

BHARATA MATA COLLEGE

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CELL

Rapid response as an act gives a quick response, specifically designating a team or unit of people who are deployed to deal with an incident or situation as soon as possible. Any catastrophe, natural or man-made requires immediate attention and intervention. Disaster Management as a subject essentially deals with management of resources and information as far as a disastrous event is concerned and also how effectively and seamlessly one coordinates these resources. Disaster management, at the individual and organisational level, deals with issues of planning, coordinating, communication and risk management.

To attend to any emergencies in the locality and also in the State, a rapid response cell has been constituted on December 2017. The cell has 60 members which includes, students, faculty and civil society representatives.

Disaster Management Cell has been formed with the immediate objective to attend to the needs of the people who are the victims of Okhi disaster.

Objectives of the Disaster Management Cell

- To attend to the immediate needs of the locality and communities in need in times of need/emergencies.
- To provide a continuum of disaster management activities from rescue-relief-psycho-social care - to rehabilitation.
- To prepare a group of volunteers with disaster preparedness and effective response.
- Empower local communities as partners to reduce and manage disaster risks.
- Promote the culture of disaster risk prevention and mitigation among the present youth.

PROGRAMMES

SWACHHTHA PAKHWADA

The objective of the project was to collaborate with PETRONET LNG, Kochi terminal, Disaster management cell, and Bharata Mata School of Social Work to implement Swachhtha Pakhwada at two institutions, focusing on reducing plastic usage and promoting eco-friendly practices. Social work trainees had the opportunity to apply their creativity and knowledge while learning more about CSR projects. The activities involved the trainees visiting GHSS Elamkunnappuzha, collecting materials, and with the assistance of volunteers, creating a vertical garden using recycled plastic bottles. The project was successful in fostering student and parent engagement and instilling a sense of ownership and responsibility for the garden's care, motivating them to adopt similar practices at home.

During the Swachhtha Pakhwada, a CSR project under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Petronet LNG Ltd collaborated with BEFORE NGO to provide a vertical garden to BUDS School, emphasizing the importance of reusing plastic bottles and avoiding single-use plastics. The social work trainees of Bharata Mata School of Social Work participated in the initiative, also conducting a training session on making paper bags using newspapers for intellectually challenged individuals. The day coincided with World Paper Bag Day. The trainees spent time with the students at BUDS School, observing the care provided to them and engaging in various activities. They divided into groups to work on the vertical garden and paper bag making. The paper bag making skill imparted to the students could potentially generate financial aid for them through selling the bags in the market. The entire experience was rewarding for the trainees, who had the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical setting while making a positive impact on the community.

CPR TRAINING SESSION

A CPR training session was organized in the college auditorium, bringing together social work trainees and NSS volunteers from various UG departments. Mr. Thomas, the NSS Programme Officer, welcomed the guests and students, while Fr. Jimmy, the Assistant Director, inaugurated the program. Mr. Jose, the Director of Sahrudaya Welfare Services, offered felicitations. The training on CPR was conducted by Dr. Vibha from the emergency department of Aster Medicity Hospital. She provided clear explanations on when CPR is needed, how to perform it, and its significance, using demonstrations with dummies to enhance understanding. The session encouraged interactive participation, with students asking questions and having their doubts clarified. Following the session, students were divided into two groups and given the opportunity to practice CPR using the dummies. The outcome was a well-informed understanding of CPR's importance, fostering teamwork and active engagement among the students. By combining theory with practical exercises, the training provided a clear and comprehensive understanding of CPR techniques in various situations. Fr. Sharmin, the Student Development Officer, delivered the vote of thanks, and the session concluded at 4:00 pm. Overall, the students and faculty found the CPR training session informative, valuable, and interactive, leaving them better equipped with essential life-saving knowledge.

CLASS ON WASTE MANAGEMENT

On the morning of 28th March 2023, a training session on waste management took place in the MSW seminar hall of Bharata Mata College, Thrikkakara. The session commenced with social work trainee Agnes Treesa extending a warm welcome to the resource person, Ms. Suhana R H, Project Assistant of Suchitwa Mission from KILA, who conducted the training as a green social work initiative.

During the session, Ms. Suhana R H shed light on the pressing issue of improper waste management, emphasizing its social and political dimensions. The importance of adopting proper waste management practices and the need to start waste reduction efforts from homes

were thoroughly explained, covering both biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste disposal options. The training's main focus was to prepare the trainees for an upcoming mass campaign on waste management, encouraging their active involvement in the process.

The training session was highly interactive, providing the trainees with opportunities to ask questions and seek clarifications. This approach left the trainees well-informed and motivated to actively contribute to the field of waste management. Towards the end, trainees Fathima Afrin and George Milan shared their insights, and Shone Joseph delivered the vote of thanks, officially concluding the session at 12:00 pm.

As a result of this training, the social work trainees gained a deep understanding of the urgency of waste management for environmental preservation. They familiarized themselves with various waste disposal solutions and were inspired to take proactive steps in addressing waste-related issues. The training also fostered teamwork and active participation among the trainees, preparing them to make a positive impact on waste management in their communities.

CONCLUSION

Bharata Mata College's Disaster Management Cell has taken proactive steps to address crucial issues related to disaster response and preparedness. With a dedicated rapid response cell in place, the college is well-equipped to handle emergencies promptly and effectively, coordinating resources and information seamlessly. The Disaster Management Cell's objectives reflect a commitment to serving the community in times of need and empowering local communities to actively participate in disaster risk reduction and management.

The various programs conducted by the college, such as Swachhtha Pakhwada, CPR training sessions, and waste management training, exemplify the institution's dedication to social and environmental responsibility. These initiatives not only provide valuable knowledge and skills to the students but also foster a sense of ownership and motivation to contribute meaningfully to society.

Overall, Bharata Mata College's efforts in disaster management and social work initiatives demonstrate its commitment to creating a sustainable and resilient community. By engaging students, faculty, and civil society representatives in these activities, the college is building a culture of disaster risk prevention, environmental stewardship, and community engagement. Through these collective efforts, the college is making a positive difference and inspiring the youth to become responsible and proactive agents of change in their respective fields and communities.