



ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE KOTTARAKARA

7.2 –Best Practice I

**Patheyam: Food Distribution
Drive for the Underprivileged**



BEST PRACTICE I

Patheyam: Food Distribution Drive for the Underprivileged

Objectives

- Make students aware of the realities of society
- To arouse social conscience of the students
- To inculcate affection to all sections of the society
- Inculcate empathy for the destitute and the underprivileged
- Instill respect for senior citizens
- Encourage students to live out the spirit of service enshrined in the motto
- Impress upon students the importance of collaborative work in mitigating social problems
- Develop the organizational and leadership capabilities of students
- Strengthen the bond and rapport between the college and the larger community in which it is located.

Context:

The students of our college are blessed with a great commitment to society. They were inspired by the earlier NSS initiative of providing food to the underprivileged. With the support of the college authorities, the college union initiated Patheyam, to feed the destitute and poor. Its purpose was to inculcate a fellow feeling, the need to share one's resources with others, and to become socially committed towards building a less divisive and more egalitarian society. This helps the students to indulge in socially oriented programmes and to develop constant touch with the community.

Practice:

Patheyam began as an NSS initiative in 2012-13 and was taken up as a regular practice by the college union from 2014-15 onwards. Around 10 to 15 union volunteers are entrusted with the task of collecting food packets on Friday from all classes. Every Thursday, the volunteers remind students to bring an extra lunch packet, specifically home cooked meal packed in eco-friendly material, the following day. On Fridays the volunteers go to each class an hour before lunch break and collect around five packets. A total of 150 lunch packets are received every week. Though the initial collection of food packets was lesser than expected, the numbers steadily increased with time. Owing to the student motivation, the programme still successfully runs in the college. This consistency stands as a testimony to the empathy the students show towards the disadvantaged sections of the society. The collected packets are delivered and distributed by the volunteers to the inmates of Ashraya, a renowned NGO in Chengamanadu, which houses a wide range of underprivileged individuals, including children and senior citizens and to Kottarakara Taluk Hospital. The team also tries to spend quality time with the residents.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "S. J. Alex".

PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
KOTTARAKARA

Evidence of success:

The food distribution drive has been successful in inculcating a philanthropic sense of duty and responsibility towards fellow beings. The students have developed a civic sense of duty and responsibility over these years and it is evident from their principle participation in the programme. Ashraya has entered into an agreement with the college in relation to this practice, and a certificate of agreement has been issued in this regard. The number of lunches received and related documentation which is regularly entered in registers and the photographic evidence of the practice go to prove that the Patheyam drive has been successful so far despite some drawbacks. It has been extremely helpful to the charitable organization and beneficial and rewarding for the students who have volunteered in this scheme.

Problems:

The biggest problem with the practice is the difficulty to maintain regularity of distribution. Every Friday, the students willingly brought food packets. Though the engagement and enthusiasm on the part of students has increased with time, this support cannot be regularly maintained. Also, around ten Fridays are lost every year owing to vacation, holidays, exams and other contingencies. Therefore, the frequency of lunch distribution is affected.



PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
KOTTARAKARA



PRINCIPAL IN CHARGE
ST. GREGORIOS COLLEGE
KOTTARAKARA