

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034

Department of Service Learning Sports meet for Physically and Mentally Challenged Children

Second year Students from department of English, Tamil and History are about 23; since they were differently abled. They were assigned to organise Sports meet for Physically and Mentally Challenged Children from 41 outreach intervention slums identified across Chennai. Prof. Rathna and Prof. Jaiprakash had motivated and guided them throughout the event. Though the staff members of Department of Service Learning had collected data of number of physically challenged people from the slums, the students and professors in charge were not able to organise because it was planned to organise it in the Loyola campus.

Staff members of Department of Service Learning and students had less experience to handle persons with disabilities (physically and mentally challenged) for any public events. Therefore, professors have decided to conduct an event for persons with disabilities from NGOs / institutions.

Mr. Parthasarathy Memorial Trust and Night shelter for disabled were the two organisations invited for the sports meet initiated by the 2nd year students of Department of Service Learning, Loyola College, Chennai - 34.

Students were divided into many committees such as organising committee, food committee, travel committee, certificate and prizes committee, and documentation committee.

Each committee had involved in the preparation and execution of their activities during the event. Travel committee had arranged van to pick those challenged people and reached the Foot ball ground, Loyola College by 12.45 pm. Food committee had arranged lunch for all participants by 12.30 pm. Organising team had arranged the schedule for the program.

Following were the sports events conducted for Physically and Mentally Challenged Children.

1. Running race for wheel chair users
2. Running race for mentally challenged - Boys
3. Running race for mentally challenged - Girls
4. Musical chair for Mentally challenged
5. Passing ball for mentally challenged
6. Passing ball for wheel chair users
7. Ball throw for mentally challenged
8. Passing ball for staff and volunteers

After all the events got over, certificates and prizes were distributed to the winners. These events were organised with the support of physical education director Mr. Pazhani. 2nd year Students were very happy about the programme. Through that they learnt organising and communications skills.

The only disability in life is bad attitude" - Scott Himilton