

## ***Analytical Note on Data Collected from Karnataka***

### ***Community Engagement with Higher Educational Institutions and Social Responsibility in Higher Education***

This Report on Community Engagement with Higher Educational Institutions and Social Responsibility in Higher Education in Karnataka, assumes special significance in the light of the Karnataka Youth Policy adopted in 2012 and the Karnataka Knowledge Commission sponsored *Study on the Perceptions, Aspirations, Expectations and Attitudes of Youth in Karnataka*. The Youth Study indicated two critical facts in its Report: 'Being socially responsible was an aspiration of a significant chunk of the youth. This was either a reflection of their active involvement in social work already or a reflection of a desired future course of action. This was a clear priority with rural youth (Summary 8.2.10)' and 'Youth also stressed on the fact that society must give the younger generation more responsibility. This represents both the aspiration of a new generation as also their frustration of not being provided with the opportunities that they believe that they deserve' (Summary 8.2.11, *Study on Perceptions, Aspiration, Expectations and Attitudes of Youth in Karnataka*, Karnataka Knowledge Commission, Government of Karnataka, August 2011 : 114) .

Further, the Karnataka Youth Policy (2012) states that, 'Multiple capacities of youth often do not find an avenue for expression. **Most young people in the state often say that they would like to be involved in serving the community but have very limited opportunities for the same and have strongly endorsed the need for an appropriate and variable platform. This policy places a premium on 'Volunteerism'**. It would facilitate the process of every youth dedicating 7 days in a year for voluntary work. Youth federations, voluntary organizations and various government agencies or departments can form partnerships at various levels in carrying out numerous society-oriented activities on 'voluntary basis' (Emphasis Added. 8.2, Karnataka Youth Policy 2012 Karnataka Government). The present report provides a snap shot of the ongoing efforts at sample Universities and Higher Educational Institutions in Karnataka on the domain of Community Engagement and Social Responsibility.

The data collected from the state of Karnataka for this project includes ten institutions of higher learning including five universities. These institutions are a mix of state universities, private universities, affiliated colleges and autonomous colleges. This document is a snapshot of the wide range of social and community based activities which are carried out by these institutions. The study was conducted across four districts in Karnataka namely Bengaluru, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Ramanagaram. The Universities and Colleges covered

as part of the study include- Bangalore University and Christ University in Bengaluru, Jain University spread across Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts, Mysore University in Mysuru, Tumkur University in Tumakuru, Jyoti Nivas College, Kristu Jayanthi College, Mount Carmel College, National College and St. Joseph's College in Bengaluru. In this Report they are listed in alphabetical order.

### **Category I: Linking Learning with Community Service**

*In this approach, students and teachers apply their knowledge and skills in a chosen community to improve the lives of people in that community. This can be achieved through 'adoption' of a specific village or slum, and then providing engagement opportunities to students from various disciplines and courses to apply their knowledge to address the challenges of that specific community.*

The data collected from the various universities and colleges across Karnataka shows that community engagement initiatives are of various types. The students are involved in innumerable activities as part of their curriculum along with the NSS programs.

#### **Student Related Activity-**

Various departments at **Bangalore University** host activities in which the students get a chance to participate in community service related activities including field visits and discussions on various concepts relating to social equity and justice. It is important to note that the Department of Social Work department has been involved in reconstruction of village clusters in Ramanagaram district in Karnataka and also working for child protection with Karnataka State Integrated Child Protection Society. The Department of Political Science offers a certificate course on Human Rights.

Almost all the post graduate departments at **Christ University** have made community engagement mandatory for the students. These departments include, English, Psychology, Applied Sociology, Media studies and Management. Apart from conducting community awareness programs, these departments undertake projects to work with NGOs, government, and corporate houses. The Social Work department at the university is also very active in conducting a range of activities under social action. The Faculty of Engineering students teach the under-privileged children of the nearby communities and the University also has a certificate course in NGO administration and Youth and Social Responsibility. It is worth mentioning that students of Christ University support around 850 underprivileged children from nearby slums by sponsoring their education, and every semester, all departments conduct social responsibility week, creating awareness on various social issues.

The data collected from Jain University talks about the involvement of students in community engagement as a part of their curriculum. The undergraduate courses deal with environmental awareness, issues concerning ecological balance and protection of natural resources as compulsory subjects. Further, students at the Undergraduate level have been devoting time after their class hours, to support activities at important NGO likes Pratham Foundation and Sambhav Foundation to work with school children who are differently abled and have autism. Annually, students from different semesters also spend time at the Vishwa Chetana High School, Basaveshwaranagar, helping children improve their English language skills. Every campus conducts a range of awareness campaigns and drives on appropriate days involving the local community and the relevant stake holders. At the Kanakapura Campus, students and faculty have been involved in teaching in the local schools especially to spread Science awareness. Students at all Campuses have been involved with Rotary activities and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan awareness on campus. The Faculty of the Post Graduate Department of Psychology have conducted Study Skills Training for students of 10<sup>th</sup> standard in Government Schools in the State and this has been done on a *Pro Bono* basis.

In **Mysore University**, Mysuru, most departments of undergraduate and post graduate studies encourage students to take part in community engagement activities. The University has Bharani Yojane since the 1970s where they have adopted villages for the purpose of adult education, literacy practices, awareness for state and national government programmes, societal development programs etc. the university has also constituted Committee for Development of Science in Schools (CDSS) which inspires high school students to take up science as a career option. Teachers from Mysore University also teach at some of the high schools under this programme. The University is also engaged in consultation and extension service for which it has established a special industry interaction cell. This cell mainly works on agriculture related projects and consultations such as crop diseases, cropping pattern, water testing, food adulteration, agricultural marketing etc.

The students of **Jyoti Nivas College**, Bengaluru engage in community service by being part of various groups or clubs such as the Rotaract Club. They organise rallies and awareness programmes and also helped to raise funds to help victims of Kashmir floods. The Rotaract club has 100 members and is active in professional development, leadership development and various social service projects such as cleaning parks in surrounding areas and spending time with the children of Mallika Jeevodaya child care centre at Madiwala. Students are also associated with a number of social work organisations, NGOs and Hospitals across the city where they assist in working with the marginalised sections of the populations such as street children, rag pickers, children of lepers, school dropouts, HIV/AIDS patients etc.

The social work department at **Kristu Jayanthi College**, Bengaluru provides consultancy to different institutions including NGOs, Corporates and Academic Institutions. They work on community need assessment surveys, project monitoring and evaluation, capacity mapping and SWOT analysis, stakeholder satisfaction surveys, educational leadership, classroom management, parenting workshops etc. The college has a Centre for Continuing Professional Development (CCPD) which was established to provide training to individuals and groups on human relations. The Centre has conducted over a hundred programs in specific areas of team building, communication, interpersonal relationships, work life balance etc. The college also undertakes research through its Research centre and provides counselling, guidance and training to women through its Women Empowerment Cell.

In **Mount Carmel College**, Bengaluru various courses have made community engagement mandatory during coursework. This is followed in the Bachelors and Masters of Commerce, Masters of International Business, and PG Diploma in Business Administration courses. The students have to visit NGOs, orphanages, government schools and slums and carry out various activities such as painting walls, building classrooms, toilets and the like. The college has adopted a village near Bagalur district in Bengaluru North. Students set up camps in this village and live there for 15 days while working on the upliftment of village community and women in particular. Students raise funds for these activities during college fests and have been successful in raising about Rs. 15 lakh till date. During the camps, students carry out activities such as renovation of school building, hygiene and adult education to households in the village, literacy and distribution of notebooks/ sports equipment, legal awareness for village community, developing self-help groups and assisting them in microfinance and the like.

**National College Bengaluru** has community engagement activities as part of its curriculum. However, no specifics were mentioned in this regard.

**St. Joseph's College, Bengaluru** also has made community engagement compulsory as part of their Masters' curriculum. Various activities undertaken by the students include visiting and camping in villages and semi-urban towns to learn about their lifestyle, culture, education etc while also carrying out awareness programmes, community service etc. Students are also active in various Medical associations, NGOs, Christian organisations, Social work departments etc who initiate activities related to society both on and off campus.

## Category II: Researching with the Community

*In this approach, various faculties and programmes of higher educational institutions devise joint research projects in partnerships with the communities. In this approach, the community's own knowledge is integrated into the design and conduct of the research. New research by students and their teachers gets conducted and students complete their thesis/dissertation and research papers to complete their academic requirements (which can later be published), and at the same time the community's knowledge is systematised and integrated in this research.*

At Christ University, most research in social and community work is conducted by the Centre for Social Action under the Department of Social Work. They have various consultancy projects in various parts of Karnataka in association with Indian Oil- such as assessment of government schools in many districts, baseline surveys of schools and villages, a minor research project in Mandya district to assess the selection process of Bhagyalakshmi scheme for girl child, a major research projects on Development induced Displacement in Bagalkot and studying the effectiveness of Ujjawala Scheme for prevention of trafficking, rescue and rehabilitation of the victims in Karnataka etc.

The Jain University Department of Civil Engineering has undertaken an important hydraulic project for water conservation and commercial water-saving devices in order to promote water conservation. The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) has worked with Bala Janaagraha to develop course material for Civic Education and also train the Resource Persons who carried forward the programme. Students from the Department of Psychology have worked with the Kadam Foundation to take forward projects on literacy involving slum children. The Department Faculty have been actively involved with schools across the state, in developing a Life Skills Program for School Children especially focussing on Gender Sensitivity.

At Mysore University, all M.Sc students are involved in research activities with the community as part of their curriculum. Students engage in many research projects which have a direct relation with society and people.

The students from Jyoti Nivas College conducted a survey in a slum to understand the basic needs of slum dwellers. The study brought forth the need for solar lanterns to the residents of the slum.

The Social Work Department of Kristu Jayanthi College provides consultancy services to the NGOs in areas of conducting surveys, researches, project monitoring and evaluation and capacity building.

In Mount Carmel College, research is mostly action oriented where solutions are provided to existing problem- for example, digging of borewells, and construction of waterlines to

solve the problem of water. Students/ courses for which community engagement is mandatory have to submit research projects in respective areas.

National College conducted a joint project with its Department of Botany and the Department of Environmental Science, BMS College of Engineering Bangalore where the VI semester students of B.Sc undertook the water analysis of three water bodies in Bangalore. A study tour and exploration of biological specimens in various areas of Western Ghats was organised by Departments of Botany and Zoology for their students. A study on Soliga Tribes in B. R Hills was conducted by the Final year B. A. students, to understand the dwindling tribal population and assess their socio-economic status.

St. Joseph's College has been invited by Karnataka Branch of Indian Institute of Public Administration to establish a civil service coaching centre to provide guidance and training to meritorious students from under privileged sections. The college organizes conferences, fieldtrips and undertakes research projects to create knowledge and awareness among students about the society, ecology, present education status etc.

### **Category III: Knowledge Sharing with the Community**

*The knowledge available with students and teachers in various disciplines is made available to the local community to realize its developmental aspirations, secure its entitlements and claim its rights from various public and private agencies. These can take the forms of enumerations, surveys, camps, trainings, learning manuals/films, maps, study reports, public hearings, policy briefs, and engagement with urban homeless shelters, teaching and health services in poor communities, legal aid clinics for under-privileged etc.*

Different departments of the Bangalore University including Centre for Psychological Counselling, Women's Studies, Political Science, Geology, Performing Arts, Rural Development and the like are involved in conducting training programme for self-employment of youth from rural areas, life skill training, conducting programs involving physically challenged people and holding various capacity building workshops. They also provide ideas and measures with regard to Industrial effluent, sewage water, toxic metals and radio-active elements. Remedial measures are also being undertaken along with research projects on these specified areas. The Faculty of Law organize Legal Aid and Legal Literacy programs in association with the Legal Services Authorities, Government of Karnataka for the benefit of the rural masses.

The Continuing Social Work Education (CSE) programme at Christ University was initiated in the Department of Social Work in the year 2011. This forum provides social work practitioners, researchers and academicians to contribute and discuss best practices and changing trends in social work practice. Under this programme, the university has a

consultancy project of the Karnataka Science and Technology Promotion Society, within which they have to evaluate the KSTA Fellowships and the PG Science Special Lecture series from 2007 in three universities of Karnataka. CSE also undertakes training, research and consultancy to enhance efficiency of development practitioners to improve their community's quality of life. The Centre for Social Action (CSA) also has a trained street theatre team Drishti which performs in malls, villages and slums to create awareness about various contemporary social issues.

Various departments and centres of Jain University have taken up programs of knowledge sharing with the community. The Humanities and Social Sciences department has programs for training of ethnic minorities and carries out focussed discussions on Indian culture, art, aesthetics, architecture and cinema. CERSSE at Jain University carries out various research studies and surveys to analyse the attitude and perceptions of youth in Karnataka, along with an all India study on the Quality of higher education institutions. The Centre was invited by the Government of Karnataka, to assist in the framing of the State Youth Policy, with the Director of the Centre serving as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee. As part of a special MoU signed with the Government of Myanmar, the university holds training for peace building negotiations and Capacity Building in Myanmar. It has been actively involved in Capacity Building Programs for transition to democracy and constitution building in both Myanmar and South Sudan. The Department of Psychology has started a Counselling and Play Therapy Centre called Kalarava, which is open for the general public. In collaboration with the community, a range of projects have been taken up by the Department.

The University of Mysore departments, all share knowledge for two purposes- first with the purpose of teaching and learning, and second for societal benefit. The University is engaged in organising several workshops and orientation programs, soft skill training, computer training, and communication and personality development. It even has a specialised centre that caters to the demand of knowledge sharing with the community which is the Centre for Proficiency Development and Placement Services (CPDPS). Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India has recognised University of Mysore as an Institute of Excellence (IOE) and has granted a fund of Rupees Hundred Crores to develop the thrust area. The Department of Botany has established a Sophisticated Instrument Facility (SIF) which has high cost instruments that are not there in most of the universities and research centres across Karnataka. These instruments are shared with the research community as well as to the general public at a very reasonable price. The departments of Botany, Psychology and Food and Nutrition all engage in activities and project which involve direct communication with the community.

Jyoti Nivas College organises annual workshops on Paper Recycling in collaboration with organisations such as Development Alternatives, for NGOs, corporate houses and schools,

to create awareness on the issue. The participants of these workshops have been from diverse fields such as the National Association for the Blind, HCL, Karnataka Police Housing Corporation Limited, Freedom International School etc.

Mount Carmel College has counselling sessions for the ones who need it. Role plays and skits are used to exchange information with the community. Social marketing tool is used to discuss issues of health and poverty, along with holding health check-up camps.

The Science and Social Science forums of National College organise a lot of activities. Many faculty members are involved in consultancy services for the Karnataka Administrative Service, Karnataka Public Service Commission, Karnataka Examination Authority and so on. The College also has institutional collaborations with IISc, Indian Academy of Science, Institute for Social and Economic Change, IIM, and BMS College of Engineering in Bangalore.

The Department of Social Welfare at St. Joseph's College organises various activities on significant days such as World Population day, World Youth day etc. The Economics Forum at the college collaborates with NGOs and reaches out to underprivileged children. The counselling unit addresses issues and concerns of not only the college students but also extends its services to the community as well in the form of organising counselling sessions, lectures and awareness programs on various issues.

#### **Category IV: Designing New Curriculum and Courses**

*In consultations with local communities, local students, local community-based organisations, HEIs design new curricula and courses that respond to specific needs of the community; such courses may be short-term workshops, certificates and degrees as well. They are meant for community members, as well as students already in formally enrolled HEIs.*

Bangalore University has specialised courses that are designed to enhance capacity building or empowerment of local community.

At Christ University along with the activities of CSA, the Hotel Management department works on improving skills which finally help in enhancing job opportunities.

Jain University has adopted a 'bottom up' approach in designing new courses and their curriculum. The University has started over twenty new courses in the domain of innovation and emerging areas. All these courses were developed after a 'need analysis' involving extensive dialogue with different stake holders – prospective students, past students, senior faculty, experts, industry and the corporate world and relevant social organizations. In most of these courses, the relevant industry/ social organisations are



actively involved. Many of the courses are with Industry partnership and have active involvement of the experts from Industry.

The University of Mysore has established Department of Women Studies through which specialised curriculum and courses have been initiated regarding women empowerment. The Swami Vivekananda Chair at the University conducts certain certificate courses based on youth related curriculum. Another interesting initiative by the University is the Centre for Proficiency Development and Placement Services (CPDPS) which is primarily meant for designing new curriculum and courses in consultation with local communities. They target students, youth, women, and individuals from the backward communities.

Tumkur University has language skills course, computer training course, workshop and literary activities along with organisational skill development through various seminars and conferences organised at the University.

Kristu Jayanthi College includes as part of the social work curriculum, a minor research project and internship. The social work department offers masters and doctoral level programs and several credit based certificate courses for non-social work students on topics of Human Rights, Participatory Rural Appraisal, Project Formulation and Management, Research Methodology, Disaster Management etc.

There are 12-15 courses offered on entrepreneurial skills at Mount Carmel College. They also have two dedicated centres to work with the community - Centre for Extended Education and Centre for Community Service.

St. Joseph's College hosts certificate courses which are oriented towards helping the community and society- For example the legal literacy course in collaboration with National Law School University India, Bangalore. The Department of Economics has made compulsory for all students to undergo an 8 week internship during their summer vacations in research institutes, NGOs, government departments, corporate offices etc.

### **Category V: Including Practitioners as Teachers**

*Local community elders, women leaders, tribal and civil society practitioners have enormous practical knowledge of a wide variety of issues—from agriculture and forestry to child-rearing, micro-planning and project management. This expertise can be tapped by inviting such practitioners inside the institution to co-teach courses both in the classrooms and in the field.*

Bangalore University invites various 'practitioners as teachers' from different walks of life such as research organisations, industrialists, philanthropists, social reformers, academicians etc.

The Christ University invites social practitioners and NGO workers to address students. Various conferences organised by the University provide an opportunity for students to hear and learn from experts of respective fields.

Jain University also invites practitioners from NGOs, CSR professionals, industry peers, and social workers who have field knowledge regarding community development to guide students in related activities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In each of their campuses, there are special lectures conducted every week by experts from outside the University. These lecturers are often associated as Adjunct Faculty attached to the Research Centres or Departments of the University.

Tumkur University invites practitioners from practical fields such as NGOs, Environmentalists, Educationists, Legal Experts, Politicians, Researchers etc to make the students aware about community engagement and community development activities. These experts address both the under graduate and the post graduate students of the university.

Mysore University also invites various experts in distinct fields to guide community development activities at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. These experts are usually NGO workers, industrialists, environmentalists, legal experts, politicians, folk artists, scientists, journalists, specialists in Dalit literature etc. The Department of Political Science organises 'Model Parliament' to give students a real experience of the working of State Administrative Assemblies and the Parliament.

Mount Carmel College also invites practitioners to teach the students. Doctors from government colleges are invited to teach students about blood donation.

National College has established collaborations with various academic, cultural and social service organisations to expose students to various social work activities. Various lectures, seminars, demonstrations, workshops etc are organised under these collaborations.

Various practitioners are invited as teachers and guest lecturers to visit the institution and provide practical knowledge to the students and impart them with the day-to-day challenges and issues. These practitioners are invited from various fields such as advocacy, journalism, government, politics, films and theatre, academics, social work, science and research etc. Some activists who conduct social experiments have also been invited as guest lecturers at the college such as Auto Raja.

## **Category VI: Social Innovation by students**

*In consultation with student unions, associations and clubs, student initiated learning projects which have a social impact can be supported. Such social innovation projects by students can also have meaningful links to curriculum and courses.*

Bangalore University has a bio park of 1250 acres where various medicinal plants are grown and researched by the students.

The Educate a Child Program of Christ University mentioned earlier has been started by the students of the university, which provides education to 850 slum children. The University also has a magazine 'We Care' in which articles discussing social issues are included to create awareness and disseminate knowledge.

Jain University has a few very interesting programs running as part of student initiatives. Vishwas counseling centre of the university is involved in career counseling, personal development and crisis management. The centre has helped vulnerable youth in all spheres of personality development and has collaborated with many medical and social associations to conduct awareness programs for the same. Another student initiative launched in 2010 by Jain Group of Institutions is a community radio station called Radio Active CR 90.4 MHz, located in Bangalore. It caters to different groups by interest such as LGBT community, disabled groups, people living with HIV/AIDS, auto-drivers, senior citizens, environmentalists etc and by geographical locations located within the coverage area. Radio Active is a medium for different community groups to converge and discuss issues of relevance, find solutions, empower, and encourage participation. Radio Active has launched a number of community based projects for the welfare and development of the community, reaching out to Bangalore's masses on various issues of health, environment, development, scientific awareness, women & children, civic & social issues and the like. Kalarava is a Counseling and Play Therapy Centre established by the University which is open to the general public to access.

Mysore University has introduced various innovative courses with assistance of the UGC- the Department of Microbiology conducts an innovative course on Food Analysis, Department of Psychology conducts courses on counseling and related aspects, are examples that can be cited in this regard

In Tumkur University, medicinal plants have been planted within the campus by students. A historical museum has been developed which displays ancient monuments.

The Entrepreneurship Development Cell of Kristu Jayanthi College launched The Green Sign Company in the year 2011, which assists the students to develop their skills and talents in various avenues of entrepreneurship and polish their ideas and dreams to turn

them it into reality. The campus company encourages the students to use their hobbies, skills and talents in producing various products.

Every department at Mount Carmel College has an innovative project of its own where they work with the community.

The National College Mountaineering Club called AROHI, started in 1984 promotes adventurous activities such as trekking, rock-climbing, mountaineering, snow-skiing etc. These activities are under the supervision of Dr. M. K. Sridhar of the Department of Sanskrit. AROHI is recognized by the Indian Mountaineering foundation in New Delhi, District Youth Service and Sports Board, Govt. of Karnataka, Gen. K. S. Thimmayya National Academy of Adventure, Govt. of Karnataka and SPARK, Bangalore.

St. Joseph's College students across departments and disciplines have been very active in portraying the social ills and issues through various visual mediums such as short films, videos, plays, public service advertisements, photography exhibitions etc.

### National Service Scheme:

	College/ University	No. of Students	No. of Faculty	Major Works Undertaken
1	Bangalore University	Around 600	2	
2	Christ University	200	1 from each department	All works undertaken by the Centre for Social Action
3	Jain University	1000	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Social welfare programs</li> <li>- Waste Management Awareness program</li> <li>- Free eye check-up camps</li> <li>- Blood Donation Camps</li> <li>- Workshops</li> </ul>
4	Mysore University	15120	147	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 120 affiliated colleges have organized annual camps for NSS volunteers</li> <li>- 147 villages have been adopted</li> <li>- A part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan</li> <li>- Organized blood donation camps, leadership training programs</li> <li>- Various affiliated colleges have organized different camps, programs and have collaborations with various social work and governmental institutions</li> </ul>
5	Tumkur University	9000	900	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Annual Rural NSS Camps</li> <li>- Awareness programs on health, hygiene agricultural practices, legal awareness etc</li> <li>- Blood donation and check-up camps</li> <li>- Volunteer visits to orphanage and old age homes</li> </ul>
6	JyotiNivas College	100 registered 200 enrolled	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slum Survey,</li> <li>- Health check-up</li> <li>- Tree plantation</li> </ul>
7	KristuJayanthi College	-	-	-

	(Autonomous)			
8	Mount Carmel College (Autonomous)	More than 300	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning roads</li> <li>- Cleaning and constructing drainage</li> <li>- Painting walls</li> <li>- Visiting NGOs, Old Age Homes etc.</li> </ul>
9	National College			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very active wing</li> <li>- Regular activities held</li> <li>- Organizes lectures on important topics</li> <li>- Film screening on social issues</li> <li>- Camps organised</li> </ul>
10	St. Joseph's College		2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Blood Donation camps</li> <li>- Visiting old age homes</li> <li>- Annual 'rural exposure camps'- where the students stay in the villages for one week</li> <li>- Road safety seminar</li> <li>- Celebration of Human Rights week</li> </ul>

### **Important Points to Note:**

At Christ University, Centre for Social Action was started in 1999 as an offshoot of the NSS. 200 students are a part of NSS along with a faculty representative from each department.

The NSS wing of Jain University have 18 faculty members and about 1000 students associated who organise different social welfare programs such as 'One Fist of Rice' where 50 kgs of rice and dal were collected and donated to a welfare organisation. They also held Waste Management Awareness program at the city railway station for passengers and shopkeepers. Free eye check-up camps, blood donation camps and workshops on youth leadership and development are also organised by the NSS at Jain University.

Mount Carmel College has a wide range of activities that are carried out under the NSS. Students visit Old Age homes, Government Schools and different centres for physically handicapped. They have performed the following activities to add to their list of achievement- Taught children in more than 300 Government schools, distributed notebooks and text books, painted walls in and around Bangalore city, medical aid and shelter to beggars on the street etc. Another interesting component of Entrepreneurial

Development is that a seed capital was provided to the villagers to start their own business. Women were taught to make candles, soaps and shampoo.

### National Cadet Corps

	<b>College/ University</b>	<b>No. of Students</b>	<b>No. of Faculty</b>	<b>Major Works Undertaken</b>
1	Bangalore University	Not Active	Not Active	-
2	Christ University	210	2	- Regular adventure activities - 7 Motorcycle expeditions
3	Jain University	104	3	- Boys NCC has won the Best Institution Award 12 times since 2000 - Girls NCC has won the Best Institution Award 4 times since 2003
4	Mysore University	-	-	- NCC Group Headquarters at Mysore University is in charge of 5 districts. - Involved in disaster management, social services and community development programs - adopted village in Hassan - carry out anti-dowry and anti-sati drives - involved in various national level initiatives such as saving the girl child, Swachh Bharat etc.
5	Tumkur University	65	1	- Blood donation camps, tree plantation programs, social awareness rallies - Involved in anti-dowry campaigns, AIDS awareness programs - Cadets sent to training camps, trekking camps public conferences and seminars etc - Also involved in disaster management, skill

				development workshops
6	JyotiNivas College	Information not available	Information not available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One day trekking &amp; map reading at Turahalli</li> <li>- Anti Tobacco Rally,</li> <li>- Cancer Awareness Programme</li> <li>- Marathon for NCC day at Home Guard's Ground</li> <li>- Attended Ex- Service Men Rally 2011.</li> </ul>
7	KristuJyanthi College (Autonomous)	Information not available	Information not available	Information not available
8	Mount Carmel College (Autonomous)	100	2	-
9	National College			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cadets selected for state and national level camps</li> <li>- Cadets take part in training camps, mountaineering camps, trekking camps etc</li> <li>- Various prizes also won in these camps</li> <li>- Volunteers for blood donation camps</li> </ul>
10	St. Joseph's College	-	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participated in Republic day Parade in Delhi</li> <li>- Attended several National Integration camps</li> <li>- Organising adventurous activities such as rock climbing</li> <li>- Representation in All India Mountaineering and Glacier Drill Competition</li> </ul>

**Discussion I - Do Higher Education Institutions feel that their comprehension of local issues and capacity building of local communities is satisfactory?**

It was felt that the efforts of all universities and colleges in the said field were highly satisfactory. Additionally, Bangalore University authorities talked about a need for more programs and for viewing their contribution with a new lens. The university must reorient and focus on the community related activities. The faculty members and students must



think and go beyond teaching and learning process and rigorous student activities must be conducted.

## **Discussion II – Comments/ suggestions on constraints relating to engagement of Higher Education Institutions with local community for their empowerment/ wellbeing**

A need for more efforts from teachers and administration to engage with the community is felt by Bangalore University authorities. They want to initiate more community oriented programs along with the day to day administration. For all these initiatives, they also require additional funding from the government.

Christ University authorities have experienced various challenges from students, faculty members and also the communities that they work in. There is an initial resistance from the students to activities of community engagement which changes with their increased involvement. The University also finds it challenging to establish confidence and garner support of the communities they work with, since during their initial visits, the community members often negatively associate the promotion of a religious agenda with the university's name. Since the faculty members have varied interests, a common approach to social issues becomes challenging. Also the university does not appropriate support from the government.

At Jain University, the authorities talked about the large responsibility of institutions of higher learning, towards networking with the society and towards community development. They said it is also essential to create a friendly neighbourhood, empower local community and build a strong team of dedicated and responsible citizens to take care of the lesser privileged in their communities. In this regards, higher education institutions have to become agents for building conscious, catalytic and continued systems.

Mysore University officers found it difficult to execute NCC programs within the semester system, given the tight schedule of semesters. It was felt that the government needs to make co-curricular activities compulsory and part of the curriculum and also give additional weightage and considerations to faculty members involved in community related activities during promotions and appraisals.

Tumkur University faced constraints relating to finance, scarcity of time from both teachers and students, and scarcity of staff members themselves. The authorities felt that the research carried out in universities, as well as the curriculum should be need-based, issue based and relevant, and not career-driven. There was a need for more autonomy and decision making powers to the academicians and the policy makers should consult them

before taking decisions. They also felt that community engagement is confined to creating awareness and not implementing/ following up.

The constraints faced by Jyoti Nivas College related to the fact that being an all-girls college, the security of volunteers during fieldwork becomes a problem. Also there is a constraint relating to the physical strength of the volunteers/ cadets which has a bearing on the nature of activities which can be undertaken by the institute.

Kristu Jayanthi College authorities discussed lack of trust between the higher education institutions and communities. The residents of villages were apathetic to the efforts put in by the colleges and the political atmosphere of the villages was a challenge. The other constraints included- lack of media attention to the prevalent social ills, getting permission from local authorities to carry out work in these areas, language barrier, suspicion of residents regarding the college pursuing a religious agenda etc. The positive suggestion given by the college authorities was that villages should be adopted by one college or institution for long-term benefits of the residents. This will help in an easier working environment within the village and long term engagement with the community.

Mount Carmel College faces similar challenges as Jyoti Nivas College since both are girls' college and parental consent for overnight activities or long-distance travel becomes a problem. It is also felt that many times there is lack of cooperation from the beneficiary, and sometimes the volunteers become too emotionally attached with the community such as people residing in old-age homes. Since it is a voluntary activity for students, those who participate end up missing a lot of classes and suffer academically. It would work well if the activities were made compulsory for all. In this way students from even the elite households would participate and the outreach could increase a lot.