

## Activities of the Department of Social Entrepreneurship

### **1. Observation Visits**

The objectives of these observation visits are to give our students an insight into the structure, functioning and activities of various social enterprises. Such facilitates our students to observe and develop the skills of inquiry, brainstorming and documenting. Some of the organisations we have visited include -

- a) Home Exnora
- b) Environmentalist Foundation of India
- c) Eco Kitchen
- d) Vishranthi Old Age Home
- e) Kuthambakkam Model Village
- f) Centre for Innovation, IIT Madras
- g) Research Park, IIT Madras
- h) National Skill Development Centre
- i) Hand in Hand

### **2. Internships**

Our students develop solid knowledge of theoretical frameworks that guide generalist practice, with an understanding and acceptance of social work values and ethics. Such is done via extensive opportunities including internships, pilot projects, field practicum, research projects, etc. in various social enterprises. Some of the organisations where our students have contributed to include -

- a) Child Rights and You
- b) Chudar
- c) Church of South India (SEWA)
- d) Environmentalist Foundation of India
- e) Ekam Foundation
- f) Exnora
- g) Guild of Service

### **3. Outbound Training**

Outbound Training is a facilitative course that helps inculcate personality development whilst at the same time enhances our employability skills. Our students have attended a 3 day camp at the Aroghyan Life Skills Academy at Nagalapuram, Andhra Pradesh in order to successfully participate in themes that include - improving leadership, communication skills, planning, change management, delegation, teamwork and motivation.

#### **4. Soft Skills**

Our students are exposed to soft skills training programmes during each semester which enable them to function and thrive in teams whilst enhancing their work ethic, attitude, communication skills, emotional intelligence and a whole host of other personal attributes.

#### **5. Forum**

The student forum of the department of Social Entrepreneurship - 'Questa' initiates to organise events and activities pertaining to Social Business Summits and Fests.

#### **National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship:**

The student forum of the Department, Questa conducted the first National Conference on Social Entrepreneurship-Evaluating the roles of Government, Academia and Corporate on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Madras School of Social Work jointly organized by IIT Madras and the British Council. Three panel discussions were conducted with eminent personalities pan India from Government, Academia and the Corporate. A Poster Making Competition on "Climate Change" was also conducted in pursuit of spreading awareness and initiating dialogue around this critical threat and imploring upon social solutions for the same.

#### **Talk on Social Entrepreneurship in Emerging Markets:**

The student forum in association with CSIM and US Consulate organized a talk on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 by Ms. Cynthia Hellen, SMPLCT Lab, USA. She spoke on the role of Social Entrepreneurs in shaping the modern day economy. She also introduced the work done by SMPLCT Lab followed by a question answer session. The session was attended by students of MSSW and also from other colleges from Chennai.

#### **6. Social Entrepreneurship Centre**

Social Entrepreneurship Department runs a Social Entrepreneurship Centre with the promise of creating a platform to cultivate social entrepreneurship culture among students through mentoring session, pitch training and handling social problems through innovative student projects.

#### **Workshops:**

- Sustainable Development through Social Enterprise
- Status of Education in India
- Sustainable Business Planning

**Student led Projects:**

Our students are currently leading two concrete projects in order to develop strategic social ventures that cater to community specific problems. These projects include -

- Creating sustainable business models for Artists and Craftsmen of the Vagri settlement in Chennai
- Tobacco Control Campaign in Tamil Nadu