



**NEWMAN COLLEGE  
THODUPUZHA**

Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University  
Reaccredited by NAAC with A grade (Cycle 3, CGPA 3.32)

# Newman Service Learning (NSL)

Best Practice - 02



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## OBJECTIVES

To foster social responsibility and community engagement through service learning

To address the demand of local community with the resources of the HEI

## Context

UGC gives special emphasis on “fostering social responsibility and community engagement in HEIs’ and the importance of learning through community service. The vision of Newman College is deep rooted in moulding youth with moral integrity and social welfare and the College, since its inception, has been in the forefront of community services. In alignment with UGC guidelines, College addresses the demands of current world by integrating its social responsibility to structured learning and knowledge sharing process with community engagement.



**Newman Service Learning (NSL)**

Pratice

# 01 Learning with community service

The students of Newman College enrich their knowledge by applying it for the service of community. Various initiatives highlight this social commitment.





## Home for Homeless

A "Home for the Homeless" project of Newman College typically involves initiatives to provide shelter and support services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The construction of houses by Newman College reflects a commitment to social responsibility and community development. The college has already completed three houses in nearby villages during the assessment period. The ongoing progress in constructing 12 homes not only reflects the college's commitment to tangible social impact but also signifies a long-term investment in the well-being and stability of the local community. This initiative, extending beyond mere infrastructure development, showcases Newman College's holistic vision for community development and serves as a commendable example of socially responsible action.

## SHARE A BREAD

The practice of sharing food packets to nearby orphanage. The collection of hygienically packed cooked food from homes of more than 500 students and staff daily and ensuring its distribution to the orphanage involves dedicated service mentality and social responsibility of students.

More than 500 inmates of orphanage receive daily food package

Human values and food management were practiced through this initiative.

Recognised as Best Social initiative



## PUNIT SAGAR ABHIYAN

The students identify the natural water resources in the community, check the quality of water, clean the water resource and make it accessible to public. The campaign may involve cleaning and purifying the water resources. This could include removal of pollutants, debris, or implementing measures to improve water quality.





## **Pandemic Services**

The College offered its infrastructure as COVID rehabilitation centre and vaccination centre for the entire community in the neighbourhood. Other services includes mask and sanitizer making and distribution; sanitizing Govt. hospitals; distribution of food; stationery and consumables to public.

## **Services during the flood**

By actively participating in these multifaceted relief efforts, Newman College has demonstrated a commitment to community welfare and has played a vital role in alleviating the immediate impacts of the flood, fostering resilience, and aiding in the long-term recovery of the affected regions.

## **Distribution of Food and Essential Commodities**

The college actively participated in distributing essential supplies such as food, clean water, clothing, and medical supplies to those affected by the floods. Collaborating with local authorities, NGOs, and other relief organizations, Newman College ensured that affected communities received timely and sufficient aid. Recognizing the immediate need for rehabilitation, the college engaged in the cleaning and restoration of flooded houses.

Research by students is channelled to ideas which help to stream line community knowledge or address the community issues.

## 02 Research for community service







## Research to address the issues of Idukki District

*“An Institutional Research Scheme on the Sustainable Development Issues in the Western Ghats in Idukki, Kerala”* mainly focused to address and study of sustainability issues of Western Ghats in Idukki region in the backdrop of Gadgil, Kasturirangan, and Oommen V. Oommen Committee reports. The research analyzed the issues like **Challenges faced by Mannan and Mutuan Tribes of Idukki District, Human-Wildlife Conflict in Marayoor and Periyar Tiger Reserve Regions of Western Ghats in Idukki District, Kerala etc.**

## Research on Waste Management

Newman College is actively engaged in a series of comprehensive studies aimed at identifying the most feasible and cost-effective methods for managing lignocellulosic biomass, with a clear focus on benefiting the local community. Lignocellulosic biomass, a renewable and abundant resource, holds immense potential for sustainable applications, including bioenergy and eco-friendly products. The research not only focuses on technical aspects but also considers the socio-economic and environmental implications of biomass management. By harnessing the benefits of lignocellulosic biomass in a manner that is practical and economically viable for the local community.



03

# Knowledge sharing and knowledge mobilization





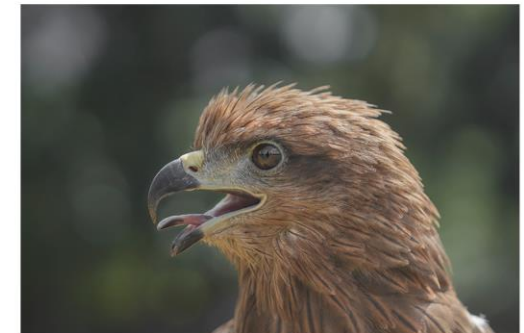
## **Serve the Underprivileged in Tribal Areas**

Newman College shows a strong commitment to serving the underprivileged in tribal areas through a variety of impactful programs. The college has initiated many programs like cleaning campaigns aiming at improving the sanitation and hygiene conditions in tribal communities, distributing essential study materials and promoting education and literacy among the underprivileged. Field studies are conducted to gain firsthand insights into the unique challenges faced by tribal populations, enabling the development of targeted and effective empowerment strategies. Through these multifaceted efforts, Newman College exemplifies a holistic approach to social responsibility, striving to uplift and empower the underprivileged in tribal areas.



## Identification of diverse flora and fauna of Western Ghats area

Systematic efforts in flora and fauna identification contribute to our knowledge of the various plant and animal species that inhabit in edavetty Pancyat. The Western Ghats, known for its unique and diverse ecosystems, houses a plethora of endemic and rare species. This identification process not only serves as a scientific pursuit but also plays a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of preserving the Western Ghats' biodiversity for future generations.



## Sasthrapadam and Sasthrajalakam

One week residential programme for higher secondary and high school students of Govt. Schools in the rural and tribal areas of Idukki to provide experiential learning



## Astrophysics workshops to public

Astrophysics observatory and lab will be open to community for visualising eclipses, planets and for learning telescope making.

## Evidence of success

| Sl. No. | Initiative   | Evidence of success  |
|---------|--|--|
| 1.      | <u>Share a bread</u>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• More than 200 inmates of orphanage receives daily food package</li><li>• Human values and food management were practiced through this initiative.</li><li>• Recognised as Best Social initiative</li></ul> |
| 2.      | <u>Home for home less</u>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 homeless people as beneficiaries</li><li>• This helps students to appreciate the importance of overall well being of society and increase the managerial skills</li></ul>                                |
| 3.      | <u>Punit Sagar Abhiyan</u>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Water conservation</li><li>• Letter of appreciation from Newman Residence Association</li></ul>  |
| 4.      | <u>Pandemic services</u>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Letter of appreciation from National Health Mission</li></ul>  |
| 5.      | <u>Service during flood</u>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Served society to rebuilt Kerala</li><li>• NCC unit recognised as Best NCC Unit Award</li></ul>  |
| 6.      | <u>Research to address the issues of Idukki district</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Research outcome published as 4 books and drafted for submission to Govt. for policy making</li></ul>  |
| 7.      | <u>Research on Waste management</u>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Findings are published in high impact journals and international collaboration with Polish Academy of Science</li></ul>  |

|     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 8.  | <u>Serve the underprivileged in tribal areas</u>                       | Many tribal students get access to recent trends in science and education   |
| 9.  | <u>Identification of diverse flora and fauna of Western Ghats area</u> | A report on biodiversity of this hotspot was prepared and shared to Govt. authorities for conservation measures                         |
| 10. | <u>Sasthrapadam and Sasthrajalakam</u>                                 | Meritorious Higher secondary school and high school students from Govt. schools got hands on training in labs                           |
| 11. | <u>Astrophysics workshops to public</u>                                | More than 500 people including students observed eclipse, planets and moon. More than 50 students were trained to make home telescopes. |

### **Problem Encountered and Resource Required**

| <b>Problem Encountered</b>  | <b>Resource Required</b>                                       |
|---|--|
| <b>Demand for social responsibility is very high due to the geographical location</b>                           | Require more fund and time                                     |
| <b>Most of the under privileged community are in the tribal areas, which need more time and effort to reach</b> | Government support in channelling the resources of the college |



