



MARIS STELLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), VIJAYAWADA
A College with Potential for Excellence
NAAC Accredited & ISO 9001:2015 Certified

Institutional Distinctiveness: 2020-21

It is the vision of the college to contribute to a just and equitable society through quality education for leadership and social responsibility in an environment of academic excellence and sound values. One of the priorities of the institution, therefore, is to contribute to sustainable socio-economic development of the neighbourhood, locality and region by **training students for responsible citizenship.**

Community service activities have been given primary importance since the inception of the college. Activities are planned and executed through the Dept. of Social Work, the NSS and NCC, and Stellites to Awaken and Reach Out to Society (STARS) which replaced the earlier JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) set up specifically to undertake community service. Additionally, each department plans its own community service activities.

The revised curriculum, implemented in 2020 makes community service mandatory for every student. Each student undertakes community service for 180 hours, with assessment and evaluation of the work done and award of 4 credits. A mentor is assigned to monitor the work and make a continuous assessment. Students maintain a log book of progress and work done. They also submit a project report and make a presentation. A major stumbling block is the safety and security of the students when they have to leave the campus to undertake community service. The college has invested in a 50 seater bus to ensure a safe commute for the students.

4 members of faculty from STARS and the Dept. of Social Work undertook Preparation of Baseline Survey in collaboration with Montfort Social Service Organisation on 1st Feb. 2021. Orientation on Baseline Survey was given to 110 STARS and Social Work students and 4 faculty by Montfort Social Service on 12th Feb. Baseline surveys were conducted at Kamineni Nagar on

25th March 2021 by 46 students and 4 faculty and at Autonagar on 27th March by 40 students and 4 faculty, in collaboration with Montfort Social Service Organisation.

Community programmes on Health Science and Nutrition are also planned.

Another significant move to further community service is the plan to incorporate Service Learning into the curriculum. Service learning goes beyond the concept of ‘helping out’ or ‘volunteering’ by combining specific learning goals and outcomes into the community-based activity based on their verified needs. A project proposal in Service Learning has been accepted for funding by the United Board and is due for implementation from the academic year 2022.

The NSS units carry out all community service activities directed by the government such as Swachh Bharat, etc. A course in NCC is being offered as a Life Skills Course and another as a Skill Development Course with credits.

The departments have been executing a number of novel activities as service to the community: the ‘Bowl of Rice’ concept and the Lab to School programme of the Dept. of Chemistry, the Exhibition cum Sale to promote inclusiveness of the differently-abled by the Dept. of Social Work, programmes by the Red Ribbon Club are some examples.