

# **REPORT OF RURAL AWARENESS CAMP**

## **Introduction**

Rural Camp is an integral part of the training programme for the students pursuing Social Work. This was organized for six days at Sathipattu from 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 with an objective to create a platform for the students to understand and analyze the Rural Social System, Strategies used by the Non-Governmental Agencies, Nature of Government Intervention for the development of poor people, and to facilitate students experiences of group living. During this camp, the students were encouraged to organize and carry out programmes and events for social awakening and development of the people and conduct a survey on socio-economic and educational status of people at Sathipattu.

## **Objectives of Rural Camp**

- To enable students understand the Socio-Economic and Cultural conditions of rural life and to help students integrate essential values for life.
- To facilitate an exposure to the students to organize and carry out programmes and events for social awakening and development of the people.
- To help students develop personal and professional skills and to facilitate self-development in processes like decision-making, planning, organizing, executing, co-ordinating, recording and report writing.
- To assist the Students learn to work together as a team with a positive approach and to encourage them to take on concrete task towards future from the camp.
- To conduct a study on the Socio-Economic and Educational Status of People at Sathipattu.

## **Day – 1**

The inaugural ceremony of the Rural Awareness Camp began on 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013 at 11.00 am in the Community Hall at Sathipattu. The Chief Guest Rev. Fr. Dr. I. Ratchagar - the Secretary of St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science, Cuddalore, Special Guest Rev. Fr. Antony Raj- the Parish Priest of Sathipattu, Mrs. Lourdu Mary Antony Raj- Panchayat President, Sathipattu, Mr. Arumai Nathan- Head Master of St. Peter's High School, Mr. Melchior - the Correspondent of Mother Theresa Matriculation School lighted the lamp and inaugurated the camp. Then the guests were welcomed and honored with shawl and mementoes. Subsequently the Chief Guest introduced all the students of MSW to the participants over there. He then

explained about the objective and the importance of the camp to the MSW students and the participants. With his blessings for the success and fruitful exposure to the students, he ended his speech. Then Rev. Fr. D. S. Antony Raj Parish- Priest, Sathipattu and Mr. Arumai Nathan- Head Master of St. Peter' s High School, Sathipattu, inspired the students with their encouraging words and wisdom for a successful camp. The inaugural ceremony was concluded with the vote of thanks and national anthem.



In the afternoon a workshop on Health and Hygienic practices to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> girls of St. Peter's High School, Sathipattu was organized at 2.30 pm. Dr. Vijayarani, B.D.S - TamilNadu Government Dental College, Chennai enlightened the students with her speech which was so beneficial to the participants. The day came to an end with the evaluation.



## Day - 2

On 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013, a workshop on Group Counseling was conducted for the student of St. Peter's High School, Sathipattu at 11.00 am. Mr. G. Kumar, B.E, the founder of Aram Foundation and Community Worker in Banyan was the chief of the day who presented his ideas to the participants through skit, short film, documentary and interaction with the participants. In the noon, a workshop on Basic Human Values was conducted at 2.30 pm. Students those who were in need of counseling was counseled individually by Prof. Vanathi, Prof.

Josephine Jeyarani at St. Peter's High School. The session came to an end with the National Anthem, followed by this there was a small evaluation and orientation to the students on conducting survey from the villagers.



## Day - 3

On 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013, a survey on Socio-Economic and Educational Status of People at Sathipattu was conducted by the First and Second year Students of MSW. After a brief orientation, they went into the field and collected a data from the villagers from 10 am to 4.30 pm. They were able to collect survey from 475 families. After finishing the survey an evaluation on the day was done in the presence of Rev. Fr. Dr. I.Ratchagar, Secretary & Head, Department of Psychology, St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science (Autonomous) shared some of his insights on the socio-economic and

educational status of people at Sathipattu. Students shared their experience and this was appreciated by him. With this the day came to an end.





## Day – 4

On 28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013, Sports day was conducted by the students of St. Peter High School, Sathipattu. Rev. Fr. D.S. Antony Raj Parish Priest, Sathipattu inaugurated the sports day by congratulating the players. Volley Ball, Running Race, Kho-Kho, Kabadi, Musical Chair and Frog jump were the events conducted for the students. At 2:30pm the Chief Guest of the day Mr. A. Arun, Sub Inspector of Police, Panruti, enlightened the students the need, value, benefits of the Sports in Education and Career by sharing his personal life and experience. With this the day came to an end.



### Day – 5

On 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013, a workshop on Child Rights and Right to Education was organized at 11.00 am to the students of St. Peter's High School, Sathipattu. Mr. P .Joseph Victor Raj, Director, HOPE, Puducherry & State Convener, CACL-TN & PY was the chief guest of the workshop who highlighted the rights and duties of the children in reference to Right to Education. After the lunch, a workshop on Career Guidance to the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Students was organized. This session was presided over by Mrs. N.Arul Selvi,

Principal, Prof. Annous Samy Higher Secondary School, Bahour. She motivated the participants with her inspiring and thought provoking speech. This workshop was so beneficial to the students as she was able to clarify the doubts of the students. The day finally came to an end with the national anthem.



### Day – 6

On 30<sup>th</sup> of October, valedictory Ceremony of Rural Camp began at 11:30 am. Rev. Fr. Dr. I. Ratchagar, the Secretary of St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science, Cuddalore, Special guests Miss. Lalitha, IAS., Sub-collector, Cuddalore District. Rev. Fr. Antony Raj, the Parish Priest of Sathipattu, Mr. Arumai Nathan, Head Master of St. Peter's High School, lighted the lamp and started the programme. Then the guests were welcomed and honored with a shawl and mementoes. Then Rev. Fr. Dr. I. Ratchagar, the Secretary of St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science, Cuddalore congratulated and appreciated the faculties and students of Department of Social Work for their efforts in putting up Rural Awareness Camp. Subsequently Rev. Fr. Antony Raj, Parish Priest, Sathipattu, thanked the students of MSW for their good works and wished all success for their career. Then the special guests Miss. Lalitha, IAS, Sub-collector, Cuddalore inspired the school students the need and importance of education and also urged the students pursuing 10<sup>th</sup> standard to concentrate and excel in their academics. After wards, the

students were awarded with prizes for various sports and games. Before concluding the valediction, Rev. Fr. Dr. I. Ratchagar, the Secretary of St. Joseph's College of Arts & Science, Cuddalore gifted saplings to the students and staff of St. Peter's High School, Sathipattu to plant and grow them in the remembrance of Rural Awareness Camp organized by the Department of Social Work, St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science, Cuddalore. The programme came to an end with the National Anthem.



### Outcome of the Camp

The Rural Awareness camp brought out the following outcomes to the participants and the students of MSW:-

- The Students of St. Peter's High School got awareness on various themes and fields.
- The students got motivation from various resource persons who presided over various workshops during the camp.
- Individual counseling which was organized for the students could be an opportunity to ventilate their feelings, problems and seek guidance for their future.
- Students of MSW could learn a lot about socio-economic, cultural, educational life of the students and people at Sathipattu.



- Students of MSW were able to excel in professional skills such as leadership, communication, team work, organization, coordination, cooperation, rapport building, reporting and so on.
- Students of MSW were able to learn how to interact with the people and collect a data from them as they were provided a golden opportunity to conduct a survey on socio-economic and educational status of people at Sathipattu.

