

Flood Relief Activities and Cleaning Programme

The context

Due to unusually heavy rain fall during monsoon, severe floods affected our state Kerala. It was the worst flood in Kerala in nearly a century. Due to this all educational institutions were closed from 16th–19th August, 2018. We also lend our hand to the people who were affected by flood by giving them necessary food and other items.

Objectives

- To be a part of rebuilding Kerala.
- To develop social commitment during natural disaster.
- To lend our hand to the people who were affected by flood by giving them necessary food and other items
- To became the part of cleaning process of Chamakulam SUPHS School, Alappuzha.

Resources Required

Cleaning materials and tools like brooms, mops, buckets, pressure pumb, Gloves, Cleaning lotions, First aid kit, etc.

The Practice

On 7th September, 2018 30 students along with Principal Dr.BSuresh, Dr. V .K. Sobha, Dr J Lidson Raj, Dr.Kumar , Sri Rahul .V. R, along with the non teaching staff Mr. Rajendran became a part of flood relief campaign of Government of Kerala. ADPI and AEO gave necessary instructions and coordinated the activities.We also became the part of cleaning process of Chambakulam SUPHS School, Alappuzha. The party was received by the head master of the school and gave a briefing of the damages the flood had caused to the school.We walked around the campus and was petrified by the extent of damage water could do to even such strong structures. We planned to clean the primary school building which is a separate old one. The whole building was covered in mud that we had to wrap our feet in plastic so that we don't get infections. The classrooms furniture, book shelves, almirahs, windows, everything was covered with thick layer of mud.There were books and even computers inside which became irreparably damaged by the water. All the books were carried to the nearby church courtyard, wiped off the mud and kept for drying in the sun. We could hardly turn the pages. The class library even

included many books like dictionaries and encyclopedias which even if cleaned would not be completely usable. The stains on the pages will always be a reminder of those cold days. One by one, part by part we the students managed to do what they could. We all were so proud to be the part of rebuilding Kerala. The school authorities appreciated the activities and was very thankful to the college team as the condition of their school was so pathetic after the flood. The team spent one full day in the school and cleaned the mud covered rooms and premises.

Obstacles

The plastic cover on the feet made it hard to work, while the rubber gloves protected us from any injuries.

Impact of the practice

The HM and one of the teachers acknowledged our time and efforts. To see the clean floor under the mud and the smile on the happy faces was like discovering water in desert for us. We felt so proud of the opportunity and it would always remain a once in a lifetime experience. On the way back to Trivandrum everyone was so tired yet we all experienced an ecstatic pleasure in whatever we had done.

Conclusion

Flood had taken its toll on the people of Kerala over consecutive years and we saw both its disaster and its beauty. It brought together people from various walks of life either being affected by it or being a helping hand in surviving it. GCTE also made sure that we contributed in all possible ways to the cause as we could.

2. Easy Eco Living

The context:

Five day Residential Community Living Camp was organized for B.Ed students. The camp for second year B.Ed students named as “**EONIA**” the ‘**Awake for Tomorrow**’ was held from **2nd to 6th October, 2018**. The camp is being undertaken by 47 students of second year B.Ed and the teachers. The camp was held at Grameena Patana Kendrum, Karakulam. Five day Residential Community Living Camp was organized for first year B.Ed students also from **22nd to 26th February, 2019**, named as “**MERAZ 2K19**” themed around ‘**2gether for 2morrow**’ and was held at environment friendly institution, His Highness Swathithirunal AmmaVeedu, Thiruvananthapuram - a heritage spot that holds a handful of regional history. The camp that brought together 48 B.Ed students, 10 teacher educators and 10 resource persons. On

the third day of both the camp, the students have 'Community field visit' based on the pre-planned schedule.

Objectives

- To interact with the residents of the nearby housing colony and create awareness of their day to day actions that might lead to severe environmental issues
- To provide cloth bags free of cost as a part of reducing plastics in daily life.
- To improve social skills like tolerance, communication, cooperation, we feeling, empathy, community feeling, etc.
- To make them as green knights to protect nature from pollution.
- To enhance awareness about plastic pollution, solid wastes& its ill effects to the local people.
- To motivate the local people by providing reusable cloth bags to reduce plastic pollution.
- To reuse old clothes by making it into colourful doormats.
- To demonstrate about how to make doormats using old clothes to the local people
- To provide hands on experience to the future teachers to make cloth bags and door mats.
- To develop eco-friendliness and social commitment among future teachers.

Resources Required

- **Making cloth bags:** Different coloured new clothes, Sewing Machine, Threads, fabric paint & Brush. The group made 1500 colourful cloth bags for the campaign '*prevention of plastic*'.
- **2. Making Door Mat:** Old clothes were collected from students and faculty members and the group made 100 beautiful door mats for the campaign '*prevention of plastic*'.

The Practice

On the third day of the camp, the second year student teachers have no special sessions, as the coordinator had decided earlier itself that they could move in groups into the local community for a 'Community field visit', to engage themselves with people and to campaign towards the '*prevention of plastic*'. For the successful implementation of this campaign, the group split up to different groups and they distributed cloth bags to the peoples residing near the camp centre. The group members make them aware about that how their daily activities affects

the nature and insists them to reduce the use of plastics by using reusable cloth bags and after this campaign all groups returned to the camp.

In the same way, the first year student teachers also move in groups into the local community for a 'Community field visit', to engage themselves with people and to campaign towards the '*prevention of plastic*'. The group split up to different groups and they distributed different shaped door mats to the peoples residing near the camp centre. The group members interact with the residents of the nearby housing colony and create awareness of their day to day actions that might lead to severe environmental issues, much larger ones than the recent flood and make them reduce, reuse and recycle the waste materials. The students approached the residents with their innovative idea to creatively reuse the old waste cloths in their houses, which they often throw away or burn.

Ms. Priyanka .G, IAS (Asst. Collector, Thiruvananthapuram), addressed the gathering and inaugurated the community living camp by purchasing a mat created by the trainees and conveyed appreciation and wishes for the eco-friendly initiatives that the trainees had taken to decorate the venue and for the community interaction intended to spread the message of reduce, reuse and recycle.

Obstacles

Cloth Bag

- Lack of time for the student teachers to stitch & decorate the cloth bags due to their hectic work schedule and they found it difficult to stitch as only a few students know about stitching and they found it difficult to do it in the college .
- They feel difficulty to manufacture bags at a large scale to cater the needs.
- Time consuming as there is only one sewing machine in the college.
- Lack of time for the students to collect necessary materials due to the hectic work schedule
- They feel difficulty to manufacture door mats at a large scale to cater the needs.

Impact o the practice

Every individual has learnt a lot of things out of their comfort zones and as a teacher one can never resort to a comfort zone because this society has got a lot of problems and challenges which demands a teacher to intervene and resolve. As a part of giving this exposure to the

students, they learn a lot from this session, as it helped them to engage with the real life of people of various strata of the society, their mindsets, their problems and also a lot of other aspects and inculcate social responsibility and dignity of labour.

Conclusion

In spite of all the difficulties encountered the student teachers found the experience rewarding.


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