



Extension Policy

The American College, founded on the roots of service to God and Men on an even keel no wonder has long cherished tradition of interfacing its pedagogy and programs in direct consonance with the needs of the society and the betterment of dependent community. Keeping the plight and cause of the people as priority, the college in its hundred and forty years of history has been addressing the livelihood issues, vocation-based needs, taking co-evolved inputs and offering services and tangible benefits for the welfare of people in them any rural hamlets around the college.

Be it, the NSS mediated village outreach program of the college or the Service Learning Programme (SLP) propelled Village outreach Programs, School Extension Services Child Support Work in Orphanages, Vaigai Ecology Project, Solid Waste Management initiatives, the quantum of work done by the college and the nature of impact it had made, and the support given to the needy have been liberal and profuse than any of its peers in the field of education. As an integral academia, college is keen on promoting the participation of students and faculty in outreach and extension activities that are operative at different levels through units like Rotaract Club, Green Club, Dean of Women Students, Study Centre for Indian Literature in English and Translation (SCILET), Astro Club and Soroptimist International Youth Club. The meticulous planning and preparations made at the department level and institution at large as service projects fit the bill in rendering substantial service.

Research aimed at transmission of ideas and furtherance of knowledge encourages students and faculty of all disciplines to take part indirect field work, and extension studies. Built-in as mandatory component, on- the-job exercises and industrial attachments provide a comprehensive exposure on the socio, economic, political and scientific realities of this diversity populated nation. The three major grand scale projects namely NSS, NCC-Army, Navy and the recently initiated Air Wing, and the SLP, fetch boys and girls direct opportunities to interface with the community, to study, reflect and plan extension activities drawing direct inputs from the targeted community. Therefore, the extension policy of the college dwells on:



- i. **making Part V programme as mandatory so that every first and second year undergraduate student has to register for any one of the schemes in (NSS / NCC- Army /NCC- Navy/ NCC Air-wing / SLP/ PED) in the curriculum and earn Two credits,**
- ii. engaging students and faculty in extension activities in the neighborhood communities as a routine academic and beyond classroom practice so that the basic objective of the college autonomy namely *to subscribe for excellence, relevance and employability* in all its academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is realized
- iii. encouraging the faculty and students to work in unison in their mission to create awareness among the members of the neighboring community in terms of environmental issues, gender sensitivity and there by uplift of the community and the nation at large.
- iv. establishing links with local, national, regional and global institutions so that the programs pursued with viable and potential partners is valid in contributing to the national literacy mission, and
- v. providing need-based assistance in implementing the government and the non-governmental schemes intended to protect, promote and passionately empower the neighborhood communities.



3.6.1. Extension activities are carried out in the neighborhood community, sensitizing students to social issues, for their holistic development, and impact thereof during the last five years

The college, being an institution with time- honored tradition of addressing the needs of its stakeholders and the dependent communities with sensitivity pays special attention to provide meaningful education enabling its students to instantly connect with the real time world. To provide the impetus, college has made extension activities a vital part of the curriculum. The college promotes various extracurricular activities through organized service units like **National Service Scheme (NSS)**, **NCC – National Cadet Corps 7(TN) Army Battalion and National Cadet Corps 2(TN) Naval Unit** which help students to get trained in leadership skills and imbibe social responsibility.

In addition, the college has unique programme like **Service Learning Programme (SLP)** with its sub-groups, where students get a chance to directly interact with the neighborhood community. Students are encouraged to participate in environment and social awareness through a host of club and association-guided activities. Almost all departments have their course work and programmes with space embedded for skill orientation and competency building.

Subscribing firmly to the NSS motto '*Not Me But You,*' students experience self actualization with emotional conditioning and get kindled to participate in nation building initiatives. NSS units of the college are actively functioning in the College and have developed a well knit network with the neighborhood. With active involvement of students, it conducts many community development projects, programmes and camps. These experiences turn good learning sessions and soul-searching experiences for students to prepare themselves for leadership roles. Through a well-rounded NSS experience, students of the American College experience holistic development by engaging in crisis management, conflict resolution, distress and disaster management, and contribute to nation building. NSS units adopt villages around Madurai district namely *Kunnathur, Thirumohoor, Solaimathi, Sitthakur, Illangiyendal, Perungudi, Alavandan, Tamaraipaati and Kalimangalam* in the year 2019-20. The volunteers involved whole heartedly



in the service of the masses in the adopted villages with social responsibility. NSS unit constructed five Ladies Toilets worth One Lakh Twenty Five Thousand rupees in the adopted village at Kodangipatti on 30th March, 2016. It is in recognition of the unique contributions and impeccable service the college renders to the masses, the *college NSS has been recognized with the coveted President of India medal from the Government of India.*

The objective of **NCC – Army Battalion and NCC - Naval Unit** is to develop character, courage, comradeship, discipline, leadership, secular outlook, spirit of adventure, sportsmanship and the ideals of selfless service among the young citizens of the county. NCC contingent of the college creates a Human Resource of organized, trained and motivated youth, to provide leadership in all walks of life including the Armed Forces for the service of nation. By creating a suitable environment to motivate the youth to take up a career in the armed forces, the college goes all out to promote NCC which in turn is in the habit of winning national and regional accolades every year. NCC officers, Under Officers and Cadet Captains and illustrious cadets of the college are bestowed with honor, awards and medals on a regular basis. In recognition of the uniqueness of the precepts and practices of training given here, the college NCC work-plan and syllabi have been accepted and adopted as template for the entire country in 2016.

Service Learning Programme (SLP) of The American College was started at the turn of this new millennium. This special program supported by **United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia (UBCHEA)** is aimed at educating the heart and mind of students and to inculcate civic responsibility. The program has been a runaway success. No Wonder the SLP design of the college is accepted as a model and a template for adoption and the college has been vested with the responsibility of training peers in India and around the world. In essence the service learning project is different from NSS and other social service projects as it shifts its focus from a mere service providing experience to the community to an intellectual discourse of strengthening the holistic learning of students and the faculty from the community. This way, the lag in internalizing the learning experiences and infusing relevance in the programs and actions of the college is revitalized.



The students of Service Learning Programme involve actively in projects such as **Solid Waste Management on campus, Vaigai Ecology, Village Ecology-Action on Health, School Extension Programme and Child Support Work in Orphanages**. SLP also adopted villages around Madurai district namely *Arasampatty, Earampatty and Valasai*. SLP is designed and adopted in the college to fill the gap between mere rote learning and the expected learning outcome detailed in each discipline. It aids students with real-time application of knowledge in life contexts and provides new cues and inputs for planning for a challenging career.

The **Study Centre for Indian Literature in English and Translation (SCILET)** founded in 1985 is nearing its fourth decade of service to take up the cause of making the Study of English in India, culturally and contextually relevant. The library is widely used by students and researchers from different parts of India, representing at least twenty one States, and also from other countries. It has been conducting Seminars, Creative Writing Workshops, Intercultural Workshops and Meet-the-Author programmes every year during the specified period. Unparalleled and unheard of any other college/university in India, SCILET wields its influence in bringing top-notch and most-sought after - writers, administrators, bureaucrats, researchers, policy makers and trainers to the college campus for an intellectual fiesta and direct fact to face interactions with the college community.

As a response emerging from such experiences, the college takes up many different initiatives under the banner of Departmental Fora, activities of **Green Club, Women's Forum, Soroptimist International Youth Club and Rotaract club. JivanaJyoti (Light for Life)** is a programme that has been designed and run for the welfare of the differently-abled persons for the last twenty four years. It is a partnership programme for training and rehabilitation of these gifted individuals. The college regularly organizes Science Exhibitions, Sky Watch Programmes to the school/college students and public. The service rendered by the students and during emergencies and natural calamities, including the recent COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates the spirit of service and responsibility evinced by the college community.



The **Green Club** which has the students and faculty as members develops the love of nature and adventure, and instills in them a sense appreciation for eco-centricity and creates awareness about the environment. It takes special efforts to conserve nature, plant trees, environmental problems such as Deforestation, Land Degradation and guards against onslaughts such as Air, Water, Soil Pollution, and Global Warming and other such imprudent deeds which results from human avariciousness. These programmes elevate the quest for learning and attract scores of academics, faculty and students from almost all colleges and many related agencies and institutions. Turning back the pages over the last five years, the American College Madurai, has every reason to take delight that it continues to strive for excellence and works with relevance in every sense.