

STELLA MARIS CENTRE FOR NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATIONS

(S.M.C.N.C) : NETWORKING IN 2017- 2018.

Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai had taken the initiative to set up the Stella Maris Centre for Networking and Communications (SMCNC) in November 2013. Its mission was two-fold: firstly, to establish networking with corporate, service, government, non-government and educational organizations, both nationally and internationally; and secondly, to utilize communicative technology like video-conferencing, as also conventional print and broadcast media and to develop folk media, to reach out to the rural and urban masses, which are an important aspect of developmental communication.

Dr. Sundari K, Director of SMCNC continued the networking process very early in the academic year. In late March and early April 2017, she visited the Central Palmgur and Palm Product Institute (CPPPI) of the Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) with Sr. Susan Matheikal to study the feasibility of launching training programs that would enhance the employability and economic capacity of village women and urban students.

CPPPI offered a fully funded three month tailoring certificate training program for SC women at SMCEPC. CPPPI was also requested to conduct skill development programs for students of Stella Maris College (Autonomous) on: making of paper products, bakery products, herbal products, confectionery items, palm leaf products, simple chemicals, imitation jewelry and fruit & vegetable processing. All courses were for five days each in SMC conducted by the trainer from CPPPI, except palm leaf products which was for 15 days.

In April-May 2017 Dr. Sundari K. prepared the proposals for PMGDISHA and Training Partner (TP) establishment and submitted to the Ministry of Communication, GOI, New Delhi. By the end of May PMGDISHA was obtained for SMCEPC in Thiruvallur District.

In the end of May 2017- early June 2017, Dr. Radhakrishnan, I.P.S, D.I.G of the Department of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System was approached for training personnel in computers The Medical Superintendent of the District Hospital at Thiruvallur, the Joint Director of Health Services, the Head of Pediatrics, Dr. Rajkumar and the Deputy Director of Medical Services, were all approached and briefed on the training available for health personnel in PMGDISHA.

PMGDISHA was inaugurated on 9th June 2017 at SMCEPC. On 4th July a “Community outreach through Folk Media” was conducted at Thirupachur village. Thirty N.S.S. students of SMC were granted permission by the Principal to be trained by Dr. P.Kumaraguru of SRC, GOI, Chennai and sent to the village to conduct the program. About 200 students from Kotai Colony middle school and 50 women from various NGO’s attended the event which was inter-active and generated appreciative and enthusiastic feedback.

In August- September 2017, the networking by Dr. Sundari K. with the Alamo group of Colleges in San Antonio continued and this lead to obtaining an art expert and faculty from Palo Alto College of the Alamo Group, Professor Mark Hogenson, as the main speaker for the International Conference of the Fine Arts Department in 2018.



Figure 1: Meeting with the Medical Superintendent Dr. Nagendra Prasad of District Hospital, Thiruvallur in May 2017 regarding training of Health personnel.



Figure 2: Briefing Dr. Dayalan, Joint Director, Health Services on training available at SMCEPC through PMGDISHA in May 2017



Figure 3: Dr.Sundari K, Director, SMCNC bonding with light on 9th June 2017 at SMCEPC with Sr. Mercy, Superior of Krupalaya and Sr. Susan, VLE



Figure 4: Tracing the steps in networking from project proposal to project launch of PMGDISHA, by the Project Coordinator, Dr. Sundari K.



Figure 5: Interacting with the villagers regarding training and development facilities available in PMGDISHA



Figure 6: Team discussion by V.L.E. Project Coordinator and CSC officials with Sisters of Krupalaya on PMGDISHA at SMCEPC