

## **CMS Extension activities**

To justify its existence and validate its claim as a socially relevant entity, every academic institution should address the needs and priorities of the greater community. CMS College has consistently followed this as a guiding principle in all its activities. The institution has taken several steps to pass on the benefits of development to the society and it has succeeded in forming a symbiotic relationship with the people of Chinnavedampatti where it is located.

Immediately after it started functioning as a full-fledged educational institution, the college adopted Chinnavedampatti Village for neighbourhood management. For the holistic development of the village, the institution took up an ambitious plan which has yielded positive results. Today many villagers find either direct or indirect employment in the college. Many students of the village get fee concessions for higher studies. Thanks to the proximity of the college, real estate values and rentals have sky-rocketed in the village benefiting even small holdings. New buildings have replaced hovels and huts and the quality of life has improved for the villagers.

The NSS/NCC wings conduct most of its annual programmes in the village. Every year they hold Medical camps, Eye camps, AIDS Awareness camps, clean the Village Campaigns etc. in the village. The volunteers of NSS lay roads in the village and make people become aware of social evils like drug abuse. Coinciding with the Global Youth Summit organized with the active participation of OISCA many trees were planted in the village to give it a green cover. Anti-Plastic Campaigns are conducted every year and the village is made almost plastic free. The Social Work Department of the institution actively fine tunes its activities with the help of NSS & NCC wings. The trio joins together in the village to carry out socially beneficial activities like Swine flu Awareness Programme, Eye Camps, Dental Camps, Blood Grouping Camps, Blood Donation Camp and Cancer Awareness programmes.

To foster community-centred interaction and living, and to facilitate a more effective interaction with the neighbourhood, the institution has formed a consortium with the local industry. This consortium helps the institution and the representatives of the local industry and entrepreneurs to pool their human and other resources together for effective neighbourhood management. The NSS and NCC have continued their activities even outside the immediate neighbourhood on demand from civic authorities. For example, a successful Chicken Guniya awareness drive was held at Karamadai village, approximately 16 kms away from the institution.

Several other departments make it a practice to visit old age homes and orphanages—Family for Children, Aravanaikum Anbu Illam, United Handicapped School and Old Age Home in and around Coimbatore to provide succour for the most disadvantaged sections of society. The departments provide clothes, uniforms and other study aids for the children of these orphanages. In old age homes they provide articles of clothing as well as provisions.

Disaster management is a priority area for the institution. For example, when Tsunami struck the east coast of Tamil Nadu, the staff visited the affected villages under the banner of 'Raswa' and undertook relief measures. They conducted screening for anaemia at Ajanoor and distributed clothes and groceries to the affected people at Attukad Village. Similarly, when landslides struck Nilgiris, the staff collected relief materials and Relief Fund for the victims at Baraliar.