



# PUSHPAGIRI

## COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES

**3.4.4 - Institutional social responsibility activities in the neighbourhood community in terms of education, environmental issues like Swachh Bharath, health and hygiene awareness and socio-economic development issues carried out by the students and staff during the year. Describe the impact of extension activities in sensitizing students to social issues and holistic development during the year 2023-2024**

Pushpagiri College of Dental Sciences (PCDS) is committed to fostering social responsibility among its faculty, students, and non-teaching staff through active engagement with the local community. Throughout the year, a variety of initiatives have been implemented, focusing on education, environmental sustainability, health awareness, and socio-economic development.

### Key Activities

#### 1. National Service Scheme (NSS)

The NSS unit at PCDS, recognized as NSS/KUHS/FU/PNT/4, received funding in 2023 to enhance its outreach programs. This unit has been instrumental in driving initiatives related to the Swachh Bharat campaign, and conducting health and hygiene awareness camps. We also supports socio-economic development efforts within the community. Students actively participate in blood donation drives, demonstrating their commitment to saving lives and contributing to public health initiatives.

Reports of NSS activities are given at: [3.4.1 - Pushpagiri- Group of Institutions](#)

#### 2. Radio MACFAST

As part of our institution's commitment to advancing health education and community outreach, Radio MACFAST serves as an innovative platform for students and faculty to engage in the promotion of oral health awareness. This initiative enables interns and a faculty members to present informative programs on oral health topics on a weekly basis, thereby

fostering increased understanding of dental hygiene and healthcare practices within the community.

Through engaging discussions and expert insights, Radio MACFAST addresses a wide range of oral health issues, including preventive care, common dental conditions, the importance of regular check-ups, and healthy lifestyle choices that positively influence dental health. Programs are designed not only to educate but also to dispel myths and misconceptions surrounding dental care, thereby empowering listeners with knowledge that can lead to better health outcomes.

Additionally, Radio MACFAST serves as an interactive forum where community members can pose questions, express concerns, and seek advice about their oral health directly from dental professionals. This interaction helps bridge the gap between healthcare providers and the community, reinforcing the role of education in enhancing public health.

The impact of Radio MACFAST extends beyond just awareness; it plays a critical role in developing students' communication and presentation skills. By actively participating in the creation and delivery of content, students gain valuable experience in public speaking, media communication, and the effective dissemination of health information, which are crucial skills in their future professional endeavours. Furthermore, the program contributes to the holistic development of students by instilling a sense of social responsibility and community service. They learn the importance of giving back to society through education and awareness, fostering a culture of empathy and civic engagement.

Schedule and reports of radio talk are conducted are given @:

### 3. Dental Camps

We are dedicated to improving community health through our comprehensive dental health camps, which are held in rural areas and local schools. These camps are a collaborative effort between our students, faculty and organizing members, providing a unique opportunity for practical learning and community service.

The primary objective of these dental camps is to offer essential health services to underserved populations while fostering a culture of preventive care and healthy practices. During these events, participants undergo thorough dental screenings conducted by trained students under the supervision of experienced faculty members. This not only helps identify potential oral health issues but also facilitates early intervention, significantly reducing the need for more complex treatments later.

In addition to screenings, the camps include educational sessions aimed at raising awareness about oral hygiene and the importance of preventive care. Students lead interactive workshops and discussions that cover key topics such as proper brushing and flossing techniques, nutrition's role in dental health, and the importance of regular dental check-ups. These sessions are tailored to meet the needs of various age groups, ensuring that information is conveyed in a manner that is both engaging and accessible.

List and reports of dental camps are given @:

#### **4. Outreach to Vulnerable Populations:**

Our outreach team actively collaborates with local orphanages, where we organize various activities aimed at enhancing the well-being of the children. This includes donation drives where we provide clothing, and hygiene products. Additionally, students often plan fun, interactive sessions such as recreational activities that promote emotional well-being and creativity. These engagements help build a supportive environment for the children, encouraging them to express themselves while nurturing their self-esteem.

**Support for Schools for Children with Special Needs:**  
Understanding the unique challenges faced by children with special needs, we tailor our outreach efforts to address their specific requirements. Our students visit these schools to conduct awareness programs and workshops that focus on dental hygiene. By interacting with these children, our students gain invaluable insights into the importance of empathy, patience, and adaptability in healthcare and education.

**Visiting Old Age Homes:**  
Our outreach initiatives extend to old age homes, where we engage with the elderly

population to ensure they receive the companionship and care they deserve. During these visits, our students offer oral health education, and donate essential items like toiletries and clothes. We also organize recreational activities such as music sessions, and wellness talks, which not only cater to the physical needs of the residents but also address their emotional and social well-being.

### **Impact of Extension Activities on Sensitizing Students to Social Issues and Holistic Development**

The extension activities organized by the Institute serve as powerful platforms for cultivating social awareness and fostering holistic development among students. By engaging in initiatives such as the National Service Scheme (NSS), dental health camps, informative radio programs, and outreach to vulnerable populations, students experience transformative learning that significantly impacts their education and personal growth.

#### **1. Enhanced Awareness of Social Issues:**

Through active participation in NSS activities and outreach programs, students develop a nuanced understanding of critical social issues such as health disparities, poverty, and accessibility to healthcare. Engaging with marginalized communities, including orphans, children with special needs, and the elderly, allows students to confront the realities of these populations firsthand. This exposure nurtures empathy and a sense of responsibility, encouraging students to become advocates for social change in their future careers.

#### **2. Practical Application of Knowledge:**

The dental camps provide students with opportunities to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world scenarios. The impact of these dental camps extends beyond immediate health benefits, promoting community engagement and fostering strong relationships between the college and local residents. By actively participating in these outreach efforts, students develop essential skills such as teamwork, communication, and leadership, preparing them for future professional challenges in the field of dentistry.

Moreover, the camps serve as a platform for collecting valuable data on the oral health status of the community, which can inform future initiatives and research projects. This data collection not only contributes to the evidence-based practice in dentistry but also raises awareness about the pressing oral health issues faced by rural populations.

### 3. Development of Communication and Leadership Skills:

Initiatives like Radio MACFAST empower students to communicate health-related information effectively. By preparing and presenting radio programs, students enhance their public speaking and media communication skills, which are essential in their future roles as healthcare providers. Furthermore, leading workshops and engaging with diverse audiences fosters leadership qualities, equipping students to take initiative in their professional environments.

### 4. Fostering Social Responsibility and Ethical Values:

Extension activities instill a strong sense of social responsibility in students. Each interaction with vulnerable populations enriches their understanding of community health issues and fosters a commitment to service and reflects an understanding of the ethical obligations healthcare professionals have toward society. Students learn to prioritize patient care and public health, underscoring the importance of compassion, ethics, and advocacy in their future practices. They are encouraged to reflect on their experiences, which enhances their educational journey and prepares them to become compassionate healthcare professionals.

### 5. Holistic Personal Development:

Engaging in outreach and service activities promotes students' emotional and psychological well-being. These experiences contribute to personal growth, developing qualities such as resilience, adaptability, and critical thinking. By reflecting on their interactions with underserved populations, students cultivate a deeper appreciation for diversity and the challenges that others face, enriching their worldview and enhancing their capacity for empathy.

These camps provide a holistic development and quality education by integrating theory with practice. Through these hands-on experiences, students cultivate a sense of social responsibility and an understanding of the critical role that oral health plays in overall well-being. This initiative not only benefits the community but also enhances the educational environment, ensuring our graduates are well-rounded, community-oriented professionals.

#### 6. Teamwork and Collaborative Learning:

Involvement in NSS and community outreach initiates opportunities for teamwork and collaboration. Students work alongside peers, faculty, and community members, learning the value of cooperation and collective effort in achieving common goals. These collaborative experiences foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie, reinforcing the importance of community in the educational journey.

#### 7. Advancement of Community Engagement and Research:

Through community engagement and data collection during dental camps and outreach programs, students contribute to a growing body of research that informs public health practices. This hands-on approach helps students understand the significance of evidence-based practice and the impact of their contributions on the health status of the community.

In summary, the comprehensive extension activities at Pushpagiri College of Dental Sciences effectively sensitize students to vital social issues while promoting their holistic development. Through hands-on experiences and community engagement, students emerge as well-rounded individuals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and ethical grounding necessary to make a meaningful impact in the healthcare field. This alignment with social responsibility, commitment to community service, and dedication to holistic education, showcasing its commitment to producing socially responsible healthcare professionals.

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