



**NSS UNIT 41,**  
**ST.TERESAS COLLEGE,**  
**(AUTONOMOUS),**  
**ERNAKULAM**



***JAIVAM 2017***

**SPECIAL CAMP REPORT**

St.Teresa's College envisions a life oriented education that empowers students to respond proactively to social concerns by promoting programmes that foster inter-connectedness, kinship and eco-justice. The college's NSS Wing, led by Dr.Nisha Vikraman and Ms. Athira Babu, provides a perfect platform to achieve the same. It is a voluntary organisation for the students and teachers to involve themselves in rural development programmes and to participate in the socio-economic life of the community.

### **JAIVAM 2017**

The seven day major camp organized by the NSS unit of St.Terasas College, Ernakulam began on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017, at Teekoi panchayath, Kottayam. As Kottayam is the first district in the country to achieve the milestone of 100% literacy, the goal of the camp is to create awareness among the natives of Kottayam about the significance of '*JaivaJeevanam*' and thereby leading them to '*HarithaSaaksharatha*' under the title '*Jaivam*'. This is a giant leap taken by the Mahatma Gandhi University by communicating a great vision to the NSS units under it.

To put the vision into action, NSS volunteers were instructed to conduct a survey in about 5000 families in the district as a primary step to collect details regarding the farming practices followed by them. Also the volunteers are devoted with the duty to co-organize many cultural, social and service-oriented programs with the people to convey the message '*Mannilekku,Manasilekku,Manushyarilekku*'

## 31 August 2017

The NSS volunteers of St.Teresa's College set off for the seven day camp to Teekoy, Kottayam as two batches; the first batch at 8:30 am in the college bus and the latter at 9:30 am in a KSRTC bus. Each batch reached the FC Convent near DCMR at 11:30 am and 12:30 pm respectively.



After the tedious task of unloading all the luggage and requirements of the camp, the volunteers settled down and proceeded to take part in the Jaivam Inaugural Function at 4:00 pm in the Panchayat Hall. The event was organised by the 'Organisation Committee' among the campers.

The inauguration began at 4:30 pm with the welcome speech by the College's NSS Joint Secretary Teena Mary. The Panchayath President, Mr.K C James inaugurated the Jaivam programme in the presence of the Chief Guest, Dr.R Prakash ( MG University Syndicate Member); Dr.Sajimol Augustine, Principal; Rev. Dr. Sr. Vinitha, Director, St.Terasas; Eeratupetta Police station SI, M S Rajiv; Leader of Jaiva Karshaka Samithi, George Kadaplakkan and the ward members of all 13 wards.



Many speeches were made on the occasion by the authorities of the programme, including the Panchayath President, the Syndicate member, Principal of the College and the Programme Officer Dr.Nisha Vikraman. The function came to a close by 5:30 pm with the Vote of Thanks by the Camp Cordinator Anu C S.



### 1 September 2017

The second day of the camp began with the Yoga session and morning assembly from 5:30 to 6:30. The volunteers had their breakfast, packed their lunch and set off for the survey in groups by 8:30. The goal was to collect information from

people regarding the farming practices in their homes and to distribute the the 'Jaiva Krishiku Oru Marga Rekha' booklets among the people. Other than this, the volunteers also had to paste the 'Jaivam sticker' in each house they surveyed to indicate they were also a part of our ' Jaivam Saksharata Yagnjam'. It also helped the other students to identify if a house had already been surveyed. Each group consisted of 10-12 members and had their own wards to cover and this made the volunteers competitive to cover most number of houses in the wards allocated to them. They spread out in the entire Teekoy town and covered as many houses possible.



For some groups the journey was gruesome due to the uneven roads and hilly terrain. Also each house was situated kilometers away from the next. This made the job very difficult for the students. But the volunteers put up as many jaivam banners as possible on the walls in junctions and roadsides.



While for some others the survey was a piece of cake mainly because they had the guidance of some ward members and CDS members. The maximum number of houses covered on the first day was 121 houses and the least was 53 houses.

The volunteers returned to the camp by 3:30 pm. After an interactive session, the students had dinner. Following the practice for the next day's cultural activities, the day came to a close with the cultural events in which the students exhibited their talents in myriad ways.

## **2 September 2017**

The proceedings began at 5:30 with the Yoga session after which the morning assembly began. As usual the assembly consisted of an All-faith prayer and Newspaper presentation. By 9:00 am all the volunteers were ready to go for the survey having had their breakfast and packed their lunch boxes. They were divided into 10 groups which were different from the previous days.



The volunteers could work even more easily than the previous day because now they were familiar with the ward numbers and routes. They had to traverse through high terrains to reach from one house to the next. But as our students were full of fun and expectation, they found ways to cope with fatigue. They stopped at junctions and sang the 'Jaivam song' so that they could get some rest and at the same time make the people aware of our presence in the Teekoy Panchayat.



With all due support from the ward members, Kudumba Sri workers, CDS members and the local people, the volunteers could cover many houses before returning to the camp at 5:00 pm.

After freshening up and sharing their experiences of the day, they proceeded to have dinner. Then, there was the Cultural Session in which the campers showcased their various talents through a plethora of ideas. By, 10:30 the lights were out.

### **3 September 2017**

The fourth day of the camp brought with it expectations of joy and success. The volunteers were now used to rising before the sun practicing Yoga which is as good for our body as good food. The presentation of morning assembly had now become a competition in which each group thrived to come first. The assembly was followed by breakfast, cooked by 'Mess Committee' formed among the students themselves, and then they had to go for the survey.



Today our students had decided to share the ideas that germinated in their creative minds with the people of Teekoy. This became possible through the various Onam celebration programmes that were being organized throughout the Town. The volunteers took part in such events with the ward members' permission and went ahead to perform their humble but bold, creative endeavors including a mime, mono act and group songs about the Jaivam mission.



The local people offered huge support and cooperation to our programs and survey. This idea of conducting the survey after entertaining people became a great success and the volunteers could cover a maximum of 142 houses from each ward. At the same time, students who were not taking part in the Cultural activities went to conduct the survey in houses. Although there was lack of cooperation from some households. I can affirm with the least shadow of doubt that their



sustained effort made the day fruitful. The students returned to the camp earlier than the previous day because now they were able to conduct the survey in a shorter span of time as all of them didn't have to walk from house to house. Also it made the Cultural Session at night more energetic as the campers were not very tired.

#### 4 September 2017

The fifth day of the camp was the most special one. As everyone woke up to the sound of the Camp coordinator's whistle at 5:30, the Mess committee and the Working committee were already at work, preparing Onam sadhya for their fellow volunteers and teachers, who had now become a single family. After the yoga and assembly, the volunteers dressed up in the best way possible and set off for the Jaivam Saaksharata Yagnam.



Today's survey was a very short one because the volunteers had to return to the camp by 12:30 pm for the Sadhya and celebration. Irrespective of religion, family backgrounds and age, the volunteers, teachers and sisters of the Convent celebrated Onam with great pomp and show. It undoubtedly formed the best part of the camp. The Maveli's blessings and singing of Onappattukal reminded the volunteers of their former years' Onam celebrations, but all of them agreed that this was their lives' best Onam day. Some of them felt homesick, but all complaints vanished as soon as the Special cultural were staged. After a wonderful day, the volunteers got back to work preparing for the next day's programmes.



### 5 September 2017

The day began with Yoga and the morning assembly, followed by breakfast and survey. Today the cultural presentations were staged at all gatherings ranging from the Onam celebration at Achukaav Temple at Mangalagiri to that in St. Antony's Church, Vellikulam.



The cultural events were the result of an intensely collective effort and an unmisted reflection of St. Teresas College's creative backgrounds. The Teresians gave expressions to their growing skills through riveting poems and a galaxy of songs, all the while emphasising on the importance of promoting organic farming and sustainable development. They also made sure that all the events that they performed were understandable and interesting to common people including kids

who had no knowledge of pesticide pollution and related issues. The idea was to make sure that we leave behind an indelible mark of our coming to Teekoy in the minds of people.



The students also settled down near Onam Sale locations to conduct survey from the people who had come to shop. This saved a lot of time and effort. By the fifth day, the students had completed almost three quarters of the work given to them. Now almost every volunteer knew her way around the Teekoy town like the palm of her hand. It was unbelievable how the students developed a special liking for the place and the people there. The bonding among the volunteers was also commendable.

### **6 September 2017**

The seventh day began with the realization that the camp was gradually coming to an end. Only 2 more days and 1 night were left in Teekoy and the volunteers made the most of every moment. The Yoga session, morning assembly, the camp mess, everything was being handled with utmost precision and enjoyment. The Jaivam Saaksharata Yagnjam was at it's peak, with the volunteers talking to people and listening to their views and opinions patiently.



The scenic beauty of the place was a bit distracting, but it was impossible to ignore the foggy sky and the cool streams running down the green hills. The volunteers accepted that they envied the people living there because they had everything that we didn't have- mountains, greenery, fresh water. But it is a sad fact that availability of drinking water is scarce in most parts of Teekoy while a small amount of people have their own wells and the others access water from the Panchayat's Water tank.



By now most houses were surveyed. The volunteers had now calculated the remaining houses to cover and divided the wards among themselves. They proceeded with the cultural presentations and even organized games like Musical chairs and Tug-war for the local people. Some of the ward members even provided lunch and transportation facility to the volunteers. By the end of the day's Jaivam Saaksharata Yagnjam, only a handful of houses were left to cover for the next day. The day came to a close with the Cultural Session at night performed with great enthusiasm.

## 7 September 2017

The final day of the camp brought forth both tears and smiles at the success of our Jaivam mission and the sorrow of separation. The valedictory function began at 10:00 am in the Panchayat hall.



On the dais were some of the most important people who had made this camp a success – the Panchayat President K C James, Karshaka Vedhi President C E Varkey, Sr.Josy from the Convent, Ward members V J Jose, Payas, M I Baby and Ancy Justin. Among the audience were some of the Kudumbasri workers, Karshaka Samidhi members and Organic Farmers who served as guides and provided all due support for our Jaivam Saaksharata Yagnjam. The felicitation was given by the Program Officer, Dr.Nisha Vikraman. Badges were given away to the Best Worker and Best Camper among the volunteers.



The valedictory function came to a close with the singing of the National anthem and hope that the dedicated teamwork by the NSS volunteers under the able guidance and support of the program officers Dr.Nisha Vikraman and Athira Babu and the unstinted co-operation of the local people, coupled with the active efforts of the Volunteer Leaders will go a long way in achieving 100 % Jaivam Literacy in not just Teekoy, but the whole Kottayam district.



## PHOTO GALLERY



*Off we go...*



**New home...**





*Shuchekarana pravarthanagal...*

**Inaugural function**



*With the Panchayat President K C James*



**Cultural activities**



**Artistic pursuits of Teresianz...**

**Jaivam Saaksharata Yagnjam**



*The earlier taught, the better...*



*In the borders of Teekoy...*

*Onam celebration*



### Valedictory function





