

MAHATMA GANDHI MISSION'S

COLLEGE OF COMMERCE

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INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOL, VILLAGE: SEVA KARTAM

Gandhian ideologies emphasize the concept of "seva kartam" or serving others through community service in schools and villages. This idea promotes selfless action for the benefit of others, without expecting anything in return. It encourages individuals to offer assistance and support to others, fostering compassion, empathy, and overall well-being. The MGM's College of Commerce is dedicated to promoting and facilitating community engagement and service-learning initiatives, aiming to instill a sense of social responsibility and active citizenship among students and community members.

The objectives of implementing distinctive practices of community service in schools and villages are as follows:

- 1. Promoting civic engagement: Community service encourages active participation in communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and citizenship. It provides opportunities for individuals to contribute to the betterment of society.
- 2. Developing empathy and understanding: Engaging in community service allows interaction with individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting empathy, understanding, and respect. It helps break down barriers, fostering unity and inclusivity.
- 3. Enhancing personal growth: Community service challenges individuals to step outside their comfort zones, develop new skills, and gain a sense of accomplishment. It promotes self-reflection, self-awareness, and personal growth.
- 4. Encouraging teamwork and collaboration: Community service often involves working in teams, promoting collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills. It fosters collective responsibility and the ability to work together towards common goals.

To fulfill these objectives, the institute follows specific practices:

1. Planning activities for villages/schools: The institute plans and organizes activities that address the specific needs and challenges of the communities, such as educational workshops or environmental conservation projects.

- 2. Motivating students to come up with relevant topics: Students are encouraged to identify topics that are meaningful to the target audience, ensuring community service initiatives are tailored to specific needs and interests.
- 3. Finalizing topics based on compatibility: After considering compatibility with the area and target audience, the institute finalizes topics for community service activities, ensuring a meaningful impact.
- 4. Allowing students to visit and teach relevant topics: Students visit the chosen area, whether a school or village, and teach the relevant topics, engaging directly with the community and sharing knowledge and skills.
- 5. Taking feedback: Feedback from students and community members is essential to assess the effectiveness of activities and make improvements for future projects.

The outcomes observed from these community service initiatives include active participation from students and villagers, knowledge dissemination on various topics, development of understanding, stepping out of comfort zones, and the importance of teamwork and collaboration.

Engaging in community service fosters responsibility and citizenship, promotes empathy and understanding, enhances personal growth, and encourages teamwork and collaboration. These projects focus on environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and social and economic development in villages, contributing to a more sustainable future. Engaging in community service at a young age instills a lifelong commitment to giving back and making a positive impact.

In conclusion, community service in schools and villages is a powerful tool for promoting social responsibility, empathy, and active citizenship. Through distinctive practices, such as planning activities, motivating students, and teaching relevant topics, community service initiatives can achieve their objectives. The outcomes include active participation, knowledge dissemination, development of understanding, stepping out of comfort zones, and the importance of teamwork and collaboration. By engaging in community service, individuals, communities, and society as a whole can work towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and harmonious future.