

## Institutional Distinctiveness

### Educate Empower and Give Back to the Society –“Socially Conscious Active Citizens”

#### Preamble

As an Institution of Higher learning, functioning in Southern Tamilnadu for 67 years, the Institution seeks to render Transformative Education that impacts the Society. Creating **Socially Conscious Active Citizens** is its Mandate.

#### The Context

For Bishop Heber College, Education is a Mission in response to the Call of “The Almighty God”. The Institution views **Service to Humanity as Service to God**, as giving back to the society is the essence and purpose of its existence. Therefore, service is incorporated into the curricular and co-curricular components of all programmes offered by the Institution. The Institution endeavours to empower students to become Inclusive Leaders of the Future, who can lead by example.

#### The Focus:

1. To instil the spirit of service among all students nurtured in the Hebers’ Fold.
2. To make students understand, that the Supreme Purpose of Education is to serve humanity.
3. To motivate students to be responsible Citizens, responsive to the needs and demands of the society.
4. To raise Global citizens who venerate the values of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

#### Institutional Efforts in Building Socio-Consciousness:

1. **Transferring the zeal to serve**, the Institution creates opportunities for service to all its students. All I and II year Undergraduates undergo a 20 hour mandatory Community Service per semester through Extension Clubs. The credits they earn are mandatory for the award of the Degree.
2. **Service Day** is celebrated every year to honour the students and Extension Clubs who volunteered to render self-less service to the society. Students are encouraged to take up Projects, Practice schools and Field Projects in Socially relevant themes.

- 3. Mass Awareness events:** Through the 30 Extension clubs, 57 Public Rallies, 5 Household Surveys, 35 Mass events, 29 Blood donation camps, 10 Free Medical camps were organized from 2017 to 2022, the Institution reached out to 23 Villages in 8 Panchayats, including 5 Panchayats under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Scheme of the Govt. of India. Further, Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRA) was carried out by students in 5 villages in Pachaimalai hills of the Eastern Ghats and one in the Kitchipalayam, Nanjampatty and Court Road Colony slums of Salem Municipal Corporation.
- 4. Beyond the call of Duty:** Students are taught Disaster management Measures and have the preparedness to organize and volunteer in response to natural calamities and emergencies. Student Leaders reach out first to their peers in the disaster affected zones and coordinate with the local teams in the operations. During Gaja cyclones and Kerala Floods, relief materials worth Rs. 30 Lakhs and 3 Lakhs were distributed to 8 and 3 villages respectively.
- 5. Heber COVID Task Force:** 24x7 Call Centre of student Volunteers, offered referral services for Hospital beds, Oxygen availability, Ambulances, Food at doorsteps and Funeral services and spent Rs11.52 Lakhs. Exemplary facilities provided at the Campus Quarantine centre, was appreciated as a **Model Centre** by the District Collector
- 6. Empowering Women Entrepreneurs:** 25 Skill development programmes for the women, youth and children of the Adopted villages were conducted by Six departments. Once in every fourth Saturday, Women entrepreneurs, visually challenged and transgender are provided space for exhibiting their products for sale **free of cost** within the campus.
- 7. Institutions' Incubation Centres:** Through the Institutions' Incubation Centres, 65 women from Vayalur village were trained in production of Value-added Products from Milk, 6 on Api-Culture, 25 on Integrated Farming, 40 on Mushroom Cultivation, 90 on banana fibre extraction and 12 sanitary workers of Trichy Corporation.
- 8. Knowledge Sharing:** All the clubs and the departments shared their core skills and knowledge with the schools in the adopted villages and

Neighbourhood. The Institution joined hands with Redington Foundation (NGO) in the Digital Literacy drive- a CSR activity of Redington International and HP Inc., for digital empowerment in the state- of the art World on Wheels Bus (**WOW**).The World-on-Wheels bus digitally empowered 1288 beneficiaries in 28 Schools, 8 Villages and 3 other Institutions on services like AADHAR, e-payments, Kisan Vikas and Government Schemes.

### **The Impact:**

- 1. Social Entrepreneurs:** Service Experiences of our students shaped their character and **55** of them found their call to serve the nation as a Vocation and hence founded or/and Directed NGOs.
2. Our Alumnus, **Padma Sri S Damodaran** (1983-86), who championed the cause of Open Defecation Free India and constructed 6 Lakh received the Padma Award in 2022. Our Alumnus **Mr. K Senthil Kumar** who trained Tribal Communities in *Lantanna* Furniture Making received the Prime Minister's Award in 2019.
3. The Institution has close nexus with **37 NGOs** for focused affirmative action in the society. Contributions of the college community to the NGOs have been significant receiving appreciations from them.
4. The Institution received appreciations from the Panchayat Presidents of 8 panchayats, Corporation Commissioner for the Swachh Bharat events, appreciations from the Bharathidasan University for Best NSS Units and many such accolades for the services rendered.
5. The Eight Adopted Villages appreciate and own the Institutions' presence in their planning & development.
6. As the first few Nodal Centres for CHILDLINE in the country, trained several batches of governmental bodies and NGOs in Child protection. Advocacies were made for the right means of Intervention. In the assessment Period 103 child marriages were prevented and reported by our efforts.

The visible impact of these services have created in the locality, inspires in every student an awakening to respond to the societal needs, transforming them to be Active citizens, who will be Leaders of a New India, which is self-reliant, growing and socially harmonious.