MAHATMA GANDHI MISSION'S

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AREA OF DISTINCTIVENESS

GANDHIAN IDEOLOGIES: *"SEVA KARTAM* (सेवाकर्ते) *TO SERVE THROUGH "COMMUNITY SERVICE IN SCHOOLS & VILLAGES"*

This phrase summarises the idea of performing acts of service or selfless action for the benefit of others. It signifies the act of offering assistance, support, or help without expecting anything in return. Serving others is considered a noble and virtuous act that promotes compassion, empathy, and the well-being of both the giver and the receiver. It reflects the concept of SEVA, which is the selfless service performed with a sense of duty, devotion, and humility.

The MGM's College of Computer Science & Information Technology dedicated to inculcating "Community Service in Schools & Villages" was established to promote and facilitate community engagement and service-learning initiatives. The institute would works towards fostering a sense of social responsibility and active citizenship among students and community members.

By establishing such Vision, the aim is to create a culture of community service, where the Institute with villages/school work together to address social issues, promote sustainable development, and foster a sense of belonging and interconnectedness within the community.

Following are the **Objectives** of having Distinctive Practices as Community Service in Schools & Villages.

1. *Promoting civic engagement*: Community service encourages students and villagers to actively participate in their communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and citizenship. It provides opportunities for individuals to contribute to the betterment of society

2. *Developing empathy and understanding*: Engaging in community service allows students and villagers/Schools to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting empathy, understanding, and respect for others. It helps break down barriers and stereotypes, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity.

3. *Enhancing personal growth*: Community service provides opportunities for personal development by challenging individuals to step outside their comfort zones, develop new skills, and gain a sense of accomplishment. It promotes self-reflection, self-awareness, and personal growth.

4. ***Encouraging teamwork and collaboration***: Community service often involves working in teams or groups, promoting collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills among students and villagers. It fosters a sense of collective responsibility and the ability to work together towards common goals.

Institute provides following practices to fulfil the objectives:

1. *Planning activities for villages/schools*: The institute plans and organizes activities that address the specific needs and challenges of the villages or schools. These activities can range from educational workshops to environmental conservation projects.

2. *Motivating students to come up with relevant topics*: Students are encouraged to identify topics that are relevant and meaningful to the target audience, whether it be the students of the schools or the people of the village. This ensures that the community service initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and interests of the community.

3. *Finalizing topics based on compatibility*: After considering the compatibility of the topics with the area and the target audience, the institute finalizes the topics for community service activities. This ensures that the initiatives are well-suited to the local context and can have a meaningful impact.

4. *Allowing students to visit and teach relevant topics*: Students are given the opportunity to visit the finalized area, whether it is a school or a village, and teach the relevant topics. This hands-on approach allows students to directly engage with the community and share their knowledge and skills.

5. *Taking feedback*: Feedback is an essential component of community service initiatives. The institute takes feedback from both the students and the community members to assess the effectiveness of the activities and make improvements for future projects.

Institute has observed following outcomes:

1. Students & villagers along with our team were seen participating actively.
2. Our target audiences were able to get the knowledge of various topic like E- waste management etc.
3. Our students got to develop the sense of understanding.
4. Students had come out from their comfort zone which helps them to be cooperative towards society.
5. Students have understood the importance of teamwork and collaboration.

Community service encourages students and villagers to actively participate in their communities, fostering a sense of responsibility and citizenship. **Engaging in community service** allows students and villagers to interact with individuals from diverse backgrounds, promoting empathy, understanding, and respect for others. **Community service provides opportunities for personal development** by challenging individuals to step outside their comfort zones, develop new skills, and gain a sense of accomplishment. Community service often involves working in **teams or groups,**

promoting collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills among students and villagers. Community service projects focus on **environmental conservation, sustainable practices, and promoting social and economic development in villages,** contributing to a more sustainable future. Engaging in community service at a young age can instill a lifelong commitment to giving back and making a positive impact in the world.

In conclusion, community service in schools and villages is a powerful tool for promoting social responsibility, empathy, and active citizenship. **Through distinctive practices** such as planning activities, motivating students, and teaching relevant topics, community service initiatives can achieve their objectives of promoting civic engagement, developing empathy and understanding, enhancing personal growth, and encouraging teamwork and collaboration. **The outcomes of community service** projects include active participation, knowledge dissemination, development of understanding, stepping out of comfort zones, and the importance of teamwork and collaboration. By engaging in community service, individuals, communities, and society as a whole can work towards a more inclusive, sustainable, and harmonious future.