

SANTHIGIRI COLLEGE, VAZHITHALA

NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME

(Unit No. 097)

Activity Report for the Academic Year 2018 - 2019

Launched in the Mahatma Gandhi Birth Centenary year 1969, with the motto of “Not Me, But You” as a student youth service programme, National Service Scheme (NSS) aims at arousing social consciousness of the youth with an overall objective of personality development of the students through community service.

National Service Scheme has given a platform with abundant opportunities for social service, making our students socially sensitive and responsible to the needs and welfare of others benefitting from our actions and talents. We showcase and perform a pool of activities and programmes for the upliftment and amelioration of various sections of the society to create a niche of responsible citizens of this highly diverse nation. NSS has given us a platform to serve the society and bring smile on many faces.

Activities during the year 2018 – 19

Santhigiri College NSS unit has undertaken a wide variety of programmes during the academic year 2018 – 19. A detailed description of these activities is mentioned below:

1. World Environment Day

The activities of Santhigiri College NSS unit during the year started with the Observance of World Environment Day on 05th June 2018. We conducted the pencil drawing competition depicting the Environment Day. Prizes were also distributed to the winners.

2. Orientation Programme

For the purpose of the acquaintance of its new members with the organization, an Orientation programme was conducted by the NSS unit on 20th July 2018 under the leadership of the Programme Officers. To get the NSS volunteers familiar with the philosophy, history, aims and objectives of NSS, one day was dedicated to orientation programme through lectures, discussions, audio-visuals etc..

3. SANTHIDOOOTH MISSION – A unique initiative to help the flood victims

From 08th August 2018, severe flood affected Kerala, due to unusually high rainfall during the monsoon season. It was the worst flood in Kerala nearly a century. Over 483 people died and

about a million people were evacuated. According to the Kerala government, one-sixth of the total population of Kerala had been directly affected by the floods and related incidents. It is the worst flood in Kerala after the 'great flood of 99' that took place in 1924.

Idukki and Ernakulam were two of the severally affected districts. High landslide caused major problems in Idukki district whereas uncontrollable level of water created damage in different parts of Ernakulam district. After consulting with the local government authorities and the various departments concerned, we identified few areas where the external aids and assistance is required on an urgent basis.

After conducting an urgent meeting of NSS Advisory Committee members, Santhigiri College NSS unit decided to organize a unique programme - '**Santhidooth Mission**', for supporting and assisting the people in the flood affected areas.

Santhidooth Mission is the combination of 7 individual missions where each one takes up different initiatives in different areas. We got support from the Management, PTA, Teaching and Non – teaching staff members, and students of the college. More than 300 volunteers, from different groups, have participated in the mission. Along with this, the Panchayath - Municipality authorities, government departments and local public were also becoming part of this program in their respective areas.

The various missions formed as part of Santhidooth are as follows:

1. Santhidooth Cleaning Mission
2. Santhidooth Counseling Mission
3. Santhidooth Fund Raising Mission
4. Santhidooth Rehabilitation Mission
5. Santhidooth Education aid Mission
6. Santhidooth House construction Mission
7. Santhidooth Continuous Support Mission

Formation and Inauguration of Santhidooth Mission;

After visiting many flood affected areas, we decided to start our activities in Muvattupuzha, Ernakulam district. The flood water has deposited tones of mud and sludge inside and premises of the buildings. Removing this was a herculean task for the inmates and the authorities. So we decided to take on this as the first task of Santhidooth and arranged the tools, equipments and special dresses required for the mission.

On 21st August 2018, *Santhidhooth* programme began at 10.00 am with an inaugural function at Muvattupuzha. Programme Officer Mr. James Mathew delivered the Welcome Address. Mr. Eldho Abraham (MLA of Muvattupuzha), inaugurated the Santhidhooth Mission. Municipal Chairperson Mrs. Usha Sasidharan, Vice Chairman Mr. P.K. Baburaj, CMI Provincial of Muvattupuzha Fr. Paul Parakattil CMI, Principal Fr. Dr. Boby Antony CMI, Manager Fr. Mathew Kalappura CMI, Vice Principal Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI have spoken during the occasion.

➤ **Santhidhooth Cleaning Mission**

We launched a massive cleaning drive in the affected areas of Ernakulam and Idukki districts. The Cleaning Mission started its activities immediately after the inauguration of Santhidhooth Mission on 21st August 2018. The first venue for cleaning was Muvattupuzha Town Hall itself. Since all the chairs and inside spaces were soiled from the flood, an extensive cleaning process was needed in the Municipal Town hall. Under the supervision of Principal, Vice Principal and Programme Officers, more than 80 volunteers were involved in the cleaning there itself. At the same time, the other volunteer groups went to different parts of the town for cleaning.

We spent two days – 21st & 22nd August 2018, for cleaning in Muvattupuzha. Our volunteers cleaned about 25 houses in Murickal Colony. The other places were Muvattupuzha Govt. school, Rackad Anganvady, Good Samaritan Oldage home etc..

On 23rd August 2018, as per the direction of the Thodupuzha MLA Mr. P. J. Joseph, the volunteers moved towards the Methotty - Poomala tribal areas of Idukki District. Landslide had caused serious damages in these areas. NSS volunteers were divided into three groups and carried out the activities, such as removal of soil from the houses, cleaning and other necessary services. Panchayath authorities and localites have also joined with the NSS team.

Later we extended this service to few houses in Chalakudy which were situated in the banks of Periyar River. On a later date, one of the Santhidhooth team went to Karimban in Idukki district and cleaned 5 houses there also.

➤ **Santhidhooth Counseling Mission**

The Counseling Mission of 'Santhidhooth' undertaken an effort of visiting various Relief Camps and meeting the flood victims for the purpose of understanding their situation, feelings and provide possible mental support through counseling. This team consisted of trained MSW students also, along with the NSS volunteers. The team visited various Relief Camps in Idukki district such as Malayinchi, Peringasserry, Cheenikuzhi and Uppukunnu. It was a unique experience for the volunteers.

➤ **Santhidhooth Fund Raising Mission**

For supporting the flood victims in the best possible way and arranging facilities for them, we decided to incorporate a 'Fund Raising Mission' also under the banner of Santhidooth. Through conducting different campaigns in this aspect in and outside the campus, with the immense help of the Management, student volunteers, teachers and other stakeholders, were able to collect an amount of 4 lakhs in a short span of time. This amount was utilized for buying materials for the flood victims and arranging facilities for them.

➤ **Santhidooth Rehabilitation Mission**

The purpose of the formation of this mission was to provide necessary support for the people who return from the Relief Camps to homes, in association with the Cleaning Mission. To accompany them to their houses, help them to make the arrangements and distribute the necessary items for their survival were the tasks performed by these volunteers. The team members distributed essential items such as rice, cooking oil, coconut, tea powder, sugar and woolen blankets to several houses in Muvattupuzha and Idukki regions.

➤ **Santhidooth Education Aid Mission**

Most of the students in the flood affected areas have lost their books and other study materials. In order to support these groups of students by providing test books, uniforms and other study materials, we formed the mission named Santhidooth Education aid Mission. During the flood relief programmes, we were able to identify several students in such a situation and provided support.

Another noticeable aspect of this Mission was the support provided to our own students from the flood affected areas. As part of this Mission, the management decided to offer a reduction of fee upto 50% during the rest of the Course period for the deserved students. As per this, 07 students from various courses have received the concession.

➤ **Santhidooth House Construction Mission**

Even though we have assisted the reconstruction and restructuring of many houses which were partially or fully demolished due to the flood, we did not consider the idea of total construction of a house during the relief programmes; but when we saw the extremely pathetic condition of the house of Mrs. Saly Joseph, we decided to undertake the serious responsibility of making a house for her.

Due to the high landslide during the flood period, the house was almost destroyed and was not in a position to stay further. The financial condition of the family was also worse and it was impossible to build a new house by them. In such a situation, the NSS unit of Santhigiri College decided to carry out the construction of a new house.

Initially, we started the works for the fund collection by organizing a campaign in the College itself - among the students, teachers and non-teaching staff. A good amount has been raised

through this way. The management was agreed to contribute a substantial amount and the PTA was also offered a good contribution.

Along with this, we decided to print and distribute coupons to the students for accelerating the fund collection process, which yielded a good result. The volunteers tried their level best to collect the sufficient fund for the project.

The foundation stone for the new house was laid on 14th of January 2019 by Principal Fr. Dr. Boby Antony CMI, in the presence of Vice Principal Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI, Manager Fr. Mathew Kalappura CMI, Programme Officers Mr. James Mathew and Ms. Elsa Bosco, other faculty members, volunteers and family members. The construction works were started immediately after that.

➤ **Santhidooth Continuous Support Mission**

The scale of damage happened due to the flood is very wide. It is an enormous task to rebuild the devastated areas also. We realized that to stop the activities of Santhidooth Mission in a short period doesn't yield the desired results; so we decided to continue the programmes in the possible areas. In this context, 'Santhidooth Continuous Support Mission' has been established.

We decided to offer support in the following areas in a long term perspective, under this banner:

- Provide assistance in the construction of houses and buildings
- To connect the flood victims with the government departments, officials, clubs and persons where they can achieve some kind of support
- To draw and develop projects for the welfare of the affected people and development of the affected areas

Recognition for Santhidooth Mission

The programme has received an overwhelming response. The unique initiative of Santhigiri College NSS unit was widely acknowledged, accepted and appreciated in different levels. The volunteers worked in good spirit and enthusiasm for addressing the problems faced by the flood victims. With the help of management, staff members, students, Panchayath – Municipality authorities, Government departments and localites, we undertook an array of programmes in different places.

- ❖ Santhidooth has been selected as the official flood relief programme of M.G. university, Kottayam
- ❖ The volunteers and other participants of Santhidooth Mission have been honored in a function arranged in Muvattupuzha on a later date. MLA, District Collector, RDO, Tahasildar and Municipal Chairperson were present during the occasion.

We strongly believe that this initiative has created a good impact in the flood affected regions and helped a good number of people in many ways during the bitter phases of Kerala flood.

Highlights of Santhidooth Mission

- A massive programme of flood relief which aims to provide all kinds of support to the flood victims
- Started immediately after the flood and still continuing with various services
- Different areas are covered such as cleaning, counseling, rehabilitation, financial aid and house construction
- Standard safety equipments such as jackets, masks, gloves, boots and preventive medicines were provided to the volunteers during the Mission
- Huge participation - Not only the NSS volunteers; but also other students, teachers, parents and localites were actively involved in the operations

4. Seven Days Special Camp

The Annual Camp of NSS Unit of Santhigiri College was conducted from 21st to 27th August 2018. In the bitter phases of the massive flood which affected the entire state, it was extremely difficult to take the decision of conducting the Annual Camp during these days. But by considering the need of the hour, finally we decided to proceed with the camp and support the Santhidooth Mission through this way.

It is our pride to mention that we are the only NSS unit in M.G University who organized the Seven days camp on these days for supporting the flood victims. The major objective of the camp was massive rehabilitation and cleaning programme in the flood affected areas. Considering the extent of damage in the area, we decided to combine the camp activities with Santhidooth Mission and extend the services to maximum possible areas.

The volunteers have reached the places to carry out the cleaning activities. Principal, Vice Principal, Programme Officers and other faculty members were also engaged themselves in cleaning activities. Flood and water logging have affected many places in Muvattupuzha of Ernakulam district and landslip caused serious damages to the houses in Poomala area of Idukki district. As the water recedes, cleanliness remains the greatest challenge in the area.

The official inauguration of Annual Camp was conducted at Santhigiri College Auditorium on 21st August 2018 at 03.00 pm. The welcome address was delivered by the Programme Officer Mr. James Mathew. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI (Principal). Mr. P. J. Joseph (MLA of Thodupuzha) inaugurated the Annual Camp. Smt. Aleykutty Mani (President Purapuzha Panchayath), Fr. Mathew Kalappura CMI (Manager), Fr. Jince George CMI (Vice Principal Santhigiri college), Smt. Bindu Benny (Ward Member, Purapuzha

Panchayat) were also joined the meeting. The vote of thanks was done by Mr. Amal Lawrence (Volunteer Secretary).

After the meeting, Mr. Jismon Thomas, Assistant Professor of Marthoma College, Perumbavoor, conducted an ice breaking session, followed by a talk on volunteerism which made them realize the importance of leadership and team work.

On the second day, the Camp participants joined with the Mission at Muvattupuzha. The total volunteers were divided into various groups and directed towards Murikkal Colony and some other parts of Muvattupuzha. Principal, Vice principal, NSS program officers and teachers accompanied these groups. They have cleaned about 25 houses, 02 Anganwadis, one Convent and an old age home.

Mr. Eldho Abraham MLA, Municipal Chairperson, Counselors and other representatives and officials from Muvattupuzha municipality have visited our volunteers at various work places.

On 23rd August 2018, as per the direction of Mr. P. J. Joseph MLA, the volunteers moved towards the Methotty - Poomala tribal areas of Idukki District. Landslide had caused serious damages in these areas. NSS volunteers were divided into three groups and carried out the activities, such as removal of soil from the houses, cleaning and other necessary services. Panchayath authorities and localites have also joined with the NSS team. After completing work, we have distributed rice and other food materials to the families. This proved that the spirit in their heart is still glowing. By 06 PM, volunteers thanked the local supporters and returned to the camp.

The fourth day of the camp, 24th August 2018, a House Construction work was planned in Vazhithala Panchayath. The volunteers reached the destination at 10 AM. After the inaugural ceremony, they all were actively participating in the construction work of the house. The volunteers unloaded blocks, metal, sand and other construction materials to the work site. The hardworking and helping mentality of volunteers was again shown on that day.

On 25th August 2018, the house construction work was continued. Afternoon students reached the camp site for Onam celebration. After Onam Sadya and celebrations, Mr. Tom Kalappura took a session about importance and achievements of NSS. The volunteers were filled with pride after knowing the achievements of NSS.

On 26th August 2018, as a part of Swachh Bharath Mission, NSS volunteers engaged in the several cleaning activities in an around the campus under the supervision of Programme Officers and Volunteer secretaries. The Panchayath road and water sources were also cleaned.

On the last day of the camp, 27th August 2018, all volunteers started cleaning and rearrangements at the camp site. The closing ceremony was conducted at 11.00 am at College Auditorium. The

meeting was presided by Fr. Mathew Kalappura CMI (Manager, Santhigiri College), Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI (Principal), Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI (Vice Principal) joined the meeting.

Each day of the camp started with the morning assembly at 6.30am. Volunteers sang NSS Song which made them proud and energetic. The message of the day and reading newspaper were delivered during the assembly every day.

Each night in the camp was filled with cultural programs prepared and presented by each group. Aunty and Uncle of the camp have always been a surprise to the volunteers. The camp went to sleep only after thanking Almighty God for all the blessings of the day.

5. District wise Inauguration of ‘Clean Campus – Green Campus Programme’

The District vice Inauguration of ‘Clean Campus – Green Campus Programme’ has been conducted at Santhigiri College, Vazhithala, on 2nd October 2018 Gandhijayanthi Day. The inaugural meeting was started with the Prayer Song. Welcome address was done by the Program Officer, Mr. James Mathew. The programme has been inaugurated by Mr. P.J. Joseph (MLA, Thodupuzha) and the Presidential address was delivered by Fr. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI (Principal of Santhigiri College). The Keynote address was done by Mr. Sinoj Jose (President, Thodupuzha Block Panchayath). By representing the Suchitwa Mission of Idukki District, Mrs. Shoujamol P. Koya (General Extension Officer) did a Project Presentation on the activities conducted by the District Suchitwa Mission under the banner of ‘Haritha Kerala Mission’.

Further to this, a Suchitwa Sandesh Rally has been conducted from Santhigiri College to Vallikkettu Junction (Vazhithala) which was led by the Programme Officers Mr. James Mathew and Ms. Elsa Bosco, and Volunteer Secretary Mr. Alex Jimmy. The NSS volunteers from different colleges of Idukki District have been participated in the Inaugural function and Suchitwa Sandesh Rally.

6. Pothichoru – Food for the poor and needy

The NSS unit of Santhigiri College has initiated another remarkable programme for supporting the inmates of the Kunjachan Missionary Bhavan, Ramapuram, named *Pothichoru*. We provide packed lunch for more than 100 members of the Mission Bhavan every Wednesday by collecting it from the students and teachers of Santhigiri.

The programme was inaugurated by Principal Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI and Vice Principal Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI together, in the presence of HODs, Faculty members and volunteers. Programme Officer Ms. Elsa Bosco welcomed the dignitaries and Mr. Alex Jimmy (Volunteer Secretary) executed thanks giving.

7. Observance of World AIDS Day

NSS unit of Santhigiri College observed World AIDS Day on 01st December 2018 by conducting various programmes. As part of the awareness campaign, the volunteers distributed the red ribbon to all the teachers and students and the whole college pinned the red ribbon. A Poster Designing Competition was also held in the afternoon.

8. Observance of International Minority Welfare Day – A District wise Programme

The Observance of International Minority Welfare Day has been conducted at Santhigiri College, Vazhithala, on 18th December 2018. The Inaugural ceremony was started at 10 am and the Welcome address was done by the Program Officer, Sri. James Mathew. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI (Vice Principal, Santhigiri College). Mr. Jomon Chacko (HOD, Dept. of Commerce, Santhigiri College) did the felicitation address and Mr. Alex Jimmy delivered the Vote of Thanks.

As part of the programme, we conducted district wise Competitions of Quiz, Elocution and Essay Writing for the NSS volunteers of different colleges. The competitions started immediately after the Inaugural function, in different venues and finished at 03 pm. About 50 students from the colleges of Idukki district participated in the competitions. At 03.15 pm, the Prizes for the winners were distributed by Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI (Principal, Santhigiri College).

9. Blood Donation Camp

Donating blood is equivalent to giving life. Our NSS unit conducted a ‘Blood Donation Camp’ on 07th January 2019 at College Auditorium, in association with Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Rotary Club, Thodupuzha. The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Reji Jose (President, Rotary Club, Thodupuzha). Principal Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI presided over the function. Welcome Address was delivered by Programme Officer Mr. James Mathew and Vote of thanks by Mr. Santhosh M.D (Secretary, Rotary Club, Thodupuzha).

After the inaugural function, Principal Rev. Dr. Bobby Antony CMI and Vice Principal Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI have donated their blood. Further to this, 60 persons, including students and faculty members of Santhigiri College, have donated their blood on the day.

10. Participation in the National Integration Camp at Varanasi

Santhigiri NSS unit has reached another important milestone this year. One of our volunteers, Ms. Amritha Santhosh of Semester 4 BCA, has been selected for participating in the National Integration Camp, conducted from to at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, by representing Mahatma Gandhi University. The Principal, Vice Principal, Programme Officers and volunteers congratulated her for this special achievement.

11. Haritha Bhavanam Programme

In connection with the 'Haritha Keralam' Programme, initiated by Govt. of Kerala, Purapuzha Grama Panchayath, in association with NSS unit of Santhigiri College, organized Haritha Bhavanam Programme during the third week of February 2019. It was designed as an interactive programme with the people of the village by visiting houses, to get feedback on their agricultural activities and providing valuable information on how to improve the quality of agricultural practices. From 'Haritha Bhavanam', it aims to reach 'Haritha Keralam' through 'Haritha Gramam'. As part of it, a survey was also being conducted on every house to know their existing status.

In the initial phase of the programme, we decided to visit 260 houses in the 3rd Ward of Purapuzha Panchayath. The volunteers have been divided into different groups and each group consisted of 10 members. It was scheduled to complete the programme within five days.

Mr. P.J Joseph MLA inaugurated the programme on 19th February 2019, at the house of Mr. Joseph Muttam in Nediya sala village. Purapuzha Panchayath President Mrs. Aleykutty Mani, Vice President Adv. Raneesh Mathew, Ward member Mrs. Sini Jestin and Programme Officer Mr. James Mathew were also present for the Inaugural function. Mr. P.J Joseph MLA accompanied the volunteers in the first 10 houses, along with the Panchayath authorities.

The volunteers conducted the visit and survey for five days from 19th to 23rd February 2019. This interactive visit in Purapuzha village was a great experience for our volunteers.

12. EXPLORE EDAMALAKKUDY – An Interaction and Orientation Programme in the First Tribal Panchayath in Kerala

Santhigiri College NSS unit always focuses on undertaking unique programmes and activities which generates utmost benefits to the society. Santhidooth, Haritham and Santhigramam are the examples of this. After the great success of Santhidooth Mission, we undertook another distinctive mission at Edamalakkudy Panchayath.

Edamalakkudy, located in Devikulam Taluk of Idukki district, is the first Tribal Grama Panchayath in Kerala State. It is a collection of more than 24 'Muthuvan kudi' (hamlets). These hamlets are embedded in dense evergreen forests and each 'kudi' is about 03 to 10 kms away from the nearby hamlet, taking sufficient risk of travelling through the elephant infested forests.

For decades, the Muthuvan Tribe has been leading a primitive life. They continue to cling closely to their rituals and beliefs that raise several questions on women and children's rights, health and education. In this context, the 'State Child Rights Commission' decided to focus on

the education of the children in Edamalakudy. They wanted to make all the children, in the age group of 5 – 14, going school. For that, a detailed survey was also required in all the ‘kudis’ for knowing the existing status.

Our NSS unit agreed to take up the mission with the support of MSW Department of Santhigiri College, as described by the Child Rights Commission. 30 volunteers of NSS were selected for the Mission, along with 20 students from MSW. Initial discussions were conducted with the Child Rights Commission and designed a four days programme from 20th to 23rd March 2019. The commission took necessary permissions from the various Government departments and ensured the support of Edamalakudy Panchayath.

On 19th March, a special training programme was arranged at College for the participants and accompanying teachers. Fr. Jince Padinjarayil CMI explained the purpose and procedure of the Mission. Distributed the survey materials and provided sufficient information about traveling in the forest. The team, consisted of 50 student volunteers, Programme Officers and 08 other faculty members, started journey from the College to Munnar on 20th afternoon. We reached there by evening. A short meeting was conducted in the accommodation venue at 07 pm and had a final round discussion, before going to bed.

On 21st March 2019, after an early breakfast, the team started journey to Edamalakudy. Two mini buses of the Forest Department took us from Munnar to Pettimudi through Rajamala hills. The rest of the journey was in jeeps to Edamalakudy and six jeeps were ready for carrying us at Pettimudi. We loaded the materials in jeeps and started at 09.30 am, and the immediate destination was Societykudi – the only one hamlet of Edamalakudy having a road access.

The road situation was really pathetic. It took almost three hours to reach the place. From Societykudi, our team has been divided into 05 different groups and moved towards various directions.

The various routes followed by the different groups are mentioned below:

Group 1 – Koppeckad – Thenparakudi – Vellavarakudi – Parappayar kudi – Parakudi – Perumkadavu kudi – Nooradikudi – Valparai (Tamilnadu)

Group 2 – Societykudi – Idalipara – Shed kudi – Melpatham kudi – Nelmanal

Group 3 – Idalipara – Aandavan kudi – Naduckudi – Thazhekkudi

Group 4 – Kandathukudi – Mulakutharakudi – Nelmanal - Ambalapadi

Group 5 – Amabalaparakudi – Meenkuthikudi – Kudallarkudi - Mankulam

From Societykudi, all the groups had to move by walk in the forest till the last destination. Everyone was carrying their travel bags, along with the food kits, because most of the groups were not returning to the covered destinations and no food was available externally.

The groups visited all the 'kudis' allotted for them, met with the tribal people and conducted survey in all the houses. Most of the people live in the small huts with limited facilities, but sufficient toilet facilities and solar electricity are provided by the Panchayath to each house. We found many children who haven't got even primary education.

It was possible to visit only 2 – 3 kudis in a day. The groups were stayed in the hamlet which they last visited in the day and the villagers were very cooperative and supportive. The overnight stay in the hamlets surrounded by the forest was also a sole experience for the team members.

All the groups have completed their tasks by 23rd afternoon and returned back to Munnar by evening. We had a final meeting at the accommodation venue at 07 pm and reviewed the activities of all the groups. The volunteers were very much happy with the abundance of experience they got in these three days and expressed their gratitude for arranging such an opportunity for them.

On 24th morning, we returned from Munnar to College with everlasting memories of a wonderful programme.