

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMMES OF NSS: 2010-11 TO 2014-15

The NSS Unit of Government College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Quepem-Goa, serves bountifully to bring the mission statement into the real time domain. The College vision statement is, 'To nurture the students, to nourish the society.' The extension activities of the College NSS Unit seek to establish, build and consolidate the College-Community interface.

The calendar of NSS activities is dominated by regular, prescribed programmes. Yet, the College NSS Unit walks several extra miles to mitigate calamities, generously espousing good causes, ameliorating social inequities, campaigning against unhealthy social practices, leading awareness drives and bringing the change they want to see in society.

The NSS Unit's programmes helps the College to 'nurture' in the students a sense of belonging with the community we serve; while simultaneously inculcating strength of character through the development of qualities like dignity of labour, compassion, empathy, sensitivity to social issues, commitment to social change, generous participation in creating a more aware and thereby, an alert citizenry, concurrence with national objectives.

The programmes serve to instill in students a sense of responsibility, responsiveness and readiness to act in a manner such that the best possible solution is arrived at and executed in the prevailing circumstances within the existing limitations. The time-effort investment of the NSS volunteers ushers in a sense of satisfaction and joy in contributing in no small measure towards creating positive change, sustaining those affected and in every possible way trying to make our corner of the world a better place.

The present booklet is a valiant attempt at briefly showcasing the flagship programmes of the NSS Unit of this College undertaken during the period 2010-2011 to 2014-2015. This 5 year period saw a new awakening in the zeal of the NSS volunteers which translated into several landmark programmes that sought to positively impact the community.

FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME I: AWARENESS DRIVES

Shushrusha: - Communicable Diseases Awareness Project

Our country has worn the tag of Developing Nation far too long. If we as citizens extend our hand in assistance, then the process could move at full throttle and we would take our rightful place among the Developed Nations.

One of the ills plaguing us is the constant though intermittent outbreaks of contagious diseases. The diseases that top the list as death causing, though easily controllable diseases, are the vector borne diseases viz. Malaria, Chikun- guniya, Dengue and Swine flu. The ways in which these diseases can be kept at bay are through intensive cleanliness drives and ensuring Zero Breeding of Vectors. The tropical monsoon climatic conditions become conducive to the proliferation of disease causing agents. The knowledge of various pathogens, their life cycle, social impact, pathogenicity and prophylaxis is essential to root out this menace.

The NSS Unit of the College has made this a Continuing Service Project. Each of the academic years under review has NSS volunteers being oriented and trained in this knowledge. They in turn take back this knowledge and spread the information of vector borne diseases across the society by organizing Talks, Group Discussions in various organizations like Schools ,Higher Secondary Schools, Gram Sabhas of Village Panchayats, Mahila Mandals, Self Help Groups, Sports Clubs and Youth Clubs in Quepem, Sanguem, Canacona and Cuncolim talukas. This dissemination of information is aided and abetted by qualified medical professionals. The consistency with which this programme has been undertaken has been possible entirely due to Dr. Jagdish Kakodkar, Associate Professor, Goa Medical College; Dr. Ganapati Kakodkar; Dr. Dattaprasad Fondekar, Operations Manager- I.C.I.C.I. Lombard Goa; and Dr. Tulsi Mamata Kakodkar, Medical Officer In- Charge ,Primary Health Centre, Quepem- Goa who were instrumental in orienting and training the NSS volunteers.

The College is aware that any laxity in education and training in this regard would mean an acute loss to the society. The fight against Vector Borne Diseases is taken up with sincerity and dedication every monsoon in order to minimize, if not bring the incidence of such diseases to zero. The NSS Unit has infused awareness to the homes, neighbourhoods and communities to which their volunteers belong. The Unit is aware

that this fight is far from over. It believes that as long as even one person is infected or a life claimed by these diseases is one too many; the fight against Vector Borne Diseases will continue.

ANTI ADDICTION DRIVES

Today's youth are assailed from all sides. Peer pressure is extremely high. Expectations from parents, teachers and society are at an all time high. Their own expectations from themselves are high. All this leads to anxiety and risk taking behaviour. The ability to cope with the pressure is threatened and, many a time, the youth fall prey to the addictive habits of smoking, alcohol abuse and drug abuse.

The effects of addiction on health, mental well-being and social interaction are well documented by both medical professionals as well as psychologists. The ills of addiction are well charted; yet, inspite of this awareness, the youth succumb to the deadly habit. They often begin as an experiment, under peer pressure to ensure they belong to the in crowd but the devastating effects of addiction shove them into a downward spiral of self-defeating choices.

In order to protect our students from such a fate, the College NSS Unit has taken it upon itself to stem the flow of victims in this direction. Information through talks, films, signages at prominent places and the involvement of the students themselves in assisting the spread of the Anti Addiction message helps shore up their fragile esteem and build in them a sense of self-protection.

Aastha (N.O.T.E. India Project) was launched at Government College, Quepem in 2010. The N.S.S. Unit of the Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem has conducted '**No Smoking Campaign,**' in collaboration with **National Organization for Tobacco Eradication (N.O.T.E.) India**. As part of the campaign, an Orientation Program was conducted by **Dr. R. G. Kukarni, N.S.S. Convener, Dr. Naik, and Shri. Damodar from N.O.T.E. (India), Panaji, Shri Anubhav Das from Impact Assessment Centre (W.H.O.), Delhi unit**. Volunteers undertook surveys to ensure that both Government and Commercial establishments displayed the mandatory signages in prominent places and the survey details were subsequently submitted to Vaidya Hospital, Panaji. The direct co-relation of smoking to lung disease and cancer is well known and the College aims to be a **Tobacco Free Education Institution**.

- **Tobacco Control Committee** consists of the following members:

1	Prof.Bhaskar G Nayak	Principal	Chairman
2	Dr. Ashok Mangutkar	Vice Principal	Co- Chairman
3	Dr. Rajender Rao Kulkarni	NSS Convenor	Secretary
4	Smt. Sheena Paul	I/c, Medical Services Cell	Member
5	Dr. Umesh Netravalkar	Medical Professional	Member
6	Dr.Vikrant Prabhu Mudliyar	NSS Prog. Officer	Member
7	Sri. Suresh sawant	Parent	Member
8	Mr. Somesh Borkar	Gen. Secretary, Students' Council.	Member
9	Mr. Sagun Gaonkakar	Sports secretary, Student' Council.	Member

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was initiated in Government College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Quepem, on 26th June 2010 organized in collaboration with **the Excise Department, Government of Goa**. **Shri. Chandranath Dessai**, Excise Inspector, Quepem explained the Objective behind the awareness campaign in the educational institutions. **Dr. Remy Dias**, Associate Professor in History, delivered a lecture on **'Drug Addiction: Causes, Concerns, Care and Consequences'**. **Dr. Umesh Netravalkar**, Physician from Quepem, stressed upon the role of parents and teachers in creating drug free society. A session on **'De – Addicting Goa'** was conducted by **Shri. Shoyab Shaikh**. Many programmes have been conducted in this regard to ensure that students do not form such unhealthy practices.

The College hopes to remain a Drug Free Premise always. The College NSS Unit is the crucible where positive action plans are deployed with the express purpose of keeping the students engaged in activities that will help build their resistance to such life threatening habits.

NSS WALKS THE TALK: AIDS AWARENESS

Proposals were sent for the establishment of the **Red Ribbon Club** on **21st August 2010** for initiating the AIDS Awareness Campaign in Quepem. The Red Ribbon Club of Government College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Quepem was inaugurated on **2nd December, 2012**.

Under the banner of the College **Red Ribbon Club**, various competitions were conducted to sensitize volunteers about **AIDS**. Competitions like essay writing, quiz, elocution, versification, poster, rangoli, art work, slogan writing and photography over this five year period were conducted on various AIDS related themes. Sensitization campaigns on themes like 'Universal Access and Human Rights', 'Know AIDS as NO AIDS', 'Prevention is the only cure', "'Getting to Zero': Zero Infections, Zero Discrimination and Zero Deaths", 'Living in the World with HIV', 'Zero Stigma, Zero Infection, Zero Isolation', 'Jawan Hai Zindagi –Shaping A Better Future' were aimed at the student populace. The theme 'Jeevan Saphalya' was aimed at sensitizing teachers and parents.

Rally as a means of taking the AIDS Awareness Campaign to the public domain was organized because without the community joining hands in this regard, there could be no progress in fighting discrimination and isolation that AIDS victims are subject to even today.

At every step of this journey, we were assisted by medical professionals from the Goa State AIDS Control Society and the Primary Health Centre, Quepem. The students were also administered the oath as prescribed by the Goa State AIDS Control Society in tandem with the faculty of the College.

World Vision India, an organization working towards the betterment of AIDS victims and its eradication, also assisted the College in conducting several programmes. The way ahead to achieve equitable opportunities in society for people infected with AIDS is only through the lowering of prejudice which flourishes in ignorance and fear. The information given by the medical professionals, the questions they fielded, the movies they screened, the interaction with people living with AIDS, the various competitions organized for the students to provoke and promote sensitization—all these activities

should help chip at the prevalent social apathy. The Red Ribbon Club of Government College, Quepem strongly believes that without the simultaneous education and participation of society, discrimination and isolation will continue to flourish. Hence, all programmes are chalked and implemented keeping this objective in mind.

MISSION BYE PLASTIC

The growing divide between man and nature is exacerbated by man's insistence on using nature's bounties for his convenience without feeling any responsibility towards saving non-renewable resources or reducing, reusing and recycling garbage. The garbage menace is a humongous problem that was initially ignored. This ostrich attitude of 'if we ignore it long enough, it will go away' only blew up the problem to gigantic proportions.

Garbage strewn in ugly lumps all over arterial roads, the scavenging of garbage by humans and animals, the malodorous landfills, the runoff water from this garbage in the monsoons polluting ground water, the breeding ground of vectors, the one, single most contributing factor in the spread of vector borne diseases... the list of the maladies of garbage is endless.

Initially, the NSS Unit of this College restricted itself to organizing and participating in awareness programmes only. A step ahead and the College NSS Unit were thoroughly involved in Cleanliness Drives. Actually cleaning up the mess we help create would go a long way to inculcate good habits like reuse, reduce, recycle, proper segregation and disposal of garbage. This was the thought that propelled us to not only support but participate in these cleanliness drives.

One observation from these clean up drives was the excess of plastic waste that was collected. Ideating over this issue, the NSS Unit came up with a simple enough solution: why not provide an alternative to plastic bags? Thus was born the paper bag making and distributing project. At first (2011-12), this project was a small theme that was used to disseminate information regarding the plastic menace and to discourage the use of plastic by the public at large. The success of this project led the NSS Unit to dream big: they came up with paper and cloth bag making project. The awareness drive to sensitize the public about the hazards of plastic and to contribute meaningfully to reduce environmental pollution was strengthened when volunteers took the time and effort to provide alternative solutions to the use of plastic.

Mission – Bye Plastic was initiated after tasting initial success. **Phase I** saw volunteers undertake the challenge of making 1,00,000 paper bags for distribution. Ms. Alina Saldanha, Honourable Minister for Forests and Environment in the presence of Mr.

Subhash Phal Dessai, MLA, Sanguem constituency, lauded and launched this project with the active participation of the Lions Clubs of Quepem, Curchorem and Sanguem.

Phase II of Mission Bye Plastic had the volunteers make 1,50,000 paper bags for free distribution in Quepem, Curchorem and Sanguem markets. The Quepem MLA, Shri, Chandrakanth Babu Kavlekar flagged off this Phase of Mission Bye Plastic in the presence of Principal Pravin Bhende of G.V.M.'s College, Ponda, Mr. Dayesh Naik, Chairman of Quepem Municipality, Ms. Carmolena Fernandes, Chairperson, Curchorem Municipality and Adv. Atrey Kakodkar.

The efforts of the NSS volunteers were commended by all present. The volunteers not only made these plastic bags but also assisted in distributing the same. While doing so, they emphasized the need for environmentally friendly solutions that are both convenient and easy to use and dispose. This practical approach has become hugely popular. Plans are already afoot by the Municipal Council of Quepem to monetize this programme in support of another associated initiative of 'Earn while you Learn' programme. The College is looking forward to the day this initiative will become a reality.

Under **Phase III of Mission Bye Plastic**, more paper bags were distributed taking the total number of paper bags distributed to 3,50,000.

As part of **SWATCHH – BHARAT Abhiyan**, our volunteers collected **25050** pet bottles and handed over to the Municipal authorities of Curchorem in the presence of Shri. Nilesh Cabral, MLA, Curchorem and Shri. Rosario who heads the Garbage Distribution Mechanism of Curchorem Municipality. A massive Garbage collection drive was conducted in Xeldem - Tilamol area. Shri. Pramod Dessai, Sarpanch of Xeldem Village Panchayat participated and led the Garbage Collection Drive. Various eminent Social workers, elected members of Municipality and Government Officials were present on the occasion.

The College has not just paid lip service to environmental conservation. The NSS Unit of the College has led the way in providing practical solutions through awareness and cleanliness drives as well as the provision of free paper bags for the use of vendors to dissuade both the sellers and the buying public from using plastic carry bags.

Promoting Communal Harmony

India has a cohesive, munificent identity in its collage of multiple languages, religions, cuisines, costumes, cultures and traditions. An ancient civilization subject to several explorations and conquests, yet has amalgamated the plural experiences into an integrated whole. There have and will always be threats to India's composite identity. It is our strong faith and belief in the oneness of India that helps focus attention on inculcating a

sense of unity and respect for diversity among our students. In order to achieve this, we have associated with Chinmaya Mission, Brahma Kumaris to initiate students in the knowledge of India's ancient cultural heritage and to take pride in the holistic development of the country.

One programme initiated is: **STITHAPRAGNYA**, where volunteers attended 10 day sessions on various social issues to develop their inner capabilities and to make them realize their responsibilities as youth leaders by eminent speakers from **BRAHMAKUMARI'S Rajyoga Centre, Curchorem, Sister Sangeeta, Brother Abhay Kudchadkar**. Through these sessions, volunteers were motivated to focus on immediate social challenges, problems and called upon to lead the country, realizing the hidden dormant talents, problem analyzing and solving skills, to gain more social recognition through professional success. It encouraged volunteers to uphold the democratic values, to understand the reasons and remain modest in our approach and attitude towards problem solving and warned of alienation from the society, if they remained adamant.

Another programme that the volunteers participated in was **TRANSFORMING INDIANS TO TRANSFORM INDIA**, an interaction through 7 stories, a Chinmaya Mission initiative. This was inaugurated by Br. Prahlad Chaitanyaji, I/C Chinmaya Krishna Ashram, Margao in the distinguished presence of Smt. Yojana Zambaulikar, Narrator of the Stories. As Swami Chinmayananda said each individual is a unit in this universe and all these individuals put together without any distinction and differences is a community, all minds put together is the world outside.

If the majority of minds are selfish, arrogant, utterly egocentric, vulgar and without character – a society or community that is made up of such individuals, will also reflect and bear the same character. Today a Nation is No Nation, only a country where a population lives. There is no integration among them, and internationally no understanding! Through individual perfection alone can world perfection be aspired to and achieved.

The belief that the solution to all ills lies in the self propelled Quiz as means of sensitizing the citizens to the rich cultural resources inherent in India's heritage. The seven stories of **TRANSFORMING INDIANS TO TRANSFORM INDIA** included:

Fearless Footprints (Patriotic Transformation), (FR)Agility (Physical Transformation), The Voices in Her Head (Emotional Transformation), The Razor's Edge (Intellectual Transformation), In- Significant Desi Land (Cultural Transformation), Quest for the

Unseen (Spiritual Transformation), Imaginary Roots - Imaginary Routes (Developing Universal Outlook).

- Still another project titled Bharat Bharati saw students raise Rs. 5000/- while spreading the message of national integration and communal harmony. Reinstating and reinforcing the motto of 'Volunteers for Peace and Harmony', the NSS Unit's volunteers assisted in spreading awareness on peace and harmony, strengthening the sense of unity in diversity amongst the people of the country while simultaneously raising Rs. 10000/- for the National Foundation for Communal Harmony towards the cause of children rendered destitute by violence. Volunteers also participated in "Run For Bharat Jago" organized by Swami Vivekananda Sardhashati Samaroah Samiti, Quepem Taluka, Goa on 1st September, 2013 at Curchorem.

Sadbhavana Diwas (20th August – 3rd September 2013) to promote National Integration and Communal Harmony among people of all religions, languages and regions was organised. In this respect, Communal Harmony Fortnight was observed in the College. In honour of the conclusion of the Communal Harmony Fortnight, Sadbhavana Day pledge was taken by staff and students. As usual, the NSS volunteers of this College organized Communal Harmony Campaign in their residential areas by visiting about 1000 houses and explaining the importance of living in harmony, consequences of communal violence and collected an amount of Rs.5 from each house towards the National Fund for the victims of communal violence. Volunteers collected an additional **Rs.5000/-** towards the **National Foundation for Communal Harmony Fund.**

RUN FOR UNITY- On 15-12-2013 NSS unit with its volunteers and Programme Officers, Teaching and Non Teaching Faculty, Vice Principal and Principal, Director of Higher Education participated in Run For Unity, organized by the **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust** and Directorate of Education, Govt. of Goa to inculcate the spirit of unity amongst the people and youth at the parking grounds near Curchorem Bus stand. As per the guidelines from the Directorate of Higher Education, 31st October 2014 Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was celebrated in the College Annual rural camp held at Zambaulim, where volunteers and Programme Officers participated in **Unity in Integrity (Inter-religious Prayer Meet)** organized by Vividha Institute, Citizens Forum of Canacona at Mamlatdar Office, Chaudi, **Canacona**, Goa on 14/12/2014.

Bandhavya: School Adoption Project

The Right to Education Act has been promulgated, yet the problems and discrepancies in the delivery of this objective of Universalization of Education are too many and pervasive. In an attempt to mitigate the situation at the local level, the NSS Unit of the college adopted the neighbouring Government run primary school and the volunteers assisted the students in their homework and taught them rhymes, integration songs, games and physical training. The following year, the volunteers assisted the teachers of Government High School, Xeldem in conducting remedial classes in subjects like English, Math, Hindi, and Geography for two consecutive years. Volunteers also conducted **Adult Education** classes for some illiterate migrant adults in Quepem at their place of residence.

“COME ON BUDDY, LET US STUDY” B.Ed Students of P.E.S College of Education conducted Campaign for Meaningful Education by means of street play on 22nd January, 2015 which saw 180 NSS volunteers attending the Programme.

The work of assisting learning and discovery among the primary and high school students in our locality is a continuous project. Every year, a new set of volunteers head out and involve students in the process of learning. The volunteers find this activity to be a highly satisfying task and the students enjoy interacting with our volunteers.

Rudhira: Blood Donation Drive

The College NSS Unit has been organizing blood donation camps every year. Several volunteers as also the teaching faculty participate in this effort of stocking up the Government Blood Banks so that those in need will not be denied this timely intervention. These camps are organised in collaboration with Goa Medical College, Bambolim or Hospicio Hospital, Margao.

In the 5 year period (2010-11—2014-15) under consideration, a total of 472 students and staff donated blood in 3 blood donation camps in association with Goa Medical College, 7 with Hospicio Hospital and 1 with Chetana Charitable trust.

Seven Volunteers participated in Poster making competition on the theme **“EVERY BLOOD DONORS IS A HERO”** on 1st October 2013 - **Voluntary Blood Donation Day**, organized by the Community Health Center, Curchorem.

Prof. Bhaskar. G. Nayak, Principal and Director of Higher Education, Dr .Ashok Mangutkar, Vice Principal, Dr. R. G. Kulkarni NSS Convenor attended the **National Voluntary Blood Donation Day** celebrations at the Seminar Hall, **Secretariat**, Porvorim, Goa on 1st October, 2014. Hon. Health Minister. **Shri. Laxmikant Parseker** was the Chief Guest. **Our NSS Unit was awarded Best Institutional Prize** for the Year 2013-14 for organizing **maximum Blood Donation Camps**.

The zeal behind organizing frequent blood donation camps is to promote the idea of Voluntary Blood Donation and dispel the misgivings persistent among the volunteers.

CONCURRENCE WITH NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

100% EPIC Compliance

This project was undertaken in the year 2011-12 with the training programme organized by Chief Electoral Office Goa for N.S.S. volunteers **in order to promote awareness of Voters Enrolment and Online Registration** on **8th December, 2011** at the Conference Hall, EDC building, Panaji. In 2013-14, with the express aim of achieving 100% EPIC Card Enrolment of eligible student voters, the NSS unit organized **“Swayam- Shakti”- Fill Form 6 Drive** in the College during the months of July-August and the same were handed over for further processing.

NATIONAL VOTER'S DAY was celebrated in the College to motivate the young, first time Voters to exercise their right to vote in selecting the right custodians of our constitution. Voter's Day Pledge: 'We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair, and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement.' was administered. A massive Rally was organized on this occasion.

The following year (2014-15), a second round of **“Swayam -Shakti”- Fill Form 6 Drive** was organised in the College during the months of July – October. National Voter's Day is celebrated by taking the pledge, sensitizing the students about the Right to Vote through talks; essay writing, slogan writing and poster making competitions. On 26th January, 2015 a massive rally was organized to bring Electoral awareness on the theme **“Vote is the right – Vote for the right”**.

Volunteers along participated in the Gomantak Marathi Vignan Parishad's annual programme at Gomant Vidyaniketan Hall ,Margao. Eminent personalities and experts delivered Lectures on topics as diverse as Scientific Temper, Organ Donation, Menstrual Exclusion, Scientific Attitudes, Blind Faith, and Black Magic.

Under the **Taruni – Bharati** project, the **NSS Unit, Cell for Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Work Place, Chitrangi**, the Women's wing of Konkani Bhasha Mandal and **Speak against Menstrual Exclusion (SAME)** jointly organised an awareness building workshop in the seminar hall of the Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Quepem on 28th February 2015. **Ms. Ratnamala Divkar**, writer, teacher and artist, **Adv. Anwasha Singbal**, free lance journalist, translator and poet of Konkani Bhasha Mandal were the resource persons. **Video screening of a street play, Interactive Session** including sharing of the views and discussion on **Women's Health, Menstruation – myths and facts, Social, Behavioural, and Psychological aspects** were conducted among boys and girls. The speakers emphasized the need of removing the Stigma / taboos attached to it from the minds of both boys and girls, also from the minds of parents, especially mothers.

The inculcation of scientific temper and a rational outlook is central to the progress and development of a nation. This exposure to a rational approach to life should propel us to surrender outdated practices that keep the marginalized segments of society in ignorance and prevents them from achieving an equitable position in our democracy.

Grama Samrudhi

(Village Empowerment Programme)

Under this Scheme, the College through its NSS unit and with the collaborative efforts of Various Government Departments, NGO's and other stake holders proposes to empower the selected villages of Bhati, Morpirla and Ambaulim through value addition and enhancement of its people. The agenda of the College will be to ensure value enrichment in economic, social, cultural, psychological and political spheres of life in these villages.

As a preliminary stage to this grand undertaking, the volunteers and Programme Officers conducted a socio-economic survey of Ambaulim village on 17th -18th February, 2014 as part of Gram Samrudhi, the Village Empowerment Programme with the motto Empower Women, Empower Village and Empower State.

The programme was launched as a special initiative of the College's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. It was deemed that it was the duty of the College to serve the community that fuels our existence.

NSS unit of the Govt. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Quepem organized took two prime flagship programmes: MISSION BYE PLASTIC and GRAM SAMRUDDHI PROGRAMME and decided to join them at the hip. The first of this joint programme was held in association with Mahila Association, Morpirla on Sunday 21st September, 2014 in the Gram Panchayat Hall, Morpirla In his welcome address, Principal Bhaskar G. Nayak explained the motto of this project of empowering the rural women, to empower the Village and there by empowering the state by providing various self -employment skills. He further added the role to be played by the villagers in his dream project of minimizing plastic usage and mass production of paper bags by students and the members of the Mahila madals.

First training session was conducted by Prof. Juliana Sylveira e D Souza, Assistant Professor of Zoology. She taught the members of Mahila Mandal various crafts, such as paper flower making (origami), table top decoration, bouquet making etc. The second training session was conducted by Prof. Charmaine Pereira, Assistant Professor of Geography, during which the members were trained to make beautiful flowers from plastic (waste) carry bags -an innovative recycling concept. She also taught the participants **paper bag making**. Shri. Ratish Gundad and Shri. Sameer, student volunteers taught the villagers how to create wealth out of waste, by using discarded playing cards, coconut shells and fibre. They presented Know how to make beautiful birds like peacock, parrots, pigeons and various forms of table top décor: such skills that the women could use to generate income to meet their needs and inculcate the saving habit.

The success of this initiative is looked forward to as the College would then have actually succeeded in assisting change that will ultimately benefit the villagers in helping themselves create opportunities in income generation; thereby, defeating poverty and its associated ills.

RELEIF INITIATIVES

An amount of Rs.1,22,000 (**Rs. One lakh twenty two thousand**) was raised by the NSS Volunteers towards the Chief Minister of Goa's (Jammu & Kashmir) Relief Fund and was handed over to the **Honourable Chief Minister Shri. Laxmikant Parseker** on **16th April 2015**.

The gesture was sincerely appreciated and the Chief Minister commended the efforts of the NSS volunteers for practicing the NSS motto: Not me but you.

The first such initiative began in 2009 when Canacona taluka was inundated by flood waters. The College NSS rural camp was held in Canacona that year and the volunteers immersed themselves in removing debris and providing man power assistance in the relief measures underway. The volunteers then raised an amount of Rs. 2,12,000/- to help build a house for a family that lost theirs to the floods. The service attitude of the students to help mitigate the woes of their brethren has prompted the college to take up other such issues.

In continuance with this, when Chetana Charitable Trust approached the College to help raise funds to build a School for Special children, the volunteers went ahead and raised another Rs. 2,12,000/- as their contribution towards this cause. The volunteers have been concerned and committed foot soldiers who have striven to serve the community in every way they could, every time they were called upon to do so.