



COMMUNITY NETWORKING POLICY

OBJECTIVES

CSI College for Advanced Studies, Punnakkad conducts various Outreach Programmes which is meant for the development of the local communities, with the support of Community Health Centre, Punnakkad, Grama Vikasana Samiti and Mallapuzhassery Grama Panchayat. This College aims to fulfil Social Responsibility by contributing towards the development of local underprivileged groups of people beyond the campus.

SCOPE

The aim of the Community Networking Policy is to provide a clearly defined, consistent and collaborative approach to encouraging sustainable community development.

POLICY

1. Linking learning with community service

In this approach, students and teachers apply their knowledge and skills in a chosen community to improve the lives of people in that community. This can be achieved through the model of 'service-learning' (a globally accepted best practice), providing engagement opportunities to students from various disciplines and courses to apply their knowledge to address the challenges of a specific community. For example, students of food technology and quality assurance can conduct water and soil testing in local areas and share its results with local community.

2. Linking research with community knowledge

In this approach, the community's own knowledge is integrated into the design and conduct of the research. New research by students helps them to complete their academic requirements, and at the same time the community's knowledge is systematized.

3. Knowledge sharing and knowledge mobilization

The knowledge available with students and teachers in various disciplines is made available to the local community to realize its developmental aspirations, secure its entitlements and access its benefits from various agencies and schemes. These can take the forms of enumerations, surveys, awareness camps and campaigns, trainings, learning manuals/films, maps, study reports, public hearings, policy briefs,

cleanliness & hygiene teachings, legal aid clinics, etc. For example, students can undertake programs and educate them about hygiene and nutrition.

4. Devising curriculum and courses

This enriches the curriculum of existing courses through locally-appropriate subject-matter. It also creates new, locally appropriate educational programmes that interest new generation of students.

For example, new courses on financial inclusion, entrepreneurship development and nutritional value of local produce can improve knowledge and business opportunities for students.

5. Including practitioners as teachers

Local community elders, women leaders, tribals, entrepreneurs and civil society practitioners have enormous practical knowledge of a wide variety of issues. This expertise can be tapped by inviting such practitioners to co-teach courses both in the classrooms and in the field.

6. Social innovations by students

The students can be encouraged to initiate learning projects with a social impact. Incubation of such social innovation projects by students can also have meaningful links to existing curriculum and courses.