



KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (KISS)

Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar - 751024

(Declared under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

### 3.6.1 Extension activities in the neighborhood

**Q: Extension activities in the neighborhood community in terms of impact and sensitizing the students to social issues and holistic development during the last five years**

**A:** The university was born out of an altruistic urge to empower tribal students and their communities through free education and holistic development. Voluntary community development work is therefore the means through which the students are made aware of responsibilities towards their own people.

The activities relating to community development services and sensitization programmes at KISS-DU are two-fold. First, students participate in various extra-curricular programmes organized by the University to be sensitized towards various social problems affecting social groups and communities. Secondly, students implement the values and skills gained through their extra-curricular activities in their personal and social lives.

The University has active NSS and Youth Red Cross wings. In August 2022, the Rovers and Rangers unit of KISS-DU was formally registered with the Odisha state unit of Bharat Scouts and Guides. The NSS wing has been vibrant since its inception in June, 2020. During the pandemic, it carried out sensitization campaigns on various pressing issues. While some of the awareness programmes were conducted online; our students stationed in their respective villages physically organized peer-educator training and awareness-building programmes, such as vaccination, substance abuse, population control, skill development, nutrition, blood donation, children's education, cancer, safety of the girl child, etc.

Several NSS volunteers set up informal educational centres in their respective villages to teach/train small local children in both academics and athletics. They organized sanitation and cleanliness drives in their villages, where they also held plantation campaigns. In April 2022, NSS volunteers carried out an extensive cleanliness drive around the neighborhood of the campus, followed by a beautification campaign in May, 2022.

The University has adopted five villages across Odisha, according to the guidelines of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan. These are: Khambesi (Raygada), Batipada (Kandhamal), Garidi (Koraput), Lachhmani (Koraput), and Sargiguda (Malakangiri). At these villages, students engage themselves in combating social issues such as gender equity, prevention of alcoholism among the youth, prevention of child marriages, promotion of personal and collective hygiene, promotion of literacy, ecological protection, etc.

In addition, KISS-DU Youth Red Cross, in collaboration with the State Youth Red Cross Society, Indian Red Cross Society and several local academic institutions, has organized the observance of World AIDS Day, National Youth Day, National Volunteer Day, Blood Donation Day and World Red Cross Day. It has organized an Awareness-cum-Cleanness Programme, an Inter-state Study-cum-Training Camp, a YRC Camp for Girl Volunteers, etc.

Student volunteers have participated in the distribution of dry food and medicines to the tribal villagers in the remote areas of the State, displaying the values of compassion, empathy, and humanism. This activity has been publicly lauded by the Honourable Chief Minister of Odisha.

These extension activities help the students pick up, through experiential learning, important educational attributes and soft skills, including gender sensitivity, environmental responsibility, and a sense of civic patriotism.