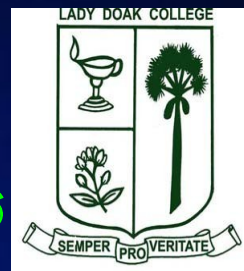


LADY DOAK COLLEGE, MADURAI

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

LIFE FRONTIER ENGAGEMENT 2015 –2016



ARITTAPATTI—BROCHURE

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Lady Doak College, a premier Christian Institution and the first Women's College in Madurai, was the brain-child of Ms. Katie Wilcox, an American Missionary with a vision and fervor for the empowerment of women. The College made its humble genesis in 1948 and within a short span of time, in 1978, it was commissioned to function as an Autonomous College, being affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University.

As an Ecumenical Christian College whose purpose is to impart quality education of Christian character to students of all creeds, this College strives to develop their intellectual powers, locate, identify and cultivate their interests and talents and train them to be responsible and useful citizens.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of History at Lady Doak College was established first as an Under Graduate Department in 1971 and further expanded as a Post Graduate Department in 1987. M.Phil. is offered from the academic year 2009–2010 and the Department plans to become a Research Department in the near future. In the past three decades and more of its existence it has made pioneering efforts in transforming the scope of history. Keeping in view the globalization of higher education, the curriculum is modified and restructured periodically to suit the needs of the students and to enhance their employability.

DHAN FOUNDATION

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation, a professional Development organization, was initiated in 1997. It brings highly motivated, educated young women and men to the development to root out the poverty from the country. The Foundation works to make significant changes in the livelihoods of the poor through innovative themes and institutions.

The Department of History has an MoU with the DHAN Foundation, Madurai and the Foundation helps and guides the students for the Life Frontier Engagement in the village with the collaboration of Village Administration and Self-Help Group.

LIFE FRONTIER ENGAGEMENT - "RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CITIZEN"

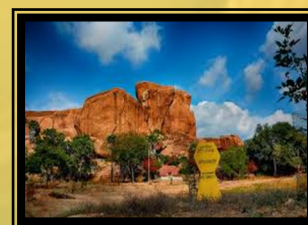
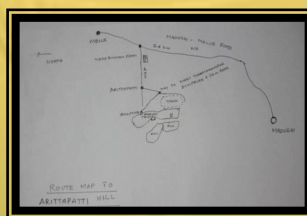
As a new venture in curriculum, the College has introduced a new course 'Life Frontier Engagement' for the final year Under Graduate students to engage them

with the community.

The theme of the Department for LFE is "Responsibilities of a Citizen" and the community site selected for the work is Arittapatti.

Madurai is an important and sacred place. It is the place where many religious and historical monuments are there. Madurai is surrounded by rocky hills which served as the dwelling place of Jains. Jain monks preferred hard rock to carve their abodes. One such historic and religious site is Arittapatti.

Arittapatti is a small village at a distance of 25 kms from Madurai. Arittapatti, the name itself, reveals its historicity. Arittanemi, a Jain monk who lived around Madurai, is mentioned in a record. Neminatha, the Twenty Second Thirtankara also had name 'Arittanemi'. It is revealed that the village might have been named after the Thirtankara. Apart from the Jain cave, the village also has many natural hillocks, water bodies, religious and cultural remains.



This kind of historical place is selected as the perfect place for doing Life Frontier Engagement Activity of the III B.A. History (2013 – 2016 Batch) students of the Department of History, Lady Doak College with the collaboration of DHAN Foundation, Madurai. The students were taken to the village for the first visit on 09.10.2015. Then, they were divided into eight groups and a leader was assigned to each group and then had chosen the following topics for their LFE programme.



- ✎ Responsible Tourism in Arittapatti
- ✎ Water Bodies in Arittapatti
- ✎ Temples and Festivals in Arittapatti
- ✎ Heritage Food and Medicine of Arittapatti
- ✎ Proverbs and Its Historical Implication in Arittapatti
- ✎ Folk Arts in Arittapatti
- ✎ Traditional Objects in Arittapatti
- ✎ Environment Protection in Arittapatti

Responsible Tourism

Responsible Tourism is mainly conceived with three kinds of responsibilities which are termed as the 'triple bottom-line' economic responsibility, social responsibility and environmental responsibility. It encompasses all forms of tourism and seeks to minimize negative economic, environment and social impacts.

It generates greater economic benefits to local people and enhances the wellbeing of local communities. It also makes positive contributions to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage, and maintenance of the world's diversity.

Arittapatti has all potential of a tourist place like natural resources, supportive entrepreneurial community, strong local-self-governments, civil society organizations etc... The availability of these elements is the basis for responsible tourism. It further requires the support of the Government, professionals and academicians, responsible media and responsive tourism industry. If all these requirements are fulfilled, Arittapatti will become a Responsible Tourist Site.



Water Bodies

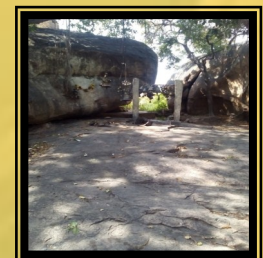
There are 52 water bodies in Arittapatti. Some of them are Periyakulam Kanmai, Anaikondan Kanmai, Vaiyari Kanmai, Mathamadi Kulam, Karikulam Kanmai, Peekangulam Kanmai, Madakulam Kanmai etc... These

water bodies are protected by the people from ancient to the present. All the water bodies have historical connectivity and even now people preserve the heritage of water bodies.



Temples and Festivals

Madurai is known as the 'Temple City'. The temples of Madurai have unique traditions and most hold festivals on specific days of the year. As a traditional and historical village, Arittapatti has many temples such as Cave Siva Temple, Chinnadakki and Periadakki Amman Temple, Ilamanatchi Amman Temple, Kalinjamalai Karuppa Swamy Temple etc... All these temples have unique historicity and characters and the festivals of these temples usually continue for a number of days and has unique features.



Heritage Food and Medicine

Studying of traditional food and diet was very essential in the today's context. We forgot almost all the value of our traditional food and medicine. The place, where the traditional food and medicine is still followed, is the village.

Though modernization has its impact on the lives of the village community, they still follow their traditional means of living particularly in food and medicine. Balanced diet is an important rule for healthy life.

In the traditional life style, great importance was attached to the type and characteristics of foods and medicine, and which of these should be consumed when and how by people of different constitutions. The main reason why food and medicines were of such importance in medicine is that they not only provide nutrition but also preserve health and possess curative properties.

Consequently healthy dietary practice emerged as a distinct field of medical knowledge. The awareness of the importance of good food and a balanced diet for healthy living is emerging in the today's world and it is the right time to focus and to revive the traditional living.

Arittapatti, a hillock region, surrounded by many water bodies, is having many medicinal plants and even today the people are having traditional food in their daily diet.



Proverbs and Its Historical Implication

Tamil Proverbs or Tamil Wisdom Words are the wise words of our ancestors. Though not a written literature of the highly educated, these proverbs very well represent the wisdom of the common people of the Tamil country over the years. They teach wisdom and self-control. They help us to understand wise words. Proverbs are one such of folk arts and it is transferred from one generation to the other. Proverbs are used to say for all occasion of life. Arittapatti village is filled with many proverbs.

அரிட்டாப்பட்டில் பிறந்துட்டு பனிக்கொறைக்கான்
பாறைக்கு பாதை தெரியலன்றாலே



Folk Arts

Folk art encompasses art produced from an indigenous culture or by peasants or by tradespeople. It is characterized by a naïve style. It is used for celebrating all occasion of life. It forms seem to be one of the most influential mediums of communication to reach out to the masses to spread the message on social and health issues.

Traditional art forms such as Oopari, Kummi, Themmanku, Kathal Karagattam, Therukoothu, Villisai,

Puraviattam, Kummiattam, Oyilattam and Bommalattam still find relevance in these fast-paced times. People of Arittapatti continue the heritage.



Traditional Objects

India is rich in heritage. The people used different objects for the daily use. The household items even the construction of house is considered as tradition in India. In this way, Arittapatti is having many traditional objects like ஊத்தா, பனப்பறி, குளுமை, கொட்டுப்பறி, விளக்கு, முளைப்பாரி பூக்கடை, மாடுமணி, வெற்றிலை இடிப்பான், திருக்கை உரல், சாமிப்பெட்டி, தூப களையம், ஐந்து முக கொப்பரை, இரவைப் பெட்டி, பழமையான தூண்டில், துணுத்து களையம், ஏர் கலப்பை, கூந்தாளம், இளவட்டக்கல், காணிக்கை பெட்டி, கொக்கு கூடு, எச்சில் தும்பா, ஓலைச்சுவடி, நெல் அவிட்டான் கருவி, சூரி, வட்டில்



Environment Protection

Arittapatti is surrounded by natural hillocks. It has a threatening of granite quarries and the exploitation of minerals of the area. In the process, the historical, cultural and natural remains of the village are getting disturbed. The people of the village themselves took steps and they are successful in their activities in the preservation of the hillocks which are the means of their livelihood. There are some other threatening to the environment of the village such as using of fertilizers, industries etc...



Benefits to the Community

- Students participated in the Grama Sabha Meeting held on 26th January 2016 and suggested to make Arittapatti as the Responsible Tourist Centre. Though, the people are having fear of the negative impact of tourism, they accepted our suggestion with some restriction like no use of plastic in Arittapatti.
- Following that, "Responsible Tourism Team" was created in Arittapatti. The members of the team are Mrs. Murugeswari, the leader of the Self-Help Group in Arittapatti, Mrs. Alagammal, Mrs. Panchu Packiam, Mrs. Ramu. Mrs. Karthika, Mrs. Baby and Mrs. Bavani.



- On 7th February 2016, a team of Professor from Christ University along with the LiFE team of our College visited Arittapatti, examined the activities of the students and clarified their doubts with the community, NGO, staff and the students. They appreciated the good going of the LiFE project with the support of the village community. It provided more enthusiasm to the community as well as the students to do something valuable for the site.



- On 9th February 2016, 'Traditional Food Festival' was organised by the DHAN Foundation. Under the 'Namaste India', a team of 16 catering students

from Bourges University France visited Arittapatti and they invited in the traditional way by the villagers and by the students. The eight teams took over the charge to train them to prepare traditional food in the selected eight houses in the village. It was a wonderful experience for us and the villagers. They themselves started to analyse the importance of preserving their culture. The students became aware of the method to handle the tourist particularly the foreigners.



- On 17th February, under the 'Cultural Immersion' theme, the Second Year students were taken to Arittapatti. Dr. R. Venkatraman and Epigraphist V.Vedhachalam were invited as special guest by Mr.K.P.Bharathi of DHAN. The students explained about the project in front of II UG students, guests and the village people. The students also clarified their doubts. The whole event of the day was video graphed by the Pothigai Television. Soon, it will be telecast.



Reflection

- The students felt their inner ability.
- They realized the importance of unity from the lives of the people of Arittapatti.

The Life Frontier Engagement programme is a two way process – consumption and contribution.

In this process, the community and the students worked hand in hand in the commendable service for preserving the heritage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks are due to...

- Dr. Mercy Pushpalatha, Principal
- Dr. Lily Jeyaseeli Balasingh, HoD
- Dr. S. Mercy Packiam and Dr. T. Durga Devi, LiFE Facilitator
- Mrs. Hepzibah Joseph, Associate Professor
- Dr. M. Valliammal, Associate Professor
- Mrs. T. Muthulakshmi, Assistant Professor
- Ms. M. Muthulakshmi, Assistant Professor
- Dr. J. Jeyamathi, Assistant Professor
- LiFE Team of the College
- Mr. K.P. Bharathi, Programme Advisor, DHAN Tourism for Development
- Mr. A. Ravichandran, Panchayat Vice President, Arittapatti
- Mr. Lakshmanan, Melur Vattara Kalanchiyam
- Mrs. Murugeswari, the leader of the Self-Help Group in Arittapatti,
- Mrs. Alagammal, Mrs. Panchu Packiam, Mrs. Ramu. Mrs. Karthika, Mrs. Baby, Mrs. Bavani and
- the Village people.



GROUP LIST

Responsible Tourism

Lakshmi Priya B. (13HIS013)
Mahathi K. (13HIS014)
Sindhu U. (13HIS036)
Anitha C. (13HIS002)

Water Bodies

Ramya Bharathi G.(13HIS028)
Rajakumari M. (13HIS025)
Remona Jenifer P. (13HIS029)
Jenisha Mol J.A. (13HIS048)

Temples and Festivals

Annapoorani A.R. (13HIS003)
Geethanjaly (13HIS007)
Rajakumari G. (13HIS024)
Ramzan Begum (13HIS028)

Heritage Food and Medicine

Balashri N. (13HIS042)
Karpagam K. (13HIS010)
Mathana P. (13HIS015)
Priyanka B. (13HIS023)
Samabi J. (13HIS044)

Proverbs and Its Historical Implications

Suriya Gayathiri S. (13HIS038)
Priya P. (13HIS020)
Sugumari K. (13HIS037)
Esther S. (13HIS006)
Sangeetha K. (13HIS032)

Folk Arts

Mohana Priya G. (13HIS017)
Herlin Sarathi I. (13HIS009)
Priyanga R. (13HIS022)
Sathya Priya C. (13HIS035)
Rumana A. (13HIS031)

Traditional Objects

Meenakshi M. (13HIS016)
Kanimozhi S. (13HIS043)
Muthumahalakshmi K.G. (13HIS018)
Guna Devi (13HIS008)

Environmental Protection

Saraswathi K. (13HIS034)
Nasreen Fathima A. (13HIS019)
Devi P. (13HIS005)
Reshma S. (13HIS030)
Santhika S. (13HIS033)

Arittapatti

