KURIAKOSE ELIAS COLLEGE
Mannanam P.O, Kottayam, Pin:686561

BEST PRACTICE-1

CHIR@H

Chir@h is a Voluntary Unit, constituted by K E College for charitable activities.

Objectives of the Practice

As a part of fulfilling the vision and mission of the institution, Chir@h was established with the objective of extending support to students, needy people and families in the college-vicinity. The college and its various Departments in this context function as source of information and assist the students and the communities in the college-neighbourhood with inputs and provide essential services and support when needed such as providing food packets, books, personal counseling assistances, etc. ***Chir@h* is** fully dedicated to achieve the aim of attaining their holistic development and respects the dignity of those helped and foster self-respect among the individuals.

The Context

As a socially committed association, ***Chir@h*** considers its primary commitment to identify the root-causes of backwardness and social exclusion in the rural vicinity of the college. The action plans of ***Chir@h*** are designed in solidarity with the poor and the ostracized people. Programmes are designed to bring about changes for creating a more just, caring and inclusive social community. Since the College is situated near the only Medical College Hospital in Kottayam district and near more than five reputed specialty and super specialty hospitals, a fully functioning Blood Donors' Club can always help the needy patients in cases of medical exigencies. A systematic categorization of the blood group of students and faculty is regularly done and a database has been maintained for this purpose. Constant updates are done at the beginning of each academic year so that the list of blood donors remains expanded and updated with adequate contact details.

The Practice

The activity of ***Chir@h*** includes offering assistance to the needy ones for their educational, medical, clothing, residential and employment requirements also. The major source of financial

assistance comes from the teacher-student fraternity of the college. ***Chir@h*** has a transparent financial transaction and the annual financial statements are circulated among the stakeholders on a regular basis.

The confidentiality is always assured and relationships are established based on trust and camaraderie. The deserving persons are helped to achieve self-sufficiency in the long run and in cases when problems are beyond competence of the Unit, specialized support of the generous people outside the community is sought.

Visitation is considered as the core activity and members spend time consulting with those who seek help to ensure that we totally understand their problems. This method ultimately enables us to provide the best possible support to them. Opportunities are utilized effectively to engage in social action in the rural local communities encouraging their personal and social development.

Family Adoption Scheme

Under the aegis of ***Chir@h***, Rs. 28,500 was collected from different philanthropists during 2018-19 and two families were adopted with this fund. Volunteers of ***Chir@h*** spent days with the families providing them relief and care.

Christmas Gift

Chir@h usually distributes grocery kits to the financially backward students during Christmas. As part of Christmas celebration the unit provided gift kits of rice and other edible items to many poor students.

During 2018-2019, ***Chir@h*** spent an amount of Rs 48270 for its charity purposes.

Orphanage Visit

The ***Chir@h*** volunteers also visited *Koonanthanam Sneha Bhavan*, an orphanage near the college as a part of social commitment towards the ostracized and marginalized sections of society.

Free lunch

Chir@h offers free lunch to the deserving students of the College. During 2018-19, many students were benefitted out of this scheme.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Chir@h has been providing financial assistance to the adopted family members as well as the poor students of the College. An amount of Rs.400 is usually provided to deserving students in each semester for the purchase of essential study-materials like textbooks, notebooks, records etc. During 2018-19, Rs.25912 was given for the purchase of study materials for 61 students.

Other Assistances

Chir@h has helped a 2nd year B.Sc. Zoology student for the construction of his house.

Chir@h has also associated with ***KEDAS*** for the Flood Relief Camp held at Kuttanad by providing the people of flooded areas with basic things.

Evidence of Success

The Medical College Hospital Kottayam has readily acknowledged the contributions of ***Chir@h*** by awarding a certificate of appreciation that K.E. College is the largest donor of blood to it. The number of students benefitting from the free distribution of books, study materials and free lunch testifies the success of the programme. The major source of the financial assistance comes from

the teacher-student fraternity of the college. ***Chir@h*** has a transparent financial transaction and the annual financial statements are regularlycirculated among the stakeholders.

The confidentiality is always assured and relationships are established based on trust and camaraderie. The deserving persons are helped to achieve self-sufficiency in the long run and in cases when problems are beyond competence of the Unit, support of the generous people outside the community is sought. ***Chir@h*** has been providing financial assistance to the adopted family members as well as poor students of the College. An amount of Rs.400 is usually provided to deserving students in each semester for the purchase of essential study-materials like textbooks, notebooks, records etc. During 2018-19, Rs.25912 was given for the purchase of study materials for 61 students. During 2018-19 under the aegis of ***Chir@h***, Rs. 28,500 was collected from different philanthropists.

Problems Encountered

- Difficulty in involving large section of students
- Lack of financial support for student support activities
- Difficulty in identifying rare blood group donors