



MADRAS SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

(An Autonomous Institution Affiliated to the University of Madras)

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3.6.1 Extension activities are carried out in the neighborhood community, sensitizing students to social issues, for their holistic development, and impact thereof during the last five years.

Describe the impact of extension activities in sensitizing students to social issues and holistic development within a maximum of 500 words

The extension activities of the college allow the students to develop a shared way of looking at and understanding the problems within the society. The mission of MSSW is “Implementing Community outreach in our core competence areas, need and evidence-based community practice interventions and delivering training & consultancy services to Corporate, Government and Civil Society Organizations”. The college has always **aligned its activities with this mission of community outreach** and has the history of ensuring extension activities in both rural and urban areas. Students are periodically involved in neighbourhood community activities and get sensitized on social issues. A large number of activities have been carried out in the last 5 years.

- MSSW celebrates **Community Day** with a marginalized social group every year. Since 2016, MSSW has engaged with communities such as **bonded labours** from **Irular community, Gypsy community, folk artists** and **rag pickers** of **Kodungaiyur** community providing them with lunch and household items
- MSSW has been involved in community development initiatives in the areas of **Health, Education and Livelihood** in Chetpet area, one of less privileged urban areas in Chennai Corporation.
- The College has a **Rural Extension Centre** in Karlapakkam Panchayat and established community center. The Centre is established in partnership with local community members.
 - **Community empowerment programmes** are periodically conducted in the community hall. Many community-based activities have been carried out in the last 5 years with the help of the student trainees.
 - The action programme ‘Magalirkaana Vaalvaathaara Vilipunarvu Mugaam’ executed at Karalapakkam focuses on women empowerment by creating awareness about the various schemes provided for women by the government.
 - The **student trainees associated** with the programme visit every house in the Panchayat to invite women for the programme. They also coordinate participation with the local self-help groups functioning in the village
 - All resources required for the conduct of the programme are mobilized by the students
 - **Self-help groups** are informal associations of people and MSSW identifies the need to strengthen these groups so that they serve as vehicles of change. Action plan ‘Strengthening Self-help Groups’ adopted by MSSW focuses on enhancing the soundness of these community networks. **Student and faculty coordinators** spend time with women in the village create awareness about the need for self-help groups. Students perform **skits** and **role-plays** to make the village folks **understand the opportunities** for financial independence, self-employment, better health care and literacy improvement that SHG can enable in their lives and village
- Yet another key feature of our extension activities is engaging through Alumni NGOs. This engagement activity is called **Footsteps of MCJ** (where, MCJ refers to Mary Clubwala Jadhav, the founder of MSSW). This **collaborative partnership with our alumni** to engage with the community has been an eminent way to address the needs of the people and identifying their priority need areas. Footsteps of MCJ has been instrumental in reaching out to the frontline workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[482 words]