

## Institutional Distinctiveness

### Title: Prayas: “An effort towards better tomorrow”

**NSS:** The NSS Unit of Sydenham College is the foremost unit which conducts community service activities throughout the year. Students actively participate in all the activities which help to develop in them a sense of social and civic responsibility. It helps them in acquiring skills and devote their time for the service of the society. Following activities are undertaken that helps in nation building:

a) **Pulse Polio Drive:** With global initiative of eradicating polio, students participate in Pulse Polio Immunization Drive with an objective of achieving hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine.

b) **Free Dental Check up Campaign at BMC Schools:** The camp was commence with dental awareness talk, educating students about common dental complaints, particularly stressing on tooth decay and gum diseases and measures to prevent from them.

c) **STEM cell donor registration:** This campaign educated the students about to create awareness about the importance of stem donor.

d) **Tree plantation drive:** As a part of Green India, students every year plants 2000 saplings within and outside the college which paves the way to improve the green cover in urban areas.

e) **Rally on Road safety** was organised to create awareness about the rules and safety measures to be adhered while driving so as to reduce fatal accidents.

f) **Blood Donation camp** is organised annually in the college and more than 100 units of blood are collected which enriches the life of many.

g) College also organises workshops, seminars and lectures on various social topics which develops a sense of social responsibility in the minds of learners.

h) NSS unit with the support of alumni has contributed immensely in construction of classroom and water tank in the rural school at Dahanu Tribal Village.

i) Beach cleaning drive and station beautification project was undertaken by the students which a move towards Swachh Mumbai Abhiyaan

b) **Social Service League:**

The SSL unit of our college works for the social upliftment of the differently abled children and senior citizen by organising events within and outside the college. SSL boast of *Ek Koshish* a social initiative which provides platform for special children and senior citizens to showcase their talents. Apart from this volunteers also visit old age home orphanage during festive season to make them feel extraordinary.

c) **Women Development Cell:** Lectures, seminars and workshops by renowned personalities are organised every year to empower women. The Cell in collaboration with SHG's organises exhibition where the women sell handmade articles for sustainable livelihood.

d) **Girls Forum:** The forum had organised workshops on self defence, lecture by lady gynaecologist thus ensuring safety and health of the girl students.

e) **Dramatic Society:** The society had organised though provoking dramas on social issues

f) **PSERF :** It is one of registered society which provides educational relief fund to students belonging to economically backward class.

g) **Sydenham College Co-operative Stores Ltd.:** This is a student managed registered society where students are given hands on training on practical business aspects, thus making them more employable.

h) **Skill Development Unit:** This unit organises certificate course for the students which provides industry related skill that helps them in securing better livelihood.

i) **DLLE:** In order to create more skilled workforce, there is a need to create variety of learning and training opportunities. Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension conducts variety of programs which harness the skills of the students.

j) **Gymkhana:** Sydenham College has an active gymkhana and every year more number of students participate in sports activities which inculcates in them a sense of healthy lifestyle and healthy competitive attitude. Further College also has state-of-art physical fitness center which stresses the importance of physical fitness and wellness. Further the gymkhana department also organises yoga and meditation sessions which is a step towards stress free life. This helps the students and staff to contribute more towards development of the college as well as society.

k) As a part of energy conservation drive, college has installed solar panels which are positive step towards energy conservation.

l) Canteen wet waste are converted into compost which used as manure for plants. These creative and innovative ideas are shared by students in the vicinity which is move towards waste management.

Sydenham College is known for retaining social development close to its heart. Various stakeholders are involved in creating a positive impact in the lives of deprived by organising community welfare programmes related to education, health care, cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation, physical fitness, women empowerment etc. College organizes various programmes throughout the year like blood donation camps, rallies, organising workshop and seminars, stalls of SHG's etc. Sydenham alumni have contributed immensely in social development activities. They have supported in constructing schools, donating stationeries setting up clean water tank in rural areas. Students of NSS/SSL have undertaken BMC school education project, where slow learners are given special tuitions for specified subjects so that they excel in their

education. Apart from social development, Sydenham College employs various methods for sustaining environment by adopting various eco friendly measures within and outside the campus. Thus Sydenham has a rich history of institutionalizing and ingraining social engagement rooted in the DNA of various stakeholders.

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