

**Loyola College (Autonomous)**  
**Chennai – 600 034.**

**Department of Service Learning (Outreach)**

**A Beacon of Hope for the Youth of the Ghettos**

The student belonging to the youth welfare had the thematic training on **21<sup>st</sup> July, 2015** at **Bertram Hall** from 10.00 am to 12.30 pm. after the welcome address was over, **Prof. S. John Kaviarasu**, the Head - Department of Service Learning (Outreach) created awareness of the proceedings of Youth Welfare Program and briefed about the why of this thematic programme. In the morning session, the Chief Guest of the day was **Mr. Manikandan**, a patron in the field of Rural Development and Youth Empowerment. In the afternoon session, the chief Guest was **Mr. Kannan**.

The introductory speech by Head of the Department imparted the qualities of sympathy and empathy in the heart of the students; soothing them to understand and accept the reality, especially the miseries and weary life of the people in the substandard settlements to which are ignored. He added that how ignorance of the elite class people is actually the reason for birth of disdain in the minds of lower economic people.

After the introductory speech, the chief guests took over the stand to deliver their speech. They began their speech by raising few questions like how many people are from slums? And how many people have visited the slums? In response to the questions, three students shared their views on the experience and sights of the slum during their previous visits. Resource persons' spoke about the types of slums; such as Government and Private Slums which are mainly the two types of slums in India. They stressed the importance and need to analyze the slum so that the students understand the lives of the youth dwelling there.

The main issues of the youth in the slums are generally unemployment and lack of opportunity to learn and work. And as a remedy to this, he **listed out various institutions that provide welfare services**. Firstly; the **three institutions - Rajiv Gandhi Youth Development Organization, NIPED, DMS-DDRO** that introduces the youth to various schemes, offers loans for courses, provides free passes for commutation in public transports, ID cards for enrollment, health services respectively. Secondly, **Community Development Wing** - supplies sports goods and gym equipment free of cost, encourages and gets sponsorships for the talented and sports persons from the outskirts. He also informed about the job opportunities available even for the secondary and senior secondary dropouts in the Airport on contract basis. Added to that registration in the **Employment Office** which assures job within one month from the submission of the testimonials. He concluded his speech by emphasizing that youth plays a vital role in spreading awareness because '**Knowledge In Youth Is Wisdom In Age**'. The orientation came to an end after the National Anthem.