before we came into Loyola, the outreach program was the next level in making us kind and generous human beings. Growing up in an upper middle-class family, my life was not hard in any way. In fact, most of the things I have in my life are almost considered luxury. The outreach program in Loyola has opened my eyes to a different way of living. We are all so invested in saving something for the future but during the field visits to Varadharajapuram slum in Egmore, I saw people living for daily wages. A lifestyle which seemed so beyond our capacities but however I realized nothing is impossible and learnt that need-based consummation can help us live better.

The way they welcomed us into their homes even without knowing who we were makes me understand what kindness and simplicity is and how we can be more considerate towards others. I believe these are the important little things in life that we ought to experience instead of ignoring people while staying inside closed doors. Moreover, the elders and differently abled people in the slum were also employed in some way or the other for their survival. This makes me think about the kind of motivation they have for life and gives me more strength to lead a well yielding life which benefits us as well as others.

We also had a chance to see young people drawn into addictions very soon in life. How they lead a life that destroys them. We saw families that were very badly affected due to these addictions. We offered them the little help we could even though we were not part of their journey. The feeling of being useful somewhere made us realize the importance of social awareness by which we can help many in need whenever we are able to.

Finally, in an intention to make the lives of people better, we arranged a lot of programs for the different age groups of the slum. We celebrated Christmas with the school children and we shared the joy of giving with them by organizing coloring competitions and distributing coloring materials. These children were so enthusiastic in participating and enjoyed every step. They made me understand the joy of living a carefree life even though we had so many setbacks in life. We celebrated Women's Day and Elder's Day in the slum where we saw many women and elders seizing every opportunity to make a difference in each other's

lives. Finally, we organized an eye check-up camp for the people in the slum as one of the health care initiatives. I am really happy that we were a part of this wonderful experience in which I felt very useful. It also motivates me to be of service to the poor and needy in the future.

By Christellal A C, 19-UFR-009, BA French Literature, Loyola College, Chennai

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new” -Socrates



*Service to others is the rent you
pay for your room here on
Earth*