

22nd - 27th | Nov. 2010

outreach

a soul stirring journey



M.A. Media Arts - M.Sc Chemistry - M.Sc Vis. Com



Thank You.

Our sincere thanks to the Management, the Outreach Department and the College Staff without whom we would have never had this much insight about rural areas.

- The Students

Six days in Simple Synopsis

November 22nd, 2010 –

The first day started with the orientation at the MRF Hall, Biotechnology Department in Loyola College. There were three extraordinary speakers who laid the road for this unforgettable journey. The students were enlightened about how to behave with the rural people, the aim and objectives of the camp and how to achieve them. After lunch the students assembled at the Main Library and the journey to Neerpair began. There was a halt at a place called Pattalam where the students had a small break with some refreshments. The final halt was at Neerpair at 7.30pm where the students were welcomed by Rev. Fr. Selvam of St. John's Home for the Children in Need. Fr. Selvam is also the Correspondent of Dr. Arulappa Higher Secondary School.

After the welcome, the students were provided dinner and then they had ice breaking sessions which helped to increased rapport between the three departments. Students were divided into committees for work purposes and into teams for village visits. The process helped the students a lot more to mingle with each other.



ICE BREAKING SESSION



A CLICK FROM THE MORNING PRAYER SESSION

NOVEMBER 23RD, 2010

The second day morning started with the praying session led by Brother Sheise and his team. After the session Mr. John Kaviarasu gave instructions about the basic etiquettes the students must follow while visiting the villages. The session was followed by a group activity where students were given a task of constructing an ideal village in their respective allotted spaces. That activity continued till lunch. The afternoon session was taken over by Mr. Arockiaraj, Headmaster of Dr. ARULAPPA MEMORIAL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL. The success story of their school inspired all the young minds and kindled their spirits. The students were then asked to exhibit and explain the ideal villages. There was also a debate later in the evening about which village was the best ideal village and why? The representatives from each team defended their village well and the debate was very interactive.



IDEAL VILLAGE EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 24TH, 2010

The third day started with the prayer and the first session was handled by Fr. Gladston, Assistant Director of Outreach, who had come all the way from Chennai to meet the students. Following this the students had an interaction with Mr. Albert who was assigned with the responsibility to guide the students to their respective villages. There were five teams and each of the team went to a different village. The students took the road by walk instead of travelling by buses which helped them to witness many more things on the way. The students spent the whole day interacting with the villagers and knowing about their issues. The last session of the day was documentaries screening. The students saw some soul moving documentaries about the tragic conditions of the rural people across the country.



THE DEBATE FOR THE IDEAL VILLAGE

NOVEMBER 25TH, 2010

After the morning prayers the students set out for a different set of villages. The students were even more well planned for the second visit and their was an increase in their interest to know more about the functioning of the villages. The students spent yet another day with the villagers and this time some students also tried their hands in some works by helping and working along with the villagers in farming and making fence. The evening session started with a pleasant surprise were Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy, Deputy Principal of Loyola College came to visit the students. He interacted with the students and a representative from each department shared their views and feelings about the camp and the village visits. The session ended with a prayer for the upliftment of the villages.

NOVEMBER 26TH, 2010

The penultimate day of the camp started with prayer. Everyone were asked about their life's resolution and many students came up with some brilliant resolutions. All the five teams were asked to prepare a skit depicting their village visit. After lunch the students went to Dr. ARULAPPA MEMORIAL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL to stage their skits amidst the students. The program was a real surprise for the school children and the school teachers. The students also got their rewards in the form of overwhelming applauses. The program was presided over by the School Correspondent Rev. Fr. Selvam, The Principal Mr. Arockiasamy, and college staff Mr. John Kaviarasu, Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Varghese Riju. Father Selvam praised the students for their effort and thanked them for the skit and also encouraged the school children to study well.



**CHART PRESENTATION BY
THE STUDENTS.**



STUDENTS PERFORMING FOR THE SCHOOL STUDENTS



NOVEMBER 27TH, 2010

The final day made everyone heavy at the heart and our students and the children at the home were really sad that they had to depart. The children bid adieu to their new friends with innocent smiles, the same way how they welcomed them. The students unanimously accepted that it was a journey that will never be forgotten.

the camp

ASSIMILATION

Neerpair is a village in Kancheepuram district and comes under the Taluk of Madurandagam. Neerpair is surrounded by many adjacent villages like Neelamangalam, Vilaangaadu, Kokkaranthangal, Pazhavur, Puthur, Karikkalthangal, Pooriyambaakam and Thodunaadu. All these small villages mainly depend on four places – Chithamoor – for emergency health problems, Madhuranthagam – for all basic needs, Puthoorakkottai and Melmaruvathur – for petrol.



LUSHY GREEN FIELDS OF NEERPAIR

It was clear that these villages are in a transition state, as most of the people are slowly moving to concrete houses from thatched houses. The people are god fearing, loyal to their political leaders, keen to work and develop, and have an urge to educate their kids atleast till higher secondary. Castes are still prevalent. No disputes due to castes or religion, but people still fight for various reasons with their neighbours. Untouchability is still silently followed. All houses have DTH connections and mobile phones and most houses have two wheelers. Agriculture is the main source of income. Horticulture is also done in small amounts.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME – “AN INVITATION FOR A NEWER SOCIAL COMMITMENT”

For students who were mostly exposed only to city life, Outreach programme gave a new perspective. It gave the students a new social platform to stretch help to the villages in terms of awareness about sanitation, politics and social problems. It also helped the students to know about the culture and nativity of the villages. Its sensitized the students and increased their thirst to know more about the rural areas.



STALIN WITH THE CHILDREN.

COMPASSIONATE LOVE FOR THE POOR.

It was clear that mere sympathy would not suffice. Students had to show empathy and be one of them. Students went inside their homes, heard their woes and problems and felt what they felt. Laughed with them when they shared their joy and ate what they offered with so much love. Played with the village children, went to the fields to see the people working there. Students were welcomed warmly and they were never looked as trouble makers.

THE METHODOLOGY

SESSIONS

Students had sessions on all six days of the outreach program. The first day's Session were held at MRF Hall and was mainly dedicated to orient the students towards the programme. At Neerpair, students had pre visit and post visit sessions from the faculty and also other resource persons. The sessions gave an idea of how to carry out the visits and the post visit sessions helped the students to share their experience and discuss about the pros and cons comparing cities and villages.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

Documentary films were filmed during the third day after the village visit. They were

1. Agaram – Importance of educating females
2. Where's my dinner? – The poverty of the villages of Northern and Central India.
3. The Journey – How a boy's journey shifts from education to child labour.

The documentaries helped the students to analyse the condition of the villages and to really know what is real about villages and what is not.

GAMES

Students were engaged in games after every session to energise themselves. Games helped the students to team up, co-operate at the same time know well about each other and have fun. Games were the main source of ice breaking. They also developed the relation between the three departments.

VILLAGE VISIT

The students were divided into five different groups and each group visited different set of villages. In two days the students were able to visit ten different villages. Students were asked to travel by walk to know much more about the surroundings and behaviour. Students visited the houses of most of the villagers, interacted with them, ate with them, and few also worked with them. Students spent atleast six hours in the villages on each day of the visit. The village visit seemed to change the outlook of many students who dwelled from cities. Students tried to create awareness about politics, sanitation and social problems.

CELEBRATING UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The students were from different places, were of different religions, and spoke different languages yet they stayed together happily, ate with each other and mingled without any bias.

RELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS

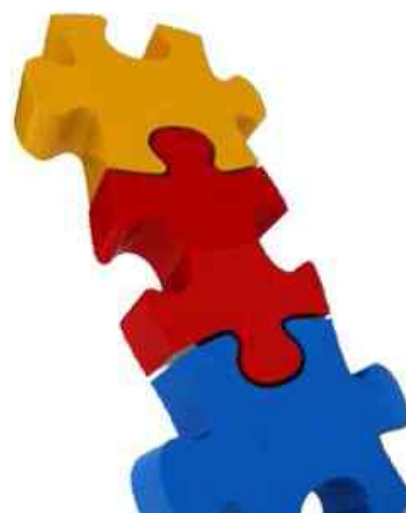
Professors and students maintained a healthy relationship. They treated the students well and at times they had to show their superiority. They ate with the students and also played and taught games.

RELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS

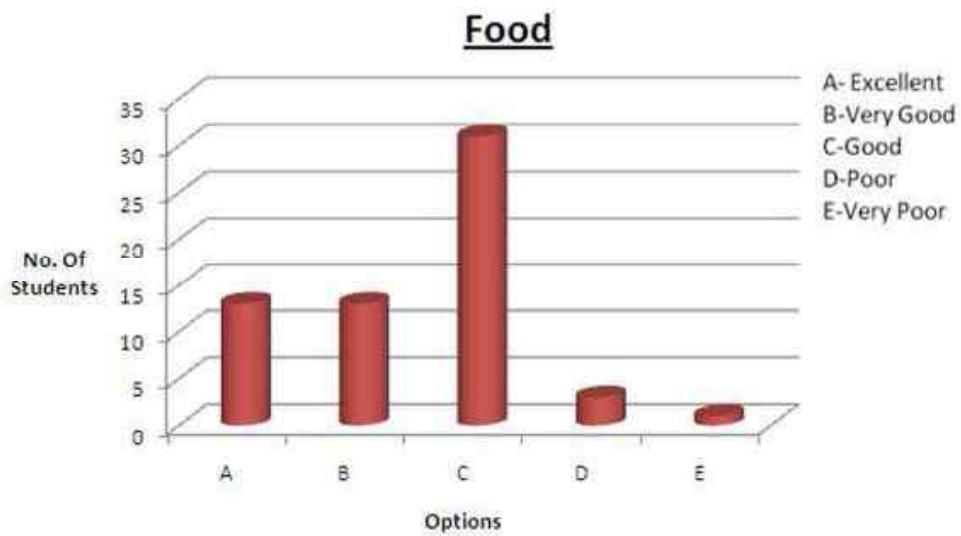
The students from different departments were shuffled and split into committees and village visit teams. At times of competitions the students encouraged their team mates instead of their classmates. Students showed a lot of promise to do something for the society.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENTS AND THE VILLAGERS

Students were so happy to visit the villages and the villagers were also happy to share their experiences with the students. They greeted the students warmly and never showed any restraint in any manner. The students were really able to live their lives for a few hours.

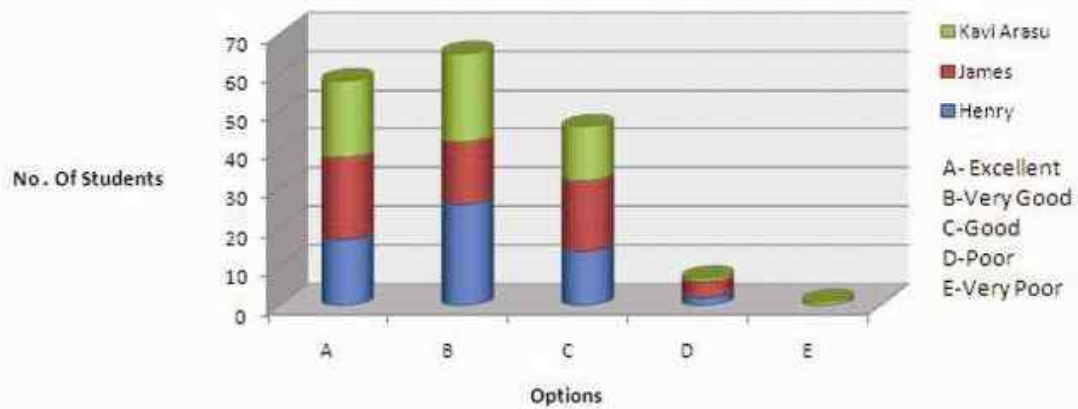


What do the graphs say?

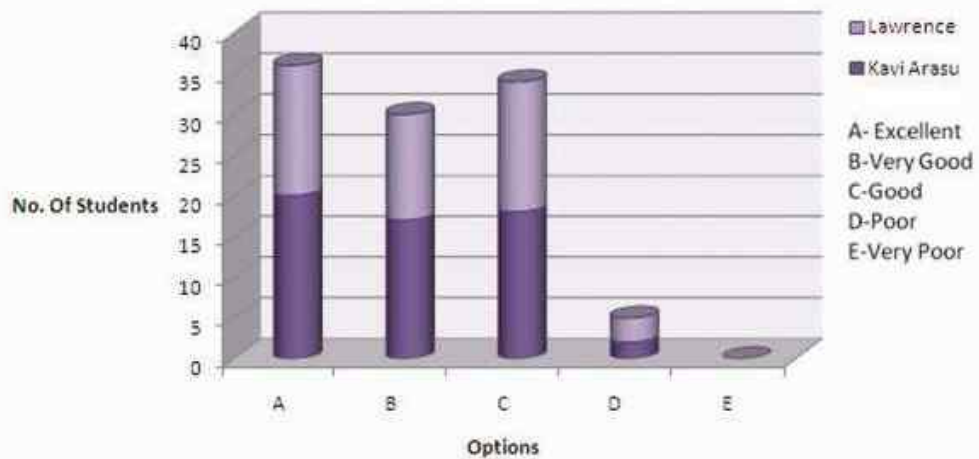


What do the graphs say?

Resource Person-Orientation Session

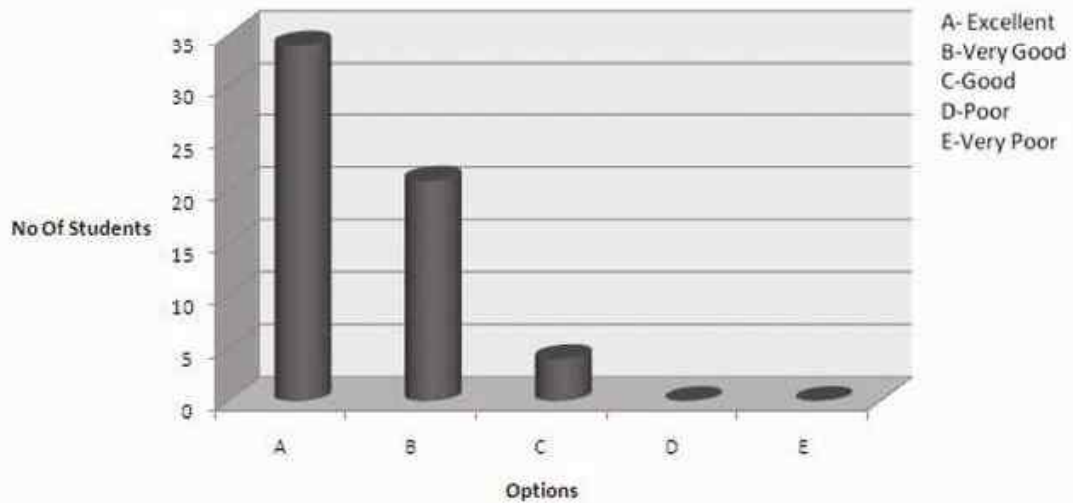


Resource Person-Summing up Session

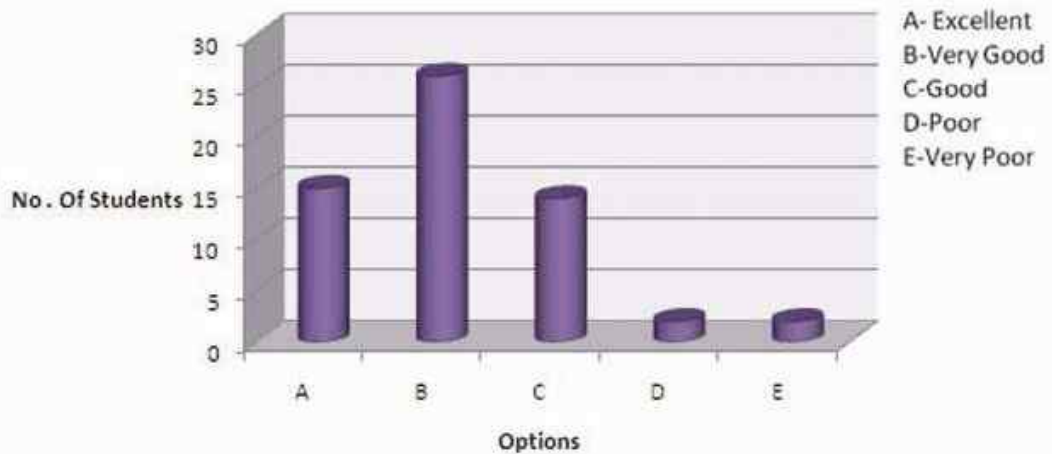


What do the graphs say?

Rural Visits And Interaction With Villagers

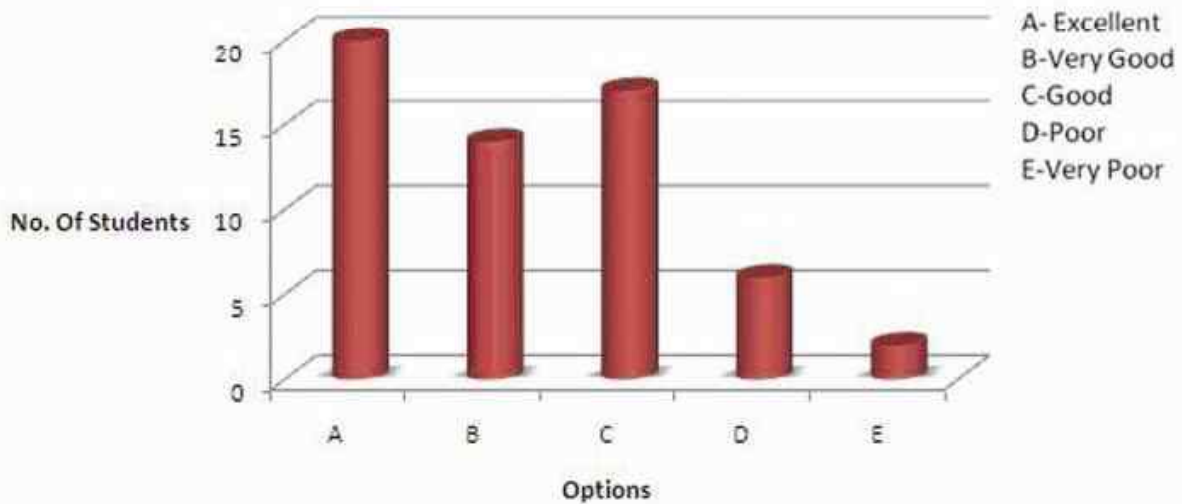


Cultural Programme At Village

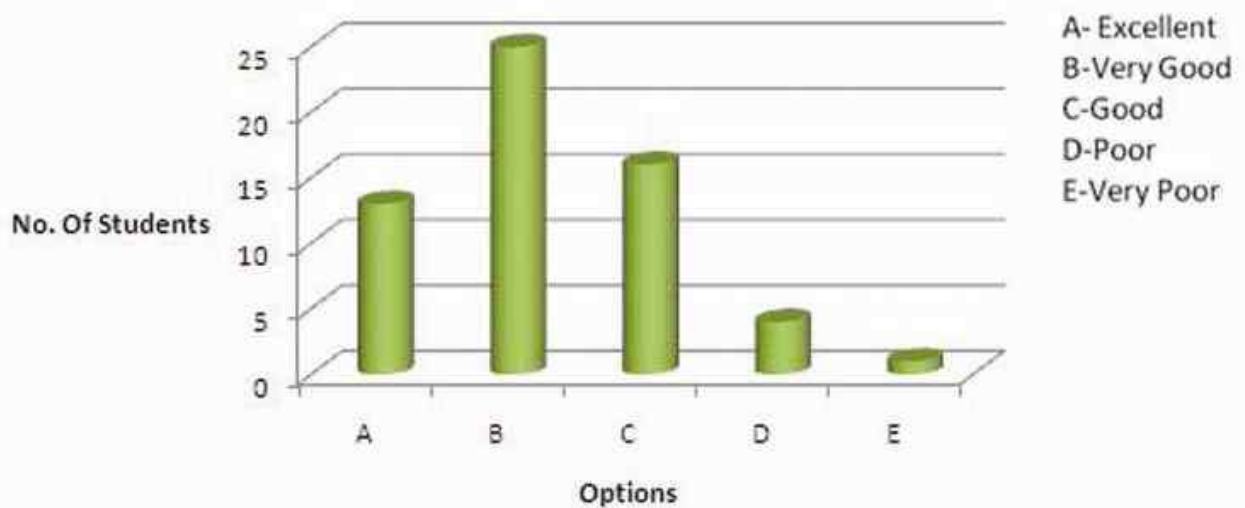


What do the graphs say?

Documentary Films

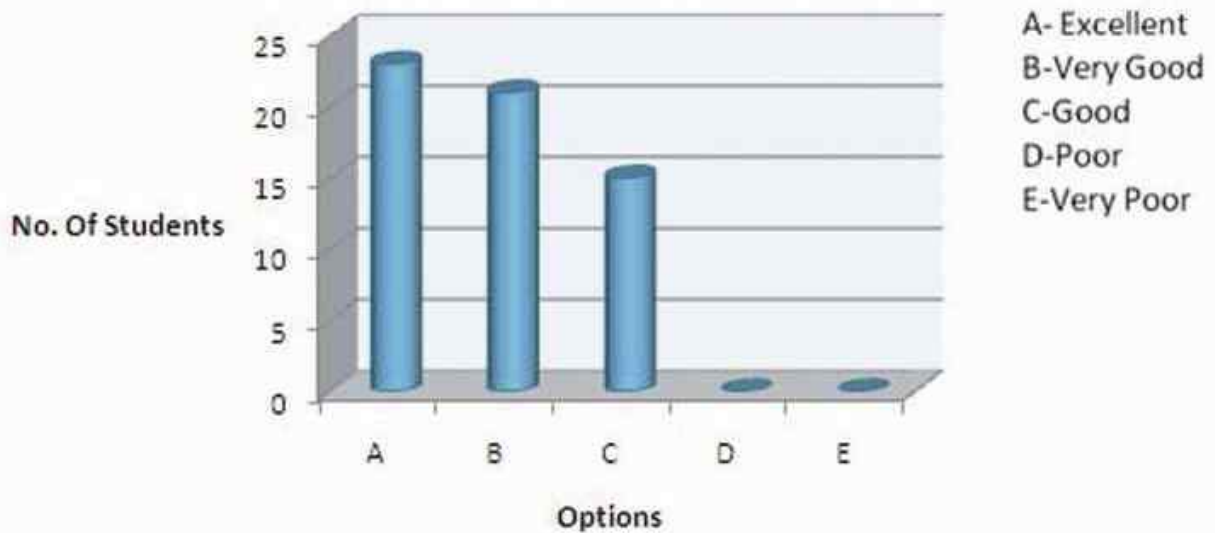


Manual Work

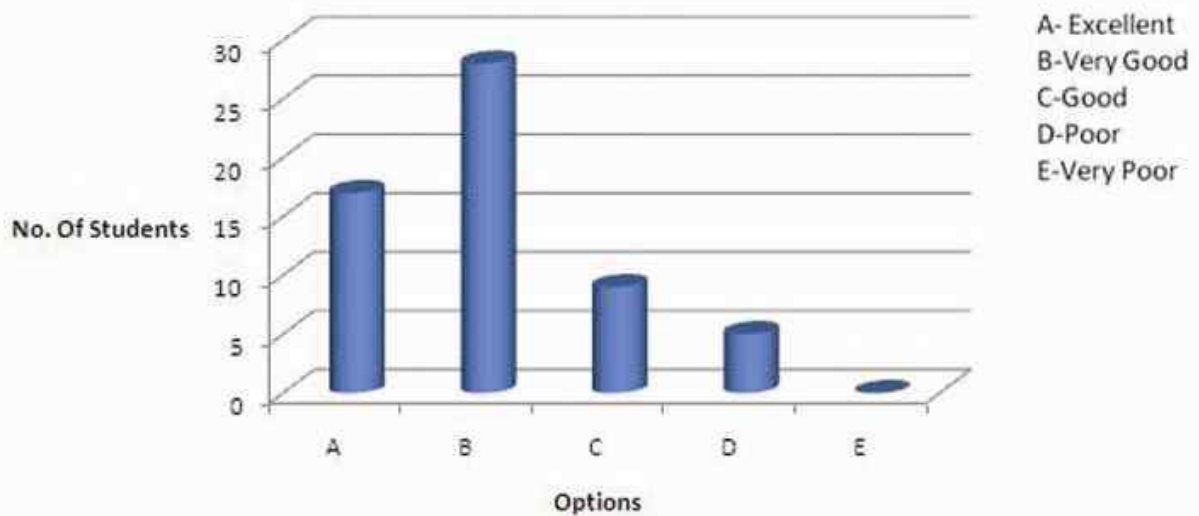


What do the graphs say?

Role Of Team Leader

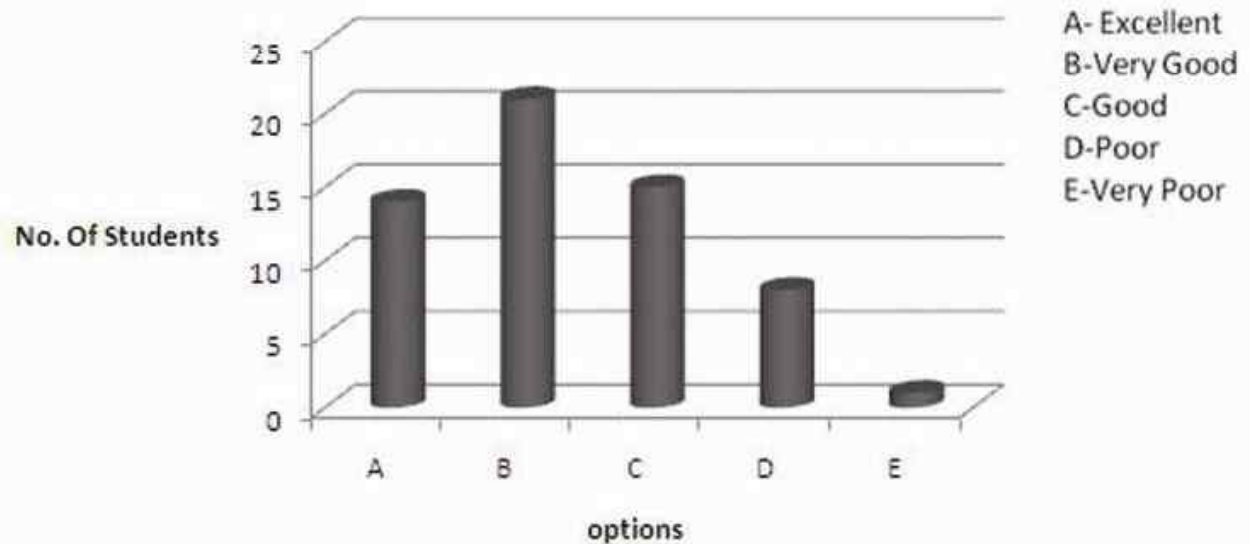


Effectiveness of Curriculum

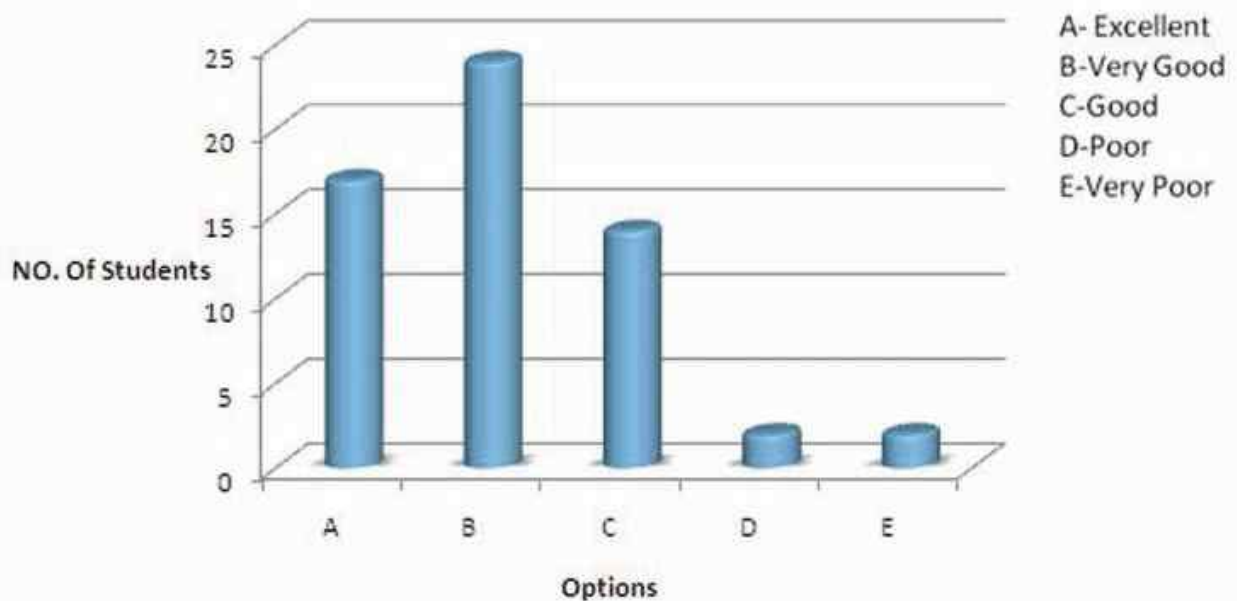


What do the graphs say?

Time Management

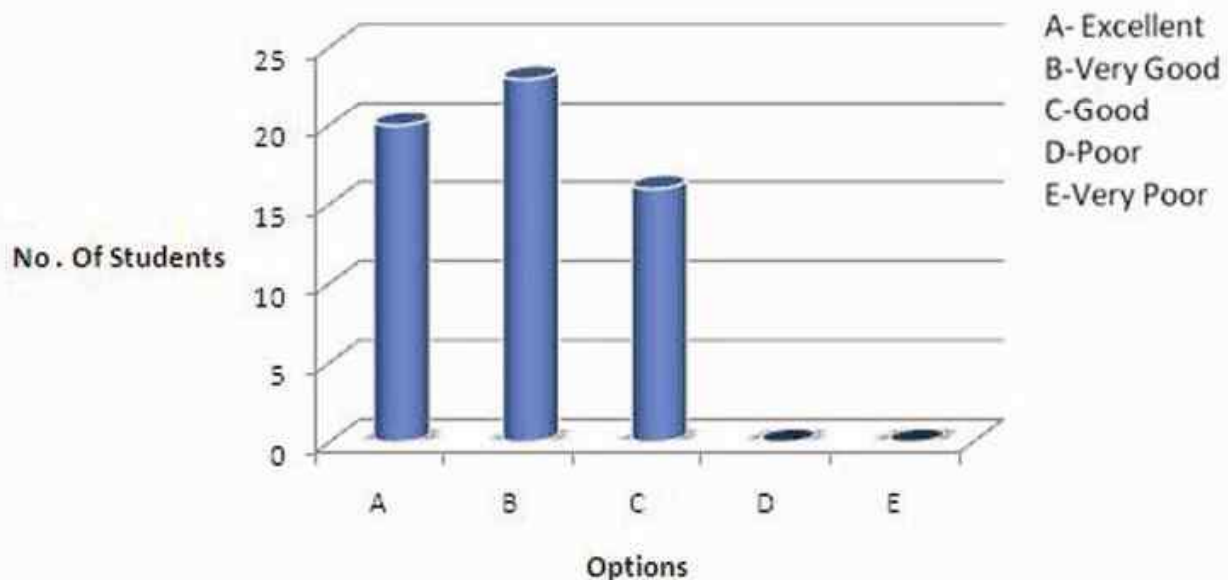


Staff Role



What do the graphs say?

Overall Ranking Of The Camp



THE OUTCOME & CONCLUSION -

As per the students the camp has been one of the life changing experience they've ever gone through. The camp made the students realise the importance of education, communication and also learnt what kind of hardships the rural people face for earning their daily bread and butter. The camp has also enlightened and kindled the spirits of the students to create an awareness in their families about what they experienced in the villages and it has also made them socially responsible making them realise how important it is to know about the rural fraternity of the country.

The professors who accompanied the students guided the students so meticulously and with so much passion that they were able to incorporate whatever they had in mind to the students. The knowledge flow between the students increased due to the sessions conducted by the co-ordinators and resource persons.

November of 2010 will definitely hold a special place in the hearts of all the campers and it will always remain as a never ceasing beacon which will always strive for the welfare of the society and other human beings.

