

## **EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE**

ASU envisages to take potential minds and propel them towards greatness, to explore and expand the human knowledge base, to deepen universal and Human Values and do public good to benefit the society. Effective community service not only helps in creating holistic individuals with sound values but also helps to make a positive difference in the society specially amidst the underprivileged classes. It makes the students more empathetic towards the lesser privileged and helps make them better human beings. Community service is driven by the founding principles underlying this University which emphasize on the love of life, love of knowledge and love of giving to others while expecting nothing in return.

Certain challenging issues were needed to be addressed in designing the practice for obtaining fruitful outcomes and then in implementing the practice successfully. A unique credit-system comprising 40 hours of work related to community service was made mandatory on the part of every student for completing graduation from Apeejay Stya University. This was done to sensitize the students to the needs of the community at large and to inculcate efficient citizenship qualities.

Students have the freedom to undertake an effective community service amongst the neighboring community and are required to reproduce evidence of the successful utilization of 40 hours of community service under the direction of the designated faculty. Students are mentored by the concerned staff to reach out to the community and address their genuine concerns in a suitable manner. A proper monitoring and assessment of the community work undertaken by each and every student is done meticulously.

The sincerity with which community service is executed makes this

practice a unique feature of the University and contributes towards the ultimate goal of higher education to produce sensitive human resource required for building a strong nation. The community service follows a ten-fold practice which includes the following agenda:

### **1. Swachch Bharat**

To reach out to the outer community and make them aware of the benefits of a clean environment with proper garbage management. Students actively take part in cleanliness drives along with the community and set up new examples of how to keep the surroundings clean. The benefits of a tidy habitat are conveyed to the villagers through discussions and demonstrations.

### **2. Literacy-Campaigns**

Community is guided about the benefits of education. Children are given coaching and teaching lessons and are motivated to get educated. Special classes are arranged for the children of the weaker section inside the university-campus where they are given incentives and encouragement to pursue school education.

### **3. Toilet provision**

Community is made aware of the need to have a proper sanitization and toilet facility in every home. With the efforts and convincing of our students the nearby villages have equipped themselves with toilet provision.

### **4. Women-empowerment**

Community women are guided about their rights and privileges. They are exhorted to have a strong voice and stand up against injustice. Sewing machines are provided to them and they are motivated to take up jobs as per their skills. Some are provided with seed-money and financial-aid to

venture into some startups.

## **5. Rights and benefits**

The University students reach out to the lesser privileged and motivate them about certain schemes and allowances being offered by the government specially for them. Nukkad-nataks and lectures are arranged to enlighten the community about their rights and benefits which the government announces for the underprivileged.

## **6. Health and hygiene**

Students chaperon the villagers regarding the benefits of maintaining proper hygiene at home. Masks were distributed for covid-19 in the adopted villages. Sensitization of villagers is done to keep them free from corona. Sanitary napkins are regularly provided to the underprivileged women.

## **7. Healthy eating habits**

These are conveyed to each and every home in the community through personal visits. Village youth and children are specially made aware of eating healthy food as opposed to the junk food which is largely gaining popularity even in villages.

## **8. Basic-Amenities**

Basic amenities like street lights, proper drinking water and sanitization are ensured with the help of local administration. Students keep track of the various issues raised by the adopted villages regarding the non-availability of certain amenities and try to address them.

## **9. Computer-Training Programmes**

These are organized specially for the desirous youth of the community. The University organizes various workshops for the lesser privileged youth and allows them an access to the computers with a view to literate them about

computers and technology.

## **10. Skill-Enhancement Drive**

The individual potential of community members is gauged and then tapped and trained for self-reliance. Help of experts is sought in this regard. Pickle-making, fabric designing, pottery, handicrafts items, sewing are some of the skills which are enhanced through proper training by our students.

Students who start undertaking community service for gathering credits soon develop a passion to get whole-heartedly involved in the same not for gathering credits but for getting a unique satisfaction and moral uplift of their beings. Community service is now one of the distinctive features being followed by ASU. Many children from surrounding slum areas are receiving education in schools after repeated persuasion and help from our students. Many women from the neighboring community are empowered selling pickles and stitching clothes and doing embroidery, thanks to the motivation, training & financial support extended to them by our volunteers. The neighboring village adopted by ASU has acquired street lights and clean drinking water through constant interaction with local administration. Many villages who were opposed to having cooking gas for their kitchens are now using gas cylinders in place of the polluting fuel which they were previously using. The mindset of the villagers from the adopted villages has undergone a sea change and they are exhibiting a progressive and more enlightened and aware attitude towards every facet of life.

Being situated in the remote area of Sohna with close proximity to the rural areas, situational benefits have served to leverage the intensity and enthusiasm with which community service is offered and practised at ASU.