

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

.....Experiential learning through community engagement

Introduction

- Community Service Project is an experiential learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction, participation, learning and community development
- Community Service Project involves students in community development and service activities and applies the experience to personal and academic development.
- Community Service Project is meant to link the community with the college for mutual benefit. The community will be benefited with the focused contribution of the college students for the village/ local development. The college finds an opportunity to develop social sensibility and responsibility among students and also emerge as a socially responsible institution.

Objective

Community Service Project shall be an integral part of the curriculum, as an alternative to the two months of Summer Internships / Apprenticeships / On the Job Training, whenever there is an exigency when students cannot pursue their summer internships. The specific objectives are;

- To sensitize the students to the living conditions of the people who are around them,
- To help students to realize the stark realities of the society.
- To bring about an attitudinal change in the students and help them to develop societal consciousness, sensibility, responsibility and accountability
- To make students aware of their inner strength and help them to find new /out of box solutions to the social problems.
- To make students socially responsible citizens who are sensitive to the needs of the disadvantaged sections.
- To help students to initiate developmental activities in the community in coordination with public and government authorities.
- To develop a holistic life perspective among the students by making them study culture, traditions, habits, lifestyles, resource utilization, wastages and its management, social problems, public administration system and the roles and responsibilities of different persons across different social systems.

Implementation of Community Service Project

- Every student shall put in a minimum of **180 hours** for the Community Service Project during the 60 days of summer vacation.
- Each class/section shall be assigned with a mentor.

- The mentor shall be a faculty member. Incentive could be given to the faculty mentors in terms of Academic Performance Indicators (API) scores. Or could even be made a compulsory in the service conditions laid down at the time of appointment.
- 4 Credits to be allocated for Community Service Project within the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).
- The 180 hours of Community Service Project could be done in different areas.
- Specific Departments can concentrate on their major areas of concern. For example, Dept. of Computer Science can take up activities related to Computer Literacy to different sections of people like- youth, women, house-wives, etc... Dept. of Zoology or other life sciences departments could concentrate on health awareness, blood groupings, awareness on blood donation or organ donation, etc. Dept. of Mathematics and Statistics could dwell upon empowering the youth with analytical skills, Dept. of Commerce could create awareness on GST or Income Tax Returns or other taxes or consumerism.

Sky will be the limit for organizing different programmes, provided the faculties are sufficiently motivated.

- The Community Service Project should be different from the regular programmes of NSS/NCC/Green Corps/Red Ribbon Club, etc.
- A log book has to be maintained by each of the students, where the activities undertaken/involved will be recorded.
- The log book has to be countersigned by the concerned mentor/faculty incharge.
- Award of marks shall be made as per the guidelines of Internship/apprentice/ on the job training
- Minor project report shall be submitted by each student. An internal Viva voce shall also be conducted by a committee constituted by the principal of the college.
- Evaluation to be done based on the active participation of the student and grade could be awarded by the mentor/faculty member.
- The final evaluation to be reflected in the grade memo of the student.

Procedure

- All students of the college will be divided into groups and each group is allotted to a faculty member of the college.
- A group of students or even a single student could be assigned for a particular habitation or village or municipal ward, as far as possible, in the near vicinity of their place of stay, so as to enable them to commute from their residence and return back by evening or so.
- The group of students will be associated with a government official / village secretary concerned, allotted by the district administration, during the duration of the project.
- The Community Service Project is a two fold one –
 - First, the student/s could conduct a survey of the habitation, if necessary, in terms of their own domain or subject area. For ex., a student of Arts will focus on

socio-economic conditions, social survey and about the Government's social security schemes. A student of Sciences could take up a survey on the health and hygiene conditions of that habitation, similarly, with other subject areas too. Or it can even be a general survey, incorporating all the different areas. A common survey format could be designed. This should not be viewed as a duplication of work by the Village or Ward volunteers, rather, it could be another primary source of data.

- Secondly, the student/s could take up a social activity, concerning their domain or subject area. The different areas, could be like –
 - Agriculture
 - Health
 - Marketing and Cooperation
 - Animal Husbandry
 - Horticulture
 - Fisheries
 - Sericulture
 - Revenue and Survey
 - Natural Disaster Management
 - Irrigation
 - Law & Order
 - Excise and Prohibition
 - Mines and Geology
 - Energy
- A specific example,
 - A student of B.Sc (BZC) will first conduct a survey of his/her habitation which could be related to a specific area or in a comprehensive way, covering all the areas listed above.
 - or
 - Could conduct an awareness programme on Health and Hygiene or in Organic Farming or in Fisheries or in advocating prohibition of liquor or about renewable energy, or any other activity in an area as per his/her aptitude.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TO STUDENTS

Learning Outcomes

- Positive impact on students' academic learning in view of the classroom to field and vice versa experience
- Improves students' ability to apply what they have learned in "the real world"
- Positive impact on academic outcomes such as demonstrated complexity of understanding, problem analysis, problem-solving, critical thinking, and cognitive development
- Improved ability to understand complexity and ambiguity

Personal Outcomes

- Greater sense of personal efficacy, personal identity, compassion, spiritual growth, and moral development
- Greater interpersonal development, particularly the ability to work well with others, and build leadership and communication skills

Social Outcomes

- Learning service as a graduate attribute
- Reduced stereotypes and greater inter-cultural understanding
- Improved social responsibility and citizenship skills
- Greater involvement in community service after graduation

Career Development

- Connections with professionals and community members for learning and career opportunities
- Greater academic learning, leadership skills, and personal efficacy can lead to greater opportunity

Relationship with the Institution

- Stronger relationships with faculty
- Greater satisfaction with college

- Improved graduation rates

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TO FACULTY MEMBERS

- Greater understanding of the theory field interface
- Satisfaction with the quality of student learning
- New avenues for research and publication via new relationships between faculty and community
- Providing networking opportunities with engaged faculty in other disciplines or institutions
- A stronger commitment to one's research

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Improved institutional commitment
- Improved student retention
- Enhanced community relations

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT TO COMMUNITY

- Satisfactory enhancement of awareness with student participation
- Valuable human resources needed to achieve community goals
- New energy, enthusiasm and perspectives applied to community work
- Enhanced community-university relations.

SUGGESTIVE LIST OF PROGRAMMES UNDER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The following the recommended list of areas of projects for BA, B.Com, B.Sc etc. programmes. The lists are not exhaustive and open for additions, deletions and modifications. Colleges are expected to focus on specific local issues for this kind of projects. The students are expected to carry out these projects with involvement, commitment, responsibility and accountability. The mentors of a group of students shall take the responsibility of motivating, facilitating, and guiding the students. They have to interact with local leadership and people and appraise the objectives and benefits of this kind of projects. The project reports shall be placed in the college website for reference. Systematic, factual, methodical and honest reporting shall be ensured.

For Arts Students

- 1. Village demography**
- 2. Healthcare programmes and their implementation**
- 3. School education**
- 4. Youth engagement**
- 5. Women empowerment**
- 6. Women education**
- 7. Domestic violence**
- 8. Culture, traditions, values and ethics**
- 9. Employment of different sections**
- 10. Status of socially deprived sections**
- 11. Implementation of state development programmes**
- 12. Implementation and impact of welfare schemes**
- 13. Public distribution system**
- 14. Social inclusiveness**
- 15. Village governance**
- 16. Health care system and its effectiveness**
- 17. Information sources and their effectiveness**
- 18. Entertainment media and habits**
- 19. Social problems**
- 20. Family and marriage systems across different social groups**
- 21. Communal harmony**
- 22. Innovative methods and practices**
- 23. Village industry**
- 24. Safety and security**
- 25. Migration for employment**
- 26. Infrastructure development**
- 27. Facilities for quality life across different social groups**
- 28. Leadership in family, community and social groups**
- 29. Implementation of central schemes**

30. Village development plans
31. Child labour
32. Atrocities against women
33. Awareness of central government schemes and the level of participation
34. Community engagement programmes and their impact
35. Career orientation of youth
36. Skill development programmes and their impact
37. Alcohol and smoking habits and their impact on families and society
38. Crime rate, law and order and safety needs
39. Quality of Elementary education and accessibility
40. Factors considered for electing public representatives
41. Environment protection
42. Inter religious harmony
43. Treatment of aged persons
44. Sanitation systems
45. Tribal studies
46. Telugu literature and mondalics
47. Awareness of epics among youth and children
48. Anthropological survey
49. Music and dance
50. Performing arts
51. Social evils

For Commerce Students

1. Entrepreneurship
2. Agricultural products and marketing
3. Poultry business
4. Dairy business
5. Aqua culture
6. Wage system and labour welfare
7. Village industry products and marketing
8. Income and wealth distribution among different sections of the society
9. Entertainment services
10. Communication services
11. Banking services and habits
12. Insurance services and habits
13. Public distribution system
14. Vegetable marketing
15. Savings and Investments
16. Online purchases

17. Digital transactions
18. Use of electrical home appliances
19. Use of electronic home appliances
20. Personal transport
21. Consumer movement
22. Unfair trade practices
23. Food habits
24. Income distribution
25. Wealth distribution
26. Expenditure pattern on different product categories
27. Buying motives
28. Consumer behavior
29. Impact of celebrity advertising
30. Impact of TV on product choices
31. Usage of cell phones
32. Self employed professionals
33. Construction
34. Leisure time management
35. Tourism
36. Leadership
37. Human resource development
38. Local administration
39. Office management in local governing bodies
40. Exports
41. Handicrafts
42. Handlooms
43. Public transport
44. Private transport
45. Cooperative societies
46. Shifts in occupations
47. Debt burden of different sections of the society
48. Time management
49. Dispute resolution systems
50. Commercial crops

For Science Students

1. Water facilities and drinking water availability
2. Health and hygiene
3. Stress levels and coping mechanisms
4. Health intervention programmes

5. Horticulture
6. Herbal plants
7. Botanical survey
8. Zoological survey
9. Marine products
10. Aqua culture
11. Inland fisheries
12. Animals and species
13. Nutrition
14. Traditional health care methods
15. Food habits
16. Air pollution
17. Water pollution
18. Plantation
19. Soil protection
20. Renewable energy
21. Plant diseases
22. Yoga awareness and practice
23. Health care awareness programmes and their impact
24. Use of chemicals on fruits and vegetables
25. Organic farming
26. Crop rotation
27. Flourey culture
28. Access to safe drinking water
29. Geographical survey
30. Geological survey
31. Sericulture
32. Study of species
33. Food adulteration
34. Incidence of Diabetes and other chronic diseases
35. Human genetics
36. Blood groups and blood levels
37. Animal husbandry
38. Mother and child health

Complimenting the community service project the students may be involved to take up some awareness campaigns on social issues/special groups. The suggested list of programmes are:

Programmes for School Children

1. Reading Skill Programme (Reading Competition)

2. Preparation of Study Materials for the next class.
3. Personality / Leadership Development
4. Career Guidance for X class students
5. Screening Documentary and other educational films
6. Awareness Programme on Good Touch and Bad Touch (Sexual abuse)
7. Gender sensitivity and respecting girl child
8. Awareness Programme on Socially relevant themes.

Programmes for Women Empowerment

1. Government Guidelines and Policy Guidelines
2. Womens' Rights
3. Domestic Violence
4. Prevention and Control of Cancer and other common diseases related to women
5. Promotion of Social Entrepreneurship

General Camps

1. General Medical camps
2. Eye Camps
3. Dental Camps
4. Importance of protected drinking water
5. ODF awareness camp
6. Swatch Bharath
7. AIDS awareness camp
8. Anti Plastic Awareness
9. Programmes on Environment
10. Protection of forests and social forestry in wastelands
11. Health and Hygiene
12. Hand wash programmes
13. Commemoration and Celebration of important days

Programmes for Youth Empowerment

1. Leadership
2. Anti-alcoholism and Drug addiction
3. Anti-tobacco
4. Awareness on Competitive Examinations
5. Personality Development
6. Continuation of education / Adult education
7. Employment/Entrepreneurship related skills development

Common Programmes

1. Awareness on RTI
2. Health intervention programmes
3. Yoga
4. Environment Protection and Tree plantation
5. Programmes in consonance with the Govt. Departments like –
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Health
 - iii. Marketing and Cooperation
 - iv. Animal Husbandry
 - v. Horticulture
 - vi. Fisheries
 - vii. Sericulture
 - viii. Revenue and Survey
 - ix. Natural Disaster Management
 - x. Irrigation
 - xi. Law & Order
 - xii. Excise and Prohibition
 - xiii. Mines and Geology
 - xiv. Energy
 - xv. Forests
 - xvi. School Education

Role of Students:

- Students may not have the expertise to conduct all the programmes on their own. The students then can play a facilitator role.
- For conducting special camps like Health related, they will be coordinating with the Governmental agencies.
- As and when required the College faculty themselves act as Resource Persons.
- Students can work in close association with Non-Governmental Organizations like Lions Club, Rotary Club, etc or with any NGO actively working in that habitation.
- And also with the Governmental Departments. If the programme is rolled out, the District Administration could be roped in for the successful deployment of the programme.
- An in-house training and induction programme could be arranged for the faculty and participating students, to expose them to the methodology of Service Learning.

Timeline for the Community Service Project Activity

Duration: 8 weeks

1. Preliminary Survey (One Week)

- A preliminary survey including the socio-economic conditions of the allotted habitation to be conducted.
- A survey form based on the type of habitation to be prepared before visiting the habitation with the help of social sciences faculty. (However, a template could be designed for different habitations, rural/urban.
- The Governmental agencies, like revenue administration, corporation and municipal authorities and village secretariats could be aligned for the survey.

2. Community Awareness Campaigns (Two Weeks)

- Based on the survey and the specific requirements of the habitation, different awareness campaigns and programmes to be conducted, spread over two weeks of time. The list of activities suggested could be taken into consideration.

3. Community Immersion Programme (Four Weeks)

Along with the Community Awareness Programmes, the student batch will work along with any one of the below listed governmental agencies and do service in tandem with them. This community involvement programme will involve the students in exposing themselves to the experiential learning about the community and its dynamics while serving the people. Programmes could be in consonance with the Govt. Departments.

4. Community Exit Report (One Week)

- During the last week of the Community Service Project, a detailed report of the outcome of the 8 weeks work to be drafted and a copy shall be submitted to the local administration. This report will be a basis for the next batch of students visiting that particular habitation. The same report submitted to the teacher-mentor will be evaluated by the mentor and suitable marks are awarded for onward submission to the University.

Throughout the Community Service Project, a daily log-book need to be maintained by the students batch, which shall be countersigned by the governmental agency representative and the teacher-mentor, who is required to periodically visit the students and guide them.