

# **DEPARTMENTAL REPORT 2014-16**

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK**

**WMO ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE MUTTIL, WAYANAD**

## INTRODUCTION

The department of social work in WMO College were constituted during 2014 November. The department have conducted a number of activities during the short period from its existence. It was started with 8 students and 2 teachers in first batch and now has strength of 16 including 9 first year students and 3 teachers. The department provides two specialisation in MSW namely Community Development and Medical and Psychiatry.

During the short span, the department have attracted attention of the whole college and some government departments including health department. The programmes conducted includes a rural camp of 7 days, AIDS day observation, World Wetland Day observation, Mental health day observation, literacy programme, and National Urban Livelihood Mission survey for Kalpatta municipality.

All the activities were accomplished with greater enthusiasm of both students and faculties. They have been described briefly in this document.

### **“നമ്മളുടെ” COMMUNITY LIVING CAMP**

The department conducted a 7 day community living camp at Perinjerimala Makkiyadu, Wayanad, from 2015 October 10 to 17. The camp locality was a tribal area including both ST and SC communities.

The MSW students, as the part of the curriculum, have conducted this camp as a living learning experience about rural communities. It is important for a social work student to develop ability in practical implications on prevailing problems of rural community apart from class room studies. Thus it has brought changes in the attitude of the students. Also, the participative, reflective and analytical way of learning through home visits, surveys, manual works and cultural programmes was an advantage in the learning process of students.

#### **CAMP OBJECTIVES**

- To study the community through community living, and understand their living status.
- To help the community in overcoming difficulties, through community organisation method of social work.
- To help the community in building “we” feeling through community activities.
- To establish a literacy mission in the locality with the help of authorities

### ACTIVITIES DONE

The whole camp was a package of activities. It was composed of programmes ranging from knowledge seeking surveys to colourful cultural programmes. This also included manual works, trekking, outing and camp fair. Many of the programmes were setup for creating deeper and closer relationship with the community members. All those activities have described in detail below:

#### A) Inaugural function:

The inaugural ceremony on 11.10.15 Sunday evening was presided over by Mr. Noufal PP (camp coordinator). Camp was inaugurated by Mr. Raman (Mooppan), the tribal leader, in the esteemed presence of Mr. Ahammed Munavvir (HOD WMO School of Social Work). Felicitations for the function were delivered by Mr. Narayanan (Range Officer, Forest Office Makkiyadu), Mr. Raju (Forest officer), Mrs. Gracy (Ward Member) and Mr. Ashkar Ali P (Students union chairman, WMO College). The Vote of thanks was delivered by Miss. Athira (assistant camp coordinator).



The presence of community leader and officials from the forest department in the inaugural ceremony made us to obtain support and cooperation from the community and forest department for the camp activities.

#### B) Cultural events:

Cultural events were included in the camp schedule for attracting the community with the camp. It is the best way to attract people, by the use of art and cultural means. It was a success in that sense. The community became actively participating in the camp events.





Each evenings included cultural programmes jointly organised and performed by the camp mates and community members. It was officially inaugurated by Mr. Raju (Range officer, forest dept Thondarnadu).

The events were setup with a view to empower the community in educational and cultural areas. It enabled us to ensure the participation of the community members in all our activities.

### C) Manual works:

During a living learning camp, it is important to give our effort for setting a useful infrastructure for the community people. The importance of manual works among students, have been well described by Gandhi. In Gandhi's view, the students must work for the betterment



of infrastructure and hygiene among Harijans (the backward people). This is an essential recommendation in Gandhi's 18 constructive programmes.

During 7 day camp, the mates worked for cleaning the surroundings of the alternate school of

Perinjerimala. It took two days to complete that task.

The tools for manual works were collected from college NSS unit. It was completed with the participation of some of the community members.

The final outcome of this activity was a beautiful garden in front of the tribal school. It made the students and parents closer with the camp mates. Now the children are maintaining the garden with proper care.





#### D) Need assessment survey:

The prime motive behind the selection of camp site as Perinjerimala colony was the scope of social work intervention in that community. The faculties and students of WMO School of Social Work had a vision of providing some developmental measures for them. Therefore, MSW Students formed a clear cut plan of conducting need assessment survey among the community. Our experiences in the first days strongly supported our intention. We found many children, who hesitates to go school, and lack of infrastructure in the houses. Therefore, we executed the survey on fifth day of camping.



The need assessment survey was done on 4<sup>th</sup> day (14.10.2015), using an interview schedule prepared by the students themselves with the help of faculties. The camp mates were divided into 5 groups, and collected data from all the residing houses of the Perinjerimala colony. It took about two days to collect data from the colony. The collected data has been summarised and being utilised for the implementation of the literacy programme for the community.

As a follow up action of this survey, we have planned a literacy programme among the illiterates and school dropouts of the Perinjerimala Colony.

#### E) Interview with experienced people from the colony to find the historical background of the community:

It was done by dividing the camp mates into 3 groups on 6<sup>th</sup> day (16.10.2015). The groups visited the experienced people including the local leaders to trace the brief history of the community.



These two activities (Need assessment survey & Interview with experienced people) were done with an intention to implement some developmental measures for them, by WMO School of Social Work.

## **F) Other activities**

### **Outing, Trekking and Campfire**

In order to avail refreshment and new experiences for the camp mates, we organized an outing programme as a camp event on day 4 (13.10.2015).

The outing programme was set to Meenmutty waterfalls near Makkiyadu. The outing programme gave us an opportunity to experience the practical travelling hurdles of the community people, which is a significant fact behind their educational backwardness.



Trekking programmes are always adventurous. It brings confidence and builds unity among the co trekkers. We searched best trekking spots near to the camp site and found the best among them to trek on the 6<sup>th</sup> day (15.11.2015).

The trekking spot were fixed to the Kurinjimala, as the opinion by the community members.

The trekking enabled us in improving the confidence level and building unity.



The final evening of the camp was an attractive session with the programmes of camp mates and community members. Traditional "THUDI" performed by the community was a new experience for the mates. The farewell wishes from the community members showed the intensity of their relation with the camp

mates. Campfire lasted till 4 AM of the next morning.

**G) Documentation committees**

The camp members were divided into groups for cooking and documentation tasks. Documentation team prepared newsletters based on each day's happenings, and it was presented in the evaluation session of each day. The cooking experience was a different one for many of the camp members. Even though, everyone managed to complete their respective tasks with greater enthusiasm.

**FOLLOW UP PROGRAMMES****a) Literacy programme:**

The initial steps for the literacy programme have been taken by visiting the District Literacy mission office. The district literacy officer Mrs. Swaya Nasar offered all kind of co-operation from the authority concerned. Based on their instructions, representatives from our department did visit the place twice. Unfortunately, the response from the community towards literacy programme was negative. The distance of the place from our college is also a hurdle before this project. Even though, the department haven't left the project behind. We will reopen it in the near future in collaboration with other departments of college.

As described, the camp was conducted as the part of MSW curriculum. As it was a complete learning course, we learned a lot from the community and motivated to contribute our part for them. The camp helped us to remove the stigma on tribes and other camp mates, and prejudgements regarding them. The camp was a huge learning experience for all the students. The objectives that were laid down for the camp were by and large met. The most important benefit of the camp was that the students learned to work as a team. The food, weather and surroundings were different and the students interacted extremely well with the local community as well as adjusted admirably to the rural settings.

The students did a commendable job in mobilising the community and the huge turnout of people that attended the programmes bears testimony to this fact. During one of the programmes, the students spread awareness about education and literacy. The students also interacted with the children of the community and played several games with them. The community living camp was a very good occasion for the students to exercise their social work principles and skills and the students benefited immensely by the experience.



## WORLD AIDS DAY OBSERVATION

The department observed international AIDS day on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015. World AIDS day, designated on December 1<sup>st</sup> every year since 1988, is dedicated to raising awareness of the aids pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection.

“Zero new infection, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS related death” is the theme for this year’s Aids day observation. In hand with this message WMO social work department observed December 1<sup>st</sup> for the promotion of awareness in college and society. The program was organized with the intention of eradicating the misconceptions prevailing in the society about AIDS and to make awareness among public for overcoming the stigma beliefs about the HIV infection and also to create a healthy society free of HIV infections, with healthy sexual lifestyle.

### a) Inaugural Function

The inaugural ceremony was started at 11.00 am in college auditorium. Ms.Rosna M.M (Assistant Program Coordinator) delivered the welcome speech. The inaugural secession was presided over by Mr. Ahammed Munavvir (HOD, Dept of Social Work).. The program was inaugurated by Dr.K.Jamaludheen



Farooqi (Honourable Principal WMO College Muttill). He congratulated the students and the department for their effort the undertook in conducting such a program in the college and providing students with such awareness classes on a disease like HIV which is spreading the shadow of chaos on society, and marking danger for the development of a healthy society. Mr.Siby Joseph (HOD Department of Electronics), Mr. Ashkar Ali P (Students Union Chairman, WMO college) addressed the felicitation speech.

### b) Red ribbon club formation

For the purpose of making active intervention in the college for providing awareness and education for the students in the eradication of HIV and AIDS, A red ribbon club was formed in the college. Dr. K.jamaludheenfarooqi (Principal WMO college Muttill) did the official inauguration of college red ribbon club with bedeck of red ribbon to Mr. Muhammed Nishad.S (Program Coordinator). Membership for the students into the red ribbon club was given to the



selected students from various departments in the college during the auspicious occasion. Pledge was taken by the dignitaries and the students to fight against the disease of HIV and AIDS, and also to promote the awareness of healthy life style and make the nation a “Zero new infection, Zero discrimination, Zero AIDS related death”, country. Mr. Binu C.B (Social Work, Association secretary) expressed vote of thanks to the function.

### c) Awareness class

To educate the students and to create awareness about the medical and social dimensions of HIV and AIDS an awareness class was organized following the inaugural session of the program. The awareness class was lead by Mr. Ragunath T.V (health inspector, vazhavatta). The class was very interesting and informative for the students in gaining knowledge about the medical as well as the social aspects of the disease. The class discussed about the importance of the need for change in attitude of society toward the HIV and AIDS as a disease and the necessity for the change of the social stigma toward the infected and affected persons. As a social worker as well as a social being the class was an eye opener for the audience to make a change, a change that would light the lamp of hope for the persons whose life dipped into the darkness of HIV and AIDS.

#### d) Street play



To make the effective reach of the awareness and importance of December 1<sup>st</sup> as the international AIDS day a street play named "Namukkunaraam" was conducted in college campus, Kalpatta and Meenangadi. The performance was very success full with the participation and response from the students and staff of the

college. It obtained Positive response from the public. Three destinations selected for the performance were notable with the participation of public and audience showed good cooperation and support for the students.



The programme was a new experience for the students as aspiring social workers. The program provided an opportunity for the students not only to make an impact and impression in the society but also as a learning experience in life. Students had the opportunity to interact with the mass and to obtain direct feedback from public. The program was a success as the first organized venture of the social work department.

#### WORLD WETLAND DAY 2016 OBSERVATION

The world wetland day observation was conducted by the department in collaboration with Dept. of Mathematics. The event was organized in the college auditorium. A half day seminar on the topic "education and sustainable livelihoods" was conducted.

The following activities were included as part of the wetland day observation programme:

##### A) Preparation of programme proposal

A detailed statement of the order of occurrence of different programmes was charted by the department and the programme schedule was forwarded to the associating department.

##### B) Documentary screening

A documentary made by the students of social work department on the theme of "wetland for our future-sustainable livelihood" was screened.

### Survey on Street vendors in collaboration with NULM

A national survey for assessing the socio-economic status of street vendors was conducted by the department of social work. The survey was conducted on the second week of February 2016. The survey report and the findings of the social work students were handed over to National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM).



NULM is the centrally sponsored scheme for poverty eradication, empowerment and welfare of street vendor community.

The street vendors living within the municipality of Kalpatta was the universe preferred for the collection of data.

The further actions based on the survey is under process being controlled by the Municipality of Kalpatta.