



**Lady Doak College, Madurai**

**Life Frontier Engagement**

**(Integrated Service-Learning Course)**

*LiFE Process of the Department of History*

# INTRODUCTION - SERVICE LEARNING



- Service-learning is a universally accepted **student-centric pedagogy** that provides **experiential learning** by **integrating academic study** with **community engagement activities**.
- Reports indicate that service-learning has played a pivotal role in enhancing personal, academic, civic consciousness among students & strengthening community partnership.



# LIFE FRONTIER ENGAGEMENT @ LDC



- Lady Doak College, a premier Christian institution & the first Women's College (1948) in Madurai, was the brainchild of Ms. Katie Wilcox, an American missionary with a vision & fervor to empower women.
- Lady Doak College is the pioneer institution in Tamil Nadu to introduce **integrated service-learning course** entitled Life Frontier Engagement (LiFE).
- Life Frontier Engagement (LiFE) is the significant initiative of the college to impart moral & spiritual values by engaging the students in experiential learning.
- It is the capstone of the **Integrated Curricular Model**, introduced in the undergraduate level.
- It is offered as a core major course for all final year undergraduate students in semesters V & VI from the academic year 2015 - 2016.
- Courses have been framed by each department based on their core major papers & their experiences with service-learning programme in consultation with subject experts.

- The very nature of history involves experiential learning to understand the past.
- Historical research focusing on grassroots approach requires community-based research or service-learning to identify multiple perspectives of historical evidence.
- Hence, the Department of History, Lady Doak College, has designed LiFE course on the theme **“Responsibilities of a Citizen”**.
- Through which, it strives to create opportunities for students of history to learn in partnership with the community & to develop competencies that promote the advancement of a socially responsible citizenry.

# LIFE PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT



*LiFE Process of the  
Department*

*Conceptual  
Clarification*

*Community  
Engagement*

# LIFE PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT



*Conceptual Clarification by Faculty Facilitators (Semester V - Odd)  
(Activity Based Learning)*

*Service-Learning  
Concepts*

*Subject based  
thematic concepts*

# LIFE PROCESS OF THE DEPARTMENT



- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SEMESTER VI - EVEN) (PARTICIPATORY LEARNING & RESEARCH)**
  - Identification of Community Site with the consultation of stakeholders (students, faculty, community partners and representatives from the community site)
  - Pilot Study to identify the Research Problem (needs of the community)
  - Grouping the students under a faculty guide based on their interest
  - Preparation of Research Proposal
  - Proposal Presentation before the stakeholders & getting their consent & approval
  - Community visit & Data Collection (Focused Group Discussion, Questionnaire, Field Observation, Case Study, Interview) – Journal Maintenance & Community sharing
  - Analysis of the data with the support of stakeholders
  - Reflections & Recommendations - documentation
  - Return to the community – building Community Ownership by establishing community groups, documentary films, magazine, brochure etc.

LiFE requires active participation of

Students

Faculty  
facilitators &  
guide

Community  
partners

Subject experts

Governmental  
& Non-  
Governmental  
Organisations

# NGO COLLABORATION AND LIFE PROJECTS



| Academic Year | Governmental / NGO Collaboration and Subject Experts   | Community Partners   | Community Site | Focused Themes of LiFE Projects  |
|---------------|--|--|----------------|--|
| 2015 – 2016   | DHAN Foundation,<br>Madurai<br>Dr. R. Venkatraman,<br>Historian and Dr. V. Vedachalam, Archaeologist | Melur Vattara<br>Kalanjiyam (Women self-help group), Arittapatti<br>Seven Hillocks Protection Society, Arittapatti Birds and Biodiversity Preservation Society | Arittapatti    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Responsible Tourism</li> <li>ii. Water bodies</li> <li>iii. Temples and Festivals</li> <li>iv. Traditional Foods and Medicine</li> <li>v. Proverbs and its Historical Background</li> <li>vi. Traditional Arts</li> <li>vii. Artefacts and its Usage</li> <li>viii. Environmental Protection</li> </ul>                                      |
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| 2018 – 2019   | DHAN Foundation, Madurai<br>Dr. V. Vedachalam,<br>Archaeologist and Dr. Sethuraman, Historian  | Avvai Pengal Vattara<br>Kalanjiyam (women self-help<br>group)   | Thiruparankundram                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Monuments</li> <li>ii. Festivals</li> <li>iii. Waterbodies</li> <li>iv. Environmental Challenges</li> <li>v. Women – Heritage based livelihood</li> <li>vi. Traditional games</li> </ul>  |
| 2019 – 2020   | Tamil Nadu Department of<br>Archaeology, Madurai and<br>Curator, Gandhi Museum,<br>Madurai<br>Mr. Asaithampi, Curator, Mr.<br>Maruthu Pandi, Museum<br>Curator | Local residents and tourists  | Thirumalai Nayak Mahal and<br>Gandhi Museum | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Gandhi Museum and Freedom Struggle</li> <li>ii. Heritage tourism in Madurai with special reference to Thirumalai Nayak Mahal</li> <li>iii. Impact of Urbanisation on living historical monuments in Madurai with special reference to Thirumalai Nayak Mahal</li> <li>iv. Programmes of Gandhi Memorial Museum</li> <li>v. Preservation and Conservation of Gandhi Memorial Museum</li> </ul> |

# NGO COLLABORATION AND LIFE PROJECTS



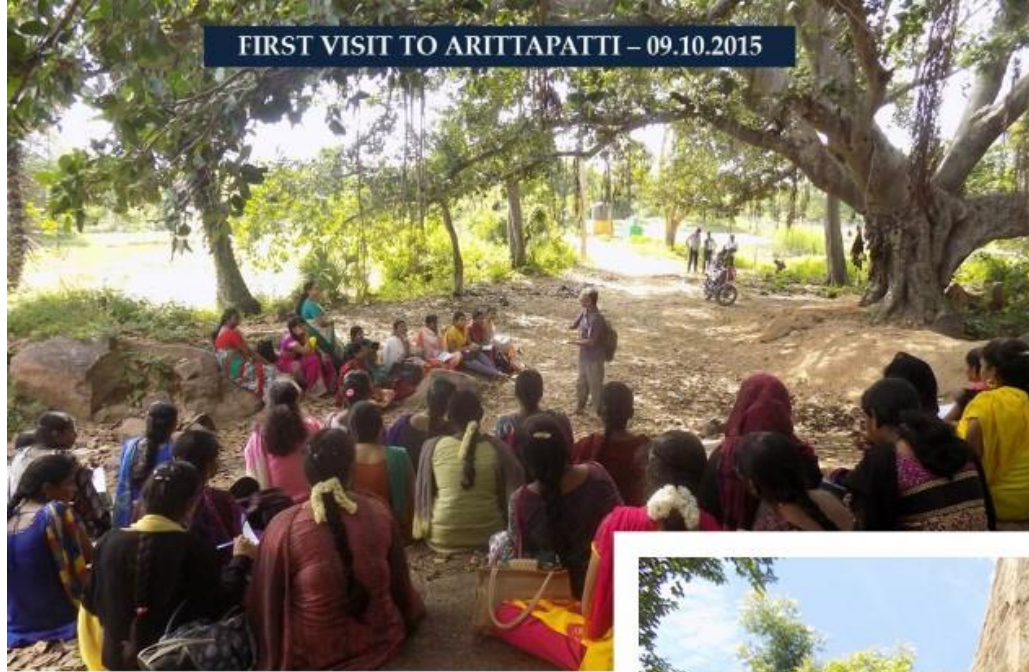
| Academic Year                                      | Governmental /<br>NGO Collaboration and<br>Subject Experts | Community Partners  | Community Site              | Focused Themes of LiFE Projects   |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 2020 – 2021<br>(Pandemic – e-<br>service learning) |  | Lady Doak College<br>Community & Localities<br>of Madurai | Lady Doak College & Madurai | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Changes in Food and Life-style</li> <li>ii. A study on the impact of LiFE course of the Department of History, Lady Doak College on its students (2013 batch - 2017 batch)</li> <li>iii. Eco friendly measures in Lady Doak College-A study (2014-2019)</li> <li>iv. Educational Challenges during the Pandemic for the school going siblings of LDC (History students)</li> <li>v. Socio-Economic Condition of Women Workers in unorganized sectors (Madurai) during COVID-19</li> <li>vi. A study on the importance of Traditional Medicines during the spread of contagious diseases.</li> <li>vii. A study on the effect of COVID 19 lockdown on the revival of Traditional Games.</li> </ul> |

# NGO COLLABORATION AND LIFE PROJECTS



| Academic Year | Governmental /<br>NGO Collaboration and<br>Subject Experts | Community Partners  | Community Site    | Focused Themes of LiFE Projects   |
|---------------|--|---|-------------------|---|
| 2021 – 2022   |  | Lady Doak College<br>Community & Alumnae<br>of the Department of<br>History | Lady Doak College | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Food as Medicine – A Historical Analysis of the Health and Wellness of the Folks of Lady Doak College</li> <li>ii. Conservation of Trees at Lady Doak College in Historical Retrospection</li> <li>iii. Moving Towards Plastic Free Campus – A Historical Approach</li> <li>iv. Historical Movies and its impact on students</li> <li>v. Historical significance of marital arts and its relevance to physical fitness in the present day</li> <li>vi. Student Empowerment through learning History at Lady Doak College – A Quality Analysis</li> <li>vii. Reviving the usage of traditional household objects for healthy living</li> </ul> |

# PILOT STUDY



# PROPOSAL PRESENTATION



# COMMUNITY VISIT – DATA COLLECTION



# COMMUNITY VISIT - ACTIVITY BASED LEARNING



# COMMUNITY VISIT – PARTICIPATORY LEARNING



Students' participation in farming at Arittapatti



Students' participation in traditional way of harvesting at Arittapatti



Competition conducted for school students



Participation of students and community - Traditional games

# SPECIAL COMMUNITY VISIT WITH NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL GUESTS



# COMMUNITY VISIT – REFLECTION SESSION WITH THE COMMUNITY PARTNERS



# VIVA PRESENTATION



# OUTCOMES (SAMPLE)- LOGO CREATION

Responsible Tourism Development Group  
(2015 – 2016)

**'Preserve the Heritage through Innovation'**



# OUTCOMES



- Brochure – Arittapatti (English) - <https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b2-%20Arittapatti%20Brochure%202015-16-%20English.pdf>
- Brochure – Arittapatti (Tamil) - <https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b3%20-%20Arittapatti%20Brochure%202015-16-%20Tamil.pdf>
- Pamphlet – Monuments of Thiruparankundram - <https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b5-%20LiFE%20-%20Monuments%20of%20Thiruparankundram%20-%20Pamphlet.pdf>
- Post Card – Thiruparankundram - <https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b6-%20LiFE%20-%20Post%20Card.pdf>
- Calendar – Waterbodies of Thiruparankundram - <https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b7-%20LiFE%20-%20Calendar%20-%20Waterbodies%20of%20Thiruparankundram.pdf>
- Magazine – (Life Experience through LiFE) - [https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b11%20-%20LiFE%20Magazine%20\(2020-21\) Dept.%20of%20History.pdf](https://www.ladydoakcollege.edu.in/website/history/7b11%20-%20LiFE%20Magazine%20(2020-21) Dept.%20of%20History.pdf)
- LiFE Report 2015 – 2016 (Video) - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yfom6qkOm0bi5kkjL4jG4iEAMqTL72UJ/view>
- LiFE Report 2016 – 2017 (Video) - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jpTsoxUP\\_Vlxzub\\_oUjZlOzHGrov3JLG/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jpTsoxUP_Vlxzub_oUjZlOzHGrov3JLG/view)
- LiFE Report 2018 – 2019 (Video) - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-D5Tzwel2qhek\\_jTco\\_6X1q7QcQ5psOC/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-D5Tzwel2qhek_jTco_6X1q7QcQ5psOC/view)
- Documentary Film (2018 – 2019) - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dTu6Rih39cF3P5Dsd1xJ4t-n-vXyTLdm/view>

# OUTCOMES – PAPER PRESENTATION



DR. T. DURGA DEVI

| S. No. | Date                       | Seminar Attended   | Paper Presented  | Level         | Sponsor                                   | Organiser   |
|--------|----------------------------|--|--|---------------|---|---|
| 1.     | 14.03.2019 &<br>15.03.2019 | Service-Learning: An emerging experiential learning process in India   | Student Empowerment through Experiential Learning  | National      | –   | School of Business Studies and Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore |
| 2.     | 30.11.2021 &<br>01.12.2021 | Augmenting the Virtual Environment: Technology / Innovation / Humanity | Projecting the Impact of Integrated Service-Learning Projects on History Graduates of Lady Doak College through Online Learning Approach | International | PELS,<br>UBCHEA,<br>SYMPPLICITY,<br>UNIKA | 16 <sup>th</sup> eLearning Forum Asia 2021, Soegijapranata Catholic University, Indonesia   |

*Heritage of Arittapatti, LiFE Community Site,  
Department of History, LDC (2015 – 2018)*



*LiFE Process of Department of History, LDC at Arittapatti  
(2015 – 2018)*



## LiFE Process of Department of History, LDC at Arittapatti (2015 – 2018) - Reflection



## LiFE Process of Department of History, LDC at Arittapatti (2015 – 2018) – Newspaper Articles



*LiFE Process of Department of History, LDC at  
Thiruparankundram (2018 – 2019)*



*LiFE Process of Department of History, LDC at Thirumalai  
Nayak Mahal and Gandhi Museum (2019 – 2020)*



*LiFE Activities at Thiruparankundram (2018 – 2019)*



*LiFE Activities at Thirumalai Nayak Mahal and Gandhi Museum (2019 – 2020)*



# CONCLUSION



**Life Frontier Engagement of the Department of History, Lady Doak College creates opportunity to the learners of history to**

**learn in partnership with the community**

**develop competencies to become a transformative leader**

**address real time community issues and make them socially responsible**