



LOYOLA COLLEGE CHENNAI

COVID - 19 RELIEF WORK

NEWSLETTER

SWIFT ACTION

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE LEARNING (OUTREACH)

From the desk of the Director

A word of Appreciation

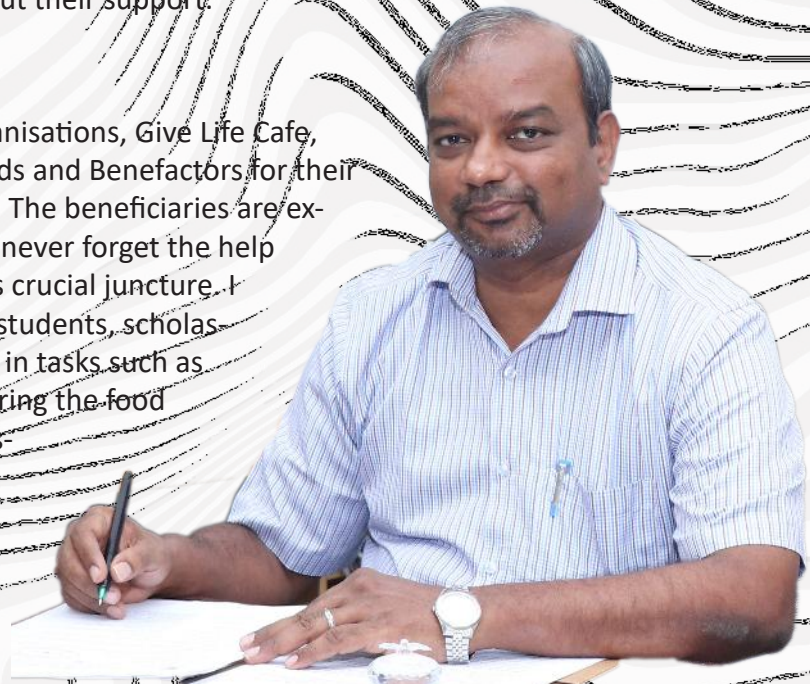
The Department of Service learning has always responded in a diligent and responsible manner whenever the people in different parts of the city or country have been affected or devastated by natural calamities like tsunami, cyclone, and floods etc., the department felt that it is their responsibility to respond in an apt manner to the economic consequences of the pandemic. The department is working in 41 substandard settlements and it is a difficult and humongous task to help everyone who has been affected by the pandemic. But the department thought they could at least try to help the most deserving and needy who were living in the 41 intervention areas of the department. This book talks about the relief work undertaken by the department and it talks in detail about how the relief materials were distributed to the most affected and deprived among the people living in the intervention areas of the department.

I appreciate all the Faculty members of the Department of Service Learning for being a part of the relief work and also the community volunteers from different substandard settlements who were meticulous and supportive in ensuring that the relief materials were distributed to the most deserving people in the slums. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Rector, Rev. Fr. Secretary and Rev. Fr. Principal for their encouragement and support towards this initiative of the department. The relief operation would never have been possible without their support.

I thank all the donors and funding organisations, Give Life Cafe, World Vision, Action Aid, Alumni Friends and Benefactors for their overwhelming support and generosity. The beneficiaries are extremely grateful to them and they will never forget the help that has been rendered to them at this crucial juncture. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of the students, scholastics and volunteers who were involved in tasks such as loading, unloading, packing and delivering the food materials. The relief materials were distributed timely without any hindrance or delay due to the tireless efforts of everyone.

Thanking You,

Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J
Director, Department of Service Learning (Outreach)



“லயோலா கல்லூரிக்கு நன்றி”

(A word of thanks from the community)

“Everyone who received the relief materials were widows just like my mother” said Preethi who thanked on behalf of her widowed mother Ms Gandhinathi a domestic worker from New Boopathy nagar slum in Chetpet. “Helping our family during difficult times makes us feel that Loyola college is another mother to us” – Preethi

Life was not that much easy for the Thirty two year old Ms Devi in Anna nagar, Saidapet slum. With two children aged 7 and 12 and missing her domestic work income the pandemic pushed her into further more financial crisis. “Just a word of thank you alone can’t be sufficient” expressed Devi since she received the timely help from Loyola Outreach department when it mattered most.

“வாழ் நாளிலும் மறக்கமாட்டேன்” (Won’t forget this throughout my lifetime) was the words expressed with tears from Mariyammam an elderly women from J.J.Nagar, a slum in Dr.Thomas road. Being a domestic worker the sudden lockdown created a financial crisis and her day today life turned into a challenge for her. The timely help received from Loyola Outreach Department made some immediate difference among twelve members like her in her area.

“It was very much helpful because we received it during the time of no work, no income and no support” said Ms Pavun a widow from South Boag Road slum who was one among the twenty five beneficiaries from her area. Having a son and daughter and being the bread winner for the family, the pandemic made her lose her income. “I don’t know how I would have managed without your help and support” said Pavun in a humble tone.



DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE LEARNING THE LOCKDOWN AND IT'S IMPACT

The lockdown which has been imposed by the Government has had a tremendous impact on the economy and the people living in informal settlements. The Service Learning department (Outreach) is doing its intervention in 43 informal settlements of zones 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 13. The people living in these intervention areas are mainly unskilled and semi-skilled workers as well as people who work in the unorganized sector and are primarily involved in doing physically demanding jobs. These people are definitely out of work during the lockdown and they hardly have any savings which could help them during times like these. A majority of the women who work in our intervention areas are working as domestic workers in houses.

'GIVING IS NOT JUST MAKING A DONATION ITS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE'



'WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS'



DEPARTMENT OF SERVICE LEARNING – RESPONSE

The sudden lockdown enforced by the State and Central Governments literally left the poor and needy in dire straits. Almost all the Professors in the Department of Service Learning were getting frantic calls from the intervention slums as the situation was getting worse day by day. Most of them were daily wagers and they were shattered when they came to know that the lockdown will continue and extend for months if needed.

That's when Rev.Fr.Louis Arookiaraj, S.J, Director, Department of Service Learning, contacted us. He told us that "we should not let the people down and with the assistance of Loyola Management, we should somehow help them". The staff members were requested to identify the most needed beneficiaries from slums along with their address and contact numbers. All the outreach professors contacted their community leaders from slums and prepared the most deserving who were in urgent need of assistance, had sent it to the Director through what's App. Meanwhile Loyola College successfully received dry ration from donors and NGOs. Later it was distributed to the deserving and needy people in three phases at the assigned date and time.

The department reached out to 895 families during its relief operations which were implemented in three different phases during the months of April and May 2020. During the first phase, the department reached out to 350 beneficiaries and in the second phase it was 325 families and in the third phases it were 220 families, which meant that 895 families had received relief materials.

People thanked the Loyola Management for taking efforts to provide such quality assistance, that too during the Covid-19 pandemic, which was really a timely assistance.

Three Phases:

Phase – I	350 Beneficiaries
Phase – II	325 Beneficiaries
Phase – III	220 Beneficiaries
Total	895 Beneficiaries

DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF MATERIALS TO OUTREACH INTERVENTION AREAS (COVID-19 LOCKDOWN) - PHASE I



The department had distributed relief materials to 350 beneficiaries in 14 Outreach intervention area of Kodambakkam, Central, Chetpet, Saidapet, Chindatrinpet, Egmore, T. Nagar, Teynampet and Koyambedu, from 13th April to 22nd April 2020 during the first phase of Relief Operations.

The relief materials were distributed to Twenty five beneficiaries from each Outreach Intervention area. Most of the 350 beneficiaries were widows and domestic workers and a significant number of beneficiaries were elderly women who were not getting the support and assistance from their Sons/daughters or grandchildren. The relief materials were distributed through the support of Community leaders and volunteers of the Intervention areas. The community volunteers and leaders were involved in the identification of the most deserving and needy people in the intervention area.





Rev. Dr. Louis Arockiaraj, the Director of Service Learning department and two faculty members of the department were involved in planning, identifying and ensuring that the relief materials were distributed to the most deserving beneficiaries after the provision kits were picked up by the volunteers from the college campus. The volunteers would come to the college campus to collect the relief materials in their rented vehicles and the faculty members also used the college vehicle (the vehicle which has been rented to the college by a donor for the purpose of distribution) to pick up the relief materials and distribute it to the beneficiaries. The relief material kits (provision kits) were given along with the document which contained the list of beneficiaries to the community leader or volunteer who would come to the college campus to collect the relief materials. Three faculty members also went to the intervention area to distribute the relief materials to the beneficiaries. The community volunteers or faculty members who were involved in the distribution, got the signatures of the beneficiaries after they had received their relief materials (provision kits) in the intervention area. The people were very happy and thanked the college management for distributing the relief materials to them at this critical juncture. It was a good and rewarding experience for all the people involved in the process of distributing the relief materials, as there was a sense of comfort in knowing that we were able to respond to the concerns of the needy at least in a meaningful way.



DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF MATERIALS TO OUTREACH INTERVENTION AREAS (COVID-19 LOCKDOWN) - PHASE II



During the second phase of distribution the relief materials were distributed to 275 beneficiaries in 16 intervention areas of Kodambakkam, Central/Chetpet, Saidapet, Chindripet, Egmore, T. Nagar, Teynampet and Villivakkam. The relief materials were distributed to around ten/ fifteen/ twenty five or thirty beneficiaries from each of these 16 Outreach Intervention area. The beneficiaries were widows and domestic workers, elderly women, differently abled individuals and daily wage earners. The relief materials were distributed through the support of Community leaders and volunteers of the Intervention areas. The community volunteers and leaders, along with the Faculty members were involved in the identification of the most deserving and needy people in the intervention area.

The relief materials had to be packed into different provision kits. The rice that we received from the donors were in 25 Kg rice bags and hence it had to be packed into 5 Kg rice bags. The packed 5 Kg Rice bags, along with 1 kg of Wheat, 1 Kg of dal and a bag which contained essential grocery items like packets of sugar, tamarind, garlic, turmeric, masala items, soap and other essential items was packed into a big bag which consisted of all the above items. Thus 275 relief material bags were packed with the support of students and Volunteers. Packing was the most difficult process and it was done for three days (6th, 7th and 9th May 2020) with the support of the following students and faculty members



The packed relief materials were then distributed on 8th and 11th May 2020 to the community volunteers who came with their vehicles/hired vehicles to collect the relief materials from the college. Fr. Director and the Faculty members

of Service Learning handed over the relief material kits (30 provision kits) with the document which contained the list of beneficiaries to the community leader or volunteer who would come to the college campus to collect the relief materials. The community volunteers who were



involved in the distribution, got the signatures of the beneficiaries after they had received their relief materials (provision kits) in the intervention area.

**THE GOOD NEIGHBOR LOOKS BEYOND THE
EXTERNAL ACCIDENTS AND DISCERNS
THOSE INNER QUALITIES
THAT MAKE ALL MEN HUMAN AND
THEREFORE, BROTHERS.**

- MARTIN LUTHER KING



DISTRIBUTION OF RELIEF MATERIALS TO OUTREACH INTERVENTION AREAS (COVID-19 LOCKDOWN) - PHASE III

The Department of Service Learning was involved in the third phase of distribution of relief materials to beneficiaries in the Outreach intervention areas from 22nd to 28th May 2020. The relief materials were provided by Action Aid, an Indian organization which works for social and ecological justice. Through Action Aid the Department of service learning received 220 relief material kits which were distributed to beneficiaries in the Outreach Intervention areas of Service Learning Department.



Third Phase of distribution of relief materials - Action Aid During the third phase of relief material distribution, the department of Service Learning was able to reach out to the families of another 220 beneficiaries through the generous support of Action Aid and its partnering organizations. The community leaders were again involved in identifying the most vulnerable people belonging to different intervention areas which were not covered during Phase I and Phase II of the relief operations. The target groups of beneficiaries were widows, deserted women, domestic workers, differently-abled, senior citizens, and unorganized daily wage earners who have been deprived of earning opportunities during the lockdown.

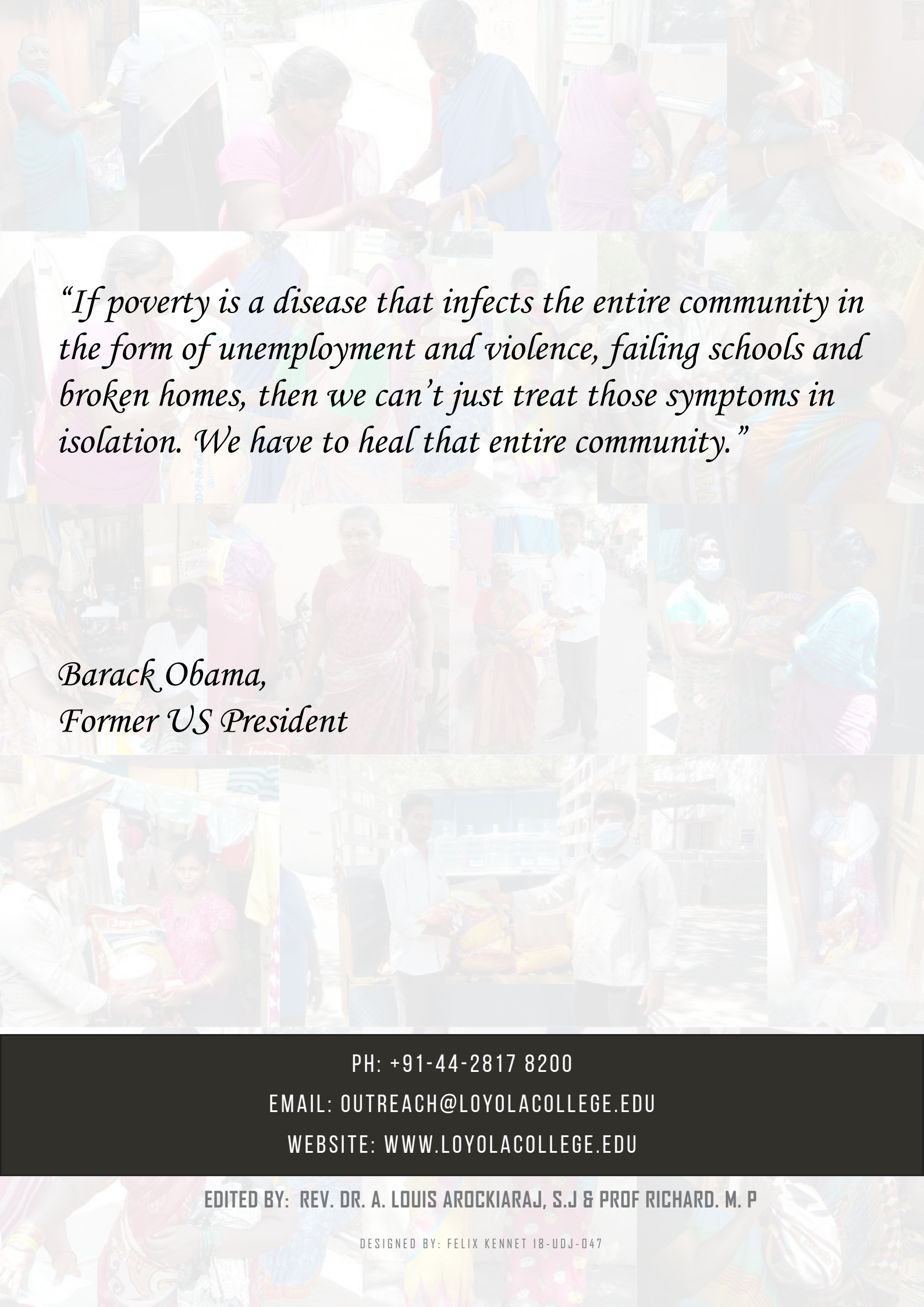




The beneficiaries chosen for the relief operations (220 beneficiaries) were from the slums and informal settlements of Kodambakkam, Central Chetpet, Saidapet, Chindatripet, T.Nagar, Teynampet and Avyanavaram. The community leaders and volunteers of the intervention areas came to the college in rented vehicles to collect the relief materials. Eleven community volunteers had each received 20 provision kits (to be distributed to beneficiaries) and these provision kits had been handed over to 220 beneficiaries in different intervention areas on 25th and 26th May 2020.

Thus eleven community volunteers had each received 20 provision kits (to be distributed to beneficiaries) and these provision kits had been handed over to 220 beneficiaries in different intervention areas on 25th and 26th May 2020. The community volunteers who were involved in the distribution, got the phone numbers and address details along with their signatures of the beneficiaries after they had received their relief materials (provision kits) in the intervention area. The people felt grateful for the help rendered through ACTION AID as they feel that they can sustain their lives for a few more days and take care of the most essential needs of their family members.





“If poverty is a disease that infects the entire community in the form of unemployment and violence, failing schools and broken homes, then we can’t just treat those symptoms in isolation. We have to heal that entire community.”

*Barack Obama,
Former US President*

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