

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

16TH COLLEGE DAY REPORT

If your reach is not more than the grasp, what is heaven for? These famous lines from a British poet, apply perfectly to our college which has been reaching out more than it could possibly grasp all these sixteen years. As the Principal of this great college for the third year, it gives me great pleasure and pride to record such cases of 'reach', exceeding the grasp.

Normally, when more than 180 colleges, competing in the Bharathidasan Cultural Meet, better known as the BARD – FEST, only Trichy-based colleges used to win the competitions. Two years back, we decided to go for a reach more than the grasp and appointed trainers to train our students for this competition. It is highly gratifying to note that we won prizes in the last year and this winning streak continued this year also, with seven prizes, in the Bard Fest.

This 'reach' principle was applied to academic programmes also. In addition to the UG courses and PG courses, we have added M.Com and M.Sc., Physics as well as B.Com (Regular) and one more section to B.Sc., Chemistry. We are also happy to record that B.A., English Programme has been granted permanent affiliation to Bharathidasan University.

University ranking of students, on the basis of University examination results, is a clear indicator of the academic performance of students and in the process, the performance of teaching faculties. We are happy to inform you that we have been consistently getting university ranks since the inception of our college in the year 2001. We were amazed when all the 20 ranks were obtained by our students of B.Com (applied).

The achievement of consistent university rankings by our students was the result of sustained efforts by our teaching faculty who customized their instructional strategy to reach the slow learners as well as the right guys who ultimately landed University ranks. The academic performance of our students was facilitated by regular seminars, conducted by our Departments. The interaction with the invited resource persons, greatly helped our students to hone their cerebral skills and achieve high ranks in university examinations.

It is worth noting here that we are not content with university ranks alone. We always considered the employability of our students as the highest value in our campus. Hence we have organized several add on programmes to suit each department. For example, we offer Tally as an add on programme for students of Commerce and Business Administration. The roaring success of these add on programmes in our campus, could be attributed to the tie up with Balaji's Infotech, JDNET, NIDS, Global infotech, Retsyn Bioscience Private Limited, Vessodos, CCI Computer Education, Sri Aiman Biocare and SAB Research Academy etc.

While on the subject of student achievements, we have to present the achievements of our teaching faculty also. Prof. Dr.P. Mani was invited to be a Resource Person, by the Asian Metropolitan University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Five of our faculty members cleared the SET this academic year.

These achievements of our students and faculty in academic as well as in extra – academic activities, were appreciated by the University – appointed Triennial Committee. The Committee, consisting of distinguished academics, paid glowing tributes to the wide ranging activities in our campus.

Best Practices

Dress Code

Dress Code or Sartorial Propriety is valorized in Annai College campus for certain reasons. We do not prescribe uniform because it might promote sameness in the minds of the students. On the other hand, dress code implies that students must turn out in formal attire. The reason behind this general guideline on dressing is that students would imbibe a certain sense of seriousness about the campus activities.

Another important reason, behind this dressing norm, is that when our students move into job situations, after the end of their academic programmes in our campus, it would be easier for them to put on the formal attire. In fact, every Monday, in our weekly schedule, is called the Executive Day during which girl students must turn out in sarees and boys must be dressed, with a tie to boot. This practice of putting on formal dress, helps them to adapt themselves, to dress norms in work spots.

When students are asked to conform to dress code, they express all kinds of excuses to avoid the dress code. But once they get used to the idea of dress code, it is internalized and as change leaders would call it, they become unconsciously competent. After all, any value can be cultivated and dress code is a value worth cultivating.

Internal Audit

The basic function of audit is to check whether the activities of the campus fall in line with the vision of the college. We adopt two types of audit – Proprietary Auditing and Wisdom Auditing. In the case of proprietary auditing, we check whether the different departments maintain the registers, required by regulatory agencies like NAAC etc, in addition to the documents mandated by the Management. This type of auditing is carried out at the inter-departmental level in which one department personnel check the mandated registers of another department, under the guidance of the IQAC.

Since Annai Group runs many institutions under its control, a team from Annai Engineering College would visit different departments in Annai College of Arts and Science and assess whether the money allotted, for different activities, were wisely spent and to the purpose for which it was allotted. This inter-unit or inter-college teams, within the Annai Group, would be more concerned about the justification of the activities for which money was spent. These auditing teams would further point out the directions in which quality could be realized by the Departments concerned.

Peer Interaction

The brand value of Annai College of Arts & Science, gained over a period of time, was entirely due to the quality of instruction and this instructional quality has always been the function of the quality of the teaching faculty. Hence our vision-driven Management always concentrated on a number of training programmes to hone the teaching skill.

One such programme is the Peer Interaction. Our Principal has appointed a fulltime retired Professor, to organize regular peer interaction sessions. He encourages the faculty of a Department, to interact with each other, on topics relevant to their curricular objectives.

In fact, entire Saturday is reserved for such a faculty development exercise. There will be a brief plenary session when all department faculties sit together. Then they break up into intra departmental exercises like one faculty could speak on a topic and others could suggest improvement, faculties sharing information germane to their specialization, even indulging in some informal chatting. This informal chatting helps them to bind with each other and forge a team to function more effectively.

Freshers' Orientation

Ragging has become a menace in several campuses. But we are happy to record that this menace, called ragging, is conspicuous by its absence thanks to our innovative programme called Freshers Day in which the senior students welcome the freshers. In the process, the freshers are given a taste of induction, into the culture of our campus and the need to adapt themselves, to the expectations of our campus. Our prospectus welcomes the students into the new experience called Annai College and Freshers' Day is indeed a new experience of being welcomed by the seniors in a very warm and friendly fashion.

Kalai Siragugal

Annai College of Arts and Science agrees with the sage, Vivekananda, when he defined education as the process of bringing out the best which is already in the individual. Maslow talks about self actualization. Hence we created a platform called Annai Siragugals (Annai's Wings) to enable the unearthing of the hidden talents of our students, especially in the field of cultural programmes.

Our Management invests a lot of money, in helping students, to train themselves not only for cultural programmes in the campus but also for participating in trans-campus competitions. It is worth mentioning that we have appointed special trainers, for preparing our students, to compete in other colleges as well as at the annual Bard Fest, organized by the Bharathidasan University.

We are happy to record that our college Siragugals have been winning several trophies and in the process, they self actualize themselves and bring glory to our college.

Thinkers' Forum

While Annai Sirasugals is devoted to unearthing the hidden talents of the students in cultural programmes, Thinkers' Forum is concerned with the provision of serious academic pabulum. It was originally designed to encourage book reviews through which reading habit was sought to be incentivized. Later its scope was enlarged to permit discussion on public issues. These issues, identified for debating, were mostly of topical interest.

Club Activities

The Rotract Club, under the dynamic leadership of Prof. Dr.R.Sharmila, the Staff Advisor, inaugurated the service activities, for the academic year 2015-2016, by organizing the Eye Camp. Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy, volunteered, to help us identify possible ophthalmic problems. More than 2000 students were benefitted by this diagnostic exercise, organized on 15/06/2016 and 16/06/2016, in our campus.

The Central Government, under the guidance of the Yogi-Prime Minister, has given special boost to programmes to popularize Yoga. Our college, though under a Muslim minority management, has enthusiastically welcomed this programme and directed our NSS to organize a 15 day Yoga Workshop. On 21/06/2016, our NSS officer, Prof. B. Jayam, launched the Yoga Workshop. More than 100 teaching faculty participated and enjoyed the benefits of this physical cum spiritual exercise. Mr. P.Krishnamoorthi of Kumbakonam was the resource person, for making this unique programme reach its desirable objectives.

The YRC (Youth Red Cross), under the proactive guidance of Prof. M.Pugazenthi, organized an awareness campaign against open defecation, in the neighboring Village of Kovilacheri, on 23.06.2016. This programme also was inspired by our Prime Minister's crusade for Clean India (Swatch Bharath). Prof.S.Senthil Kumar of our college greatly helped the campaign to succeed.

On 27.06.2016, another outreach programme was organized by our Co-ordinator of Rotract Club, Prof. R.Sharmila, who also happens to be our Vice Principal. Awareness programme, for the womenfolk of Kovilacheri Village was organized to keep themselves clean, especially during the menses period. It was conducted in the school premises and our Resident Paramedic, Mrs. J.Rajeshwari of Annai Health Centre, who is a trained nurse, helped the co-ordinator to carry the message of gyno-cleanliness very effectively.

The Women Welfare Cell, another service club in our campus, organized a very relevant programme for women, on 29.06.2016. In the recent days, attacks on women have increased and there is an urgent need to train our womenfolk in self-defence. Prof.V.Lilly, the Co-ordinator of Women Welfare Cell, engaged a trainer, Sensei P.Sathya, to teach the rudiments of Karate to our lady students. It was a roaring success.

Tobacco use has become a serious health problem because it is universally considered to be a primary carcinogenic agent. Hence Prof. S.Somasundaram, another NSS Officer, organized an awareness campaign against tobacco use, in the neighbouring Village of Kovilcheri. Dr. Vinothkumar, Primary Health Center, Veppathur and Dr. Varatharajan, Block Development Health Officer of Thiruvaidaimaruthur, explained the deleterious effect of tobacco use.

Another awareness campaign, on product adulteration, was organized by Prof.C.Gopalraj, Co-ordinator of the Citizen Consumer Club, on 30.06.2016. Mr.Sudhakar, President of the Kovilacheri Village, presided and the campaign was conducted in the Village of Natham, another neighbouring Village. The feedback was highly satisfactory as more than 100 villagers appreciated our efforts to enlighten them on this serious issue of adulteration.

Preserving the environmental purity has become a matter of concern and it is facetiously said that the affluent society has become an affluent society. Pollution could take place in the air, in the water or through the deposit of solid waste. The second unit of NSS, under the tutelage of Prof. B.Jayam, took up the issue of disposal of solid waste. An awareness campaign was launched on 03.07.2016 and Mr.Thirumoorthy of Solid Waste Management, explained the difficulties involved in solid waste disposal and the available technology to overcome this environmental problem. But the speaker insisted that people's co-operation is essential for the management of solid waste disposal and hence this campaign.

The humungous growth of human population of India, disturbs the economic planners of India. The rapid growth of population seems to outstrip the capacity of the nation to feed them.

This problem is universal, especially in Non-European parts of the world. Hence the UNO celebrates the World Population Day, in order to sensitise the nations of the world, about the need to curb unmanageable levels of population growth. Our Rotract Club mobilized student volunteers to participate in a rally, by carrying banners appropriate for the occasion. Dr.S.Ananth, our Principal, presided over the campaign, on 10.07.2016.

The Leo Club, another service club in our campus, organized a Blood Donation Camp, on 11/07/2016, to mark their concern for hospitalized patients, waiting for disease – free blood. Students are the right type of donors because they are normally healthy. 265 students donated 50 units of blood to the Government Hospital in Kumbakonam.

The Women Welfare Cell conducted another meaningful outreach programme. Women in general, and rural women in particular, are victims of the male-dominated, patriarchal system. One way of liberating them is to provide some skill set which would enable them to become economically independent and in the process, to get empowered. Empowerment is basically the capacity to decide on their own. Hence our Women Welfare Cell conducted a training programme for women from the neighboring Village of Anakudi, on 12.07.2016. Mrs.Roselin Thenmozhi of Thanjavur helped us to impart training to these rural women, to make environment- friendly bags. More than hundred women participated and enjoyed this liberating experience.

Another Yoga Awareness Campaign was organized by the NSS volunteers on 20.7.2016 and number of students appreciated this exposure to our traditional mode of exercise cum meditation, Mrs.Balalakshmi of Kumbakonam helped us to demonstrate the virtues of yoga training.

The Citizen Consumer Club organized an awareness campaign, among the young citizens in our campus, about the need to check the weights, used for measuring the consumer goods. This consumer awareness is essential because modern products are packaged and they are not open to inspection. This Club especially explained the nuances of the Consumer Protection Act and prepared the young minds to face the challenges of modern marketing. Mr.V.Maniarasan, Headmaster from Cholapuram, delivered the presidential address.

The Leo Club, another service club in our campus, organized a novel camp for farm animals. Dr.R.Manoharan and Dr.Muruganatham, both Veterinary Doctors and members of the Leo Club of Kumbakonam, helped our students to diagnose medical problems, normally faced

by the farm animals, in the neighboring villages and offered medicines, free of cost. This novel attempt to reach out to even the farm animals, was appreciated by the villagers.

The patriotic sentiments of our students were demonstrated, through a function organised by the combined efforts of Rotract and LeoClubs, to celebrate the Kargil Victory Day. These two service clubs in our campus made this possible through a Rally by the volunteers of the two service clubs. Mr.Koswal, Commanding Officer of NCC in Kumbakonam, highlighted the significance of Kargil Victory and explained the strength of our military strategy.

NSS volunteers normally take up cleansing campaign in some temple premises and our campus is no exception. Our NSS volunteers identified a Perumal Temple in Anakudi, a neighbouring Village for this cleaning campaign. Fifty Volunteers were engaged in removing the weeds and other uncleared garbage and made the temple premises a presentable place for the visitors to the temple. Mr.M.Thirumoorthy of Kovilacheri, recorded his appreciation of the cleansing campaign, sponsored by the NSS volunteers of our College.

Exnora, a famous NGO, which promotes environment –friendly practices, was introduced into our campus, on 04-8-2016. Mr.T.Senthil Kumar of Youth Exnora International, Trichy, explained to the members of Exnora in our campus, the need for environmental bias in our diurnal activities. He exposed the danger of eating fast food and appealed to the students to revisit some of our traditional practices.

In the context of artificial lifestyle of modern world, there is urgent need to emphasize the value of many things, freely found in nature and one such thing is breast feeding. The modern woman, unwilling to lose her body shape, shies away from breast feeding and prefers to give artificial milk substitutes. The victim is the child. In order to facilitate the growth of healthy Infants, there is a separate day called Breast Feeding Day. The idea is to create awareness, among the lactating mothers, to feed the child till it is time to wean away the child. Our NSS Unit, under Prof.B.Jayam, celebrated this day as the 'Thaipaal Vaara Vizha' in our campus, on 05-08-2016. Mrs.Kowsalya of Cholapuram explained to our girl students, the value of mother's milk, for the healthy growth of infants.

Our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, will always be remembered for initiatives to realize a Clean India, through his project called Swatch Bharath. Our Leo Club organized a medical camp, with active help from Raja Ragupathy of Kumakonam, to stress the need for clean environment for effective functioning.

The Nature Club is another service club, which is actively involved in green activities, in our campus. On 09-08-2016, the Nature Club planted a number of saplings in our campus, which is literally a green campus indeed. Prof. S.Elancheziyan, our Vice Principal, along with Mr.Kanthatamy, Forest Officer in Nilgiris, inaugurated the activities of the Nature Club.

There are several slogans to stress the importance of wearing helmets while riding two wheelers. The slogan, which attracted my attention was, wear the helmet and ensure the future generation. It is absolutely essential because it saves the driver from serious head injuries which would lead the accident victim into a coma and reduce him to a vegetable stage. Hence NSS Unit of our College organized an awareness campaign on 10-08-2016, to make helmet wearing a habit. The third Unit of NSS, under Prof. Surendren, had invited Mr.Jayaraman, President of Kovilacheri Panchayat, to impress upon our students the need to wear helmets while riding two wheelers.

The Leo club organized an Eye Camp, on 19-8-2016 and again, another eye camp was organized by NSS, on 29-08-2016.

The Citizens Consumer Club, under the leadership of Prof.C.Gopal Raju, organized a discussion on consumer awareness. Mr.S.Arumugam was invited to expatiate on the urgency of awareness among the consumers.

Acquired Immunity Deficiency Syndrome, popularly known as the AIDS, is a deadly disease, which normally affects a person indulging in abnormal sexual relationship or through the use of unsterilized syringe for injections. There is no definite cure and only recently the medical world has come up with some medicine. Students, in their innocence, may indulge in unhealthy sex or expose themselves through unhealthy administration of injections and contract this almost incurable disease. Hence the Red Ribbon Club (RRC) has been created in every campus, to caution students against unhealthy sexual practices. Prof. T.Jayakumar co-ordinates the activities of the RRC in our campus. S. Ravichandran was invited to address the students, on the problem of AIDS and possible ways to avoid contracting the dreaded disease. The meeting of RRC on 12.08.2016 was well attended and the talk was well received.

The Women Welfare Cell conducted a meeting on 12.08.2016. It was arranged by Prof. V. Lilly, with the help of Mrs. A.Amudhavalli from Thanjavur. The speaker explained several possible career options, mostly in the field of self employment, which would help women to emerge as emancipated and empowered.

The Women Welfare Cell organized a Cookery Class, to demonstrate the possibility of preparing food, with high nutrient value but at economical rate. This demonstration on preparation of food, with high nutrient value, greatly helped the women participants to make themselves highly appreciated by the folks at home. Prof.V.Lilly organized this wonderful demonstration on 30.08.2016. Prof.S.Elanchezhiyan was the Resource Person who helped the session, both interesting and informative.

The Red Ribbon Club organized a Blood Identification Camp on 01.09.2016. P. Natarajan, District Co-ordinator from Thanjavur, helped Prof. Jayakumar to organize this blood identification camp to be a very useful exercise.

The Citizen Consumer Club organized a meeting, on 15.09.2016, to explain the great possibilities in entrepreneurial ventures. Mr. Kuzhali Kumaresan, Nature Food Consultants, explained the unlimited scope in nature food industry. Prof. C.Gopalraj, the Co-ordinator of Citizen Consumer Club, explained the concept of entrepreneurship and motivated the students to opt for entrepreneurial ventures.

Prof. S.Somasundaram of NSS organized another cleansing campaign in the village of Kovilacheri, on 16.09.2016 and Mrs. Vijayalakshmi, Headmaster in Kovilacheri, elaborated on the theme of cleansing the neighbourhood.

The Rotract Club in our campus, picked on a very interesting theme of Muthiyor Kalvi (Education for the Senior Citizens) and organized a meeting on 21.09.2016. The President of Kovilacheri Panchayat, a Senior Citizen himself, explained the gerontological problems and the need to create an enabling atmosphere for their wellbeing through literacy.

The Youth Red Cross, under the leadership of Prof. M.Pugazhenthii, organized another Blood Donation Camp on 24.08.2016. Mr. P.Natarajan, District Co-ordinator for YRC from Thanjavur, explained the need for the supply of healthy, disease-free blood during medical operations.