

RESCAPES

One of the major goals of our college is to awaken Social Consciousness and prepare our students socially responsible young Women leaders who would respond to the need of the society. Having these objectives in mind Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Trichy has undertaken two innovative and useful ongoing extension programmes such as RESCAPES and Holy Cross Community Radio.

RESCAPES:

Rural Enrichment through Students Community Action & Participation for Environmental Sustainability (RESCAPES). RESCAPES is a well structured program, integrated into the curriculum, running for 3 academic years with specific evaluation system carrying credits

ORIGIN:

The Community Extension Programme RESCAPES emerged out of an interaction with experts in the International Conference on Sustainable Development and Management of Natural Resources held from 15th -17th March 2003 at Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Trichy Experts' recommendations were on the conservation of ecosystem and their sustainability in India. This spark ignited the launching of the program in 2004 (06.07.2004) with the following objectives.

Objectives:

- 👉 To develop soft skills
- 👉 Social consciousness
- 👉 Rural community building towards sustainability
- 👉 Building genuine human relationship, inculcating concern and respect for persons
- 👉 Linking Government Authorities & Village Community
- 👉 Encouraging creativity, bringing out their latent talents
- 👉 Making them effective leaders

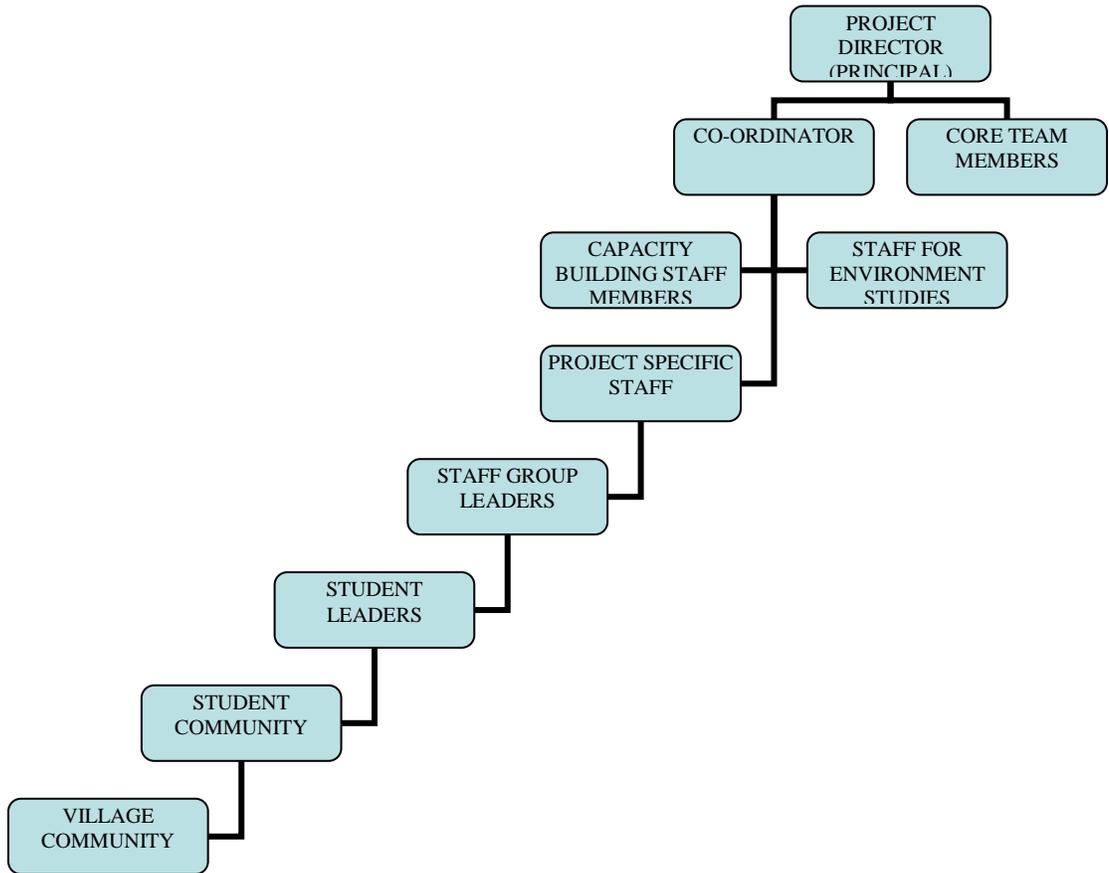
The primary stakeholders of this extension activity are the entire U.G. student community. The secondary stakeholders are the 22 selected village communities. To assist students, teaching faculty were provided with input on how to make benchmark survey, problem identification, and micro level planning by experts from different NGO's. Identifying 22 villages belonging to Mannachanallur Panchayath, each department was allotted one village and action plan for the respective villages are carried out and recorded. Having environmental sustainability in mind and the bench mark survey and need analysis, a set of projects are identified and categorized to core projects, non-core projects and discipline oriented specific projects which are carried out. Since 2004, various kinds of activities are carried out in all the adopted villages.

Through RESCAPES Training Programs for SHG members in vermi-compost, Panchakaviya and mushroom cultivation were arranged in selected villages. Awareness cum skill training programs for students and teaching faculty on the above mentioned projects for the effective implementation of the projects were also arrange. Incorporation of Research into RESCAPES program resulted in the Department of Science & Technology funded one major Research project for Rs.5,25,000/- and three UGC funded Minor Research Projects for Rs 1,00,000/- , Rs.90,000/- & Rs.60,000/-

The RESCAPES program is co-ordinated by a full time co-ordinator who bridges among the villagers, authorities and the college. A core committee constituted by selected faculty members with external expert co-ordinates the whole process.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

FLOW CHART



RESCAPES converge with NGO's and Government Organisations, that play a complementary role for the effective implementation of the projects and the benefit of the village community.

SPECIFIC OUTCOME OF RESCAPES PROGRAM

Through RESCAPES students

- 👉 Made aware of Self, improved Self esteem and Emotional Intelligence
- 👉 Developed project specific knowledge and skills.
- 👉 Sensitized about sustainable development
- 👉 Exposed to rural community and the problem faced by them
- 👉 Enriched with creativity in planning execution and documentation.
- 👉 Developed the leadership ability and team spirit

Village community becomes

- 👉 Self –reliant
- 👉 Economically developed
- 👉 Environmentally & Socially improved

UNIQUENESS OF RESCAPES

The RESCAPES program is

- 👉 Institutionalized and inbuilt in the academic curriculum.
- 👉 Involves of the entire U.G. student community and teaching faculty.
- 👉 Has periodical reviewing & updating of the entire programme
- 👉 Integrates the NSS, EXNORA, ROTARACT and RED CROSS activities to UGC funded major and minor Research Project.
- 👉 Links RESCAPES programmes villages.
- 👉 Exhibites improved self awareness, self esteem and Emotional Intelligence.

FUTURE PLAN FOR THE PERIOD of 2009-10 to 2014-2015

I. Soft skills: Personality Development

Target Group: Rural school students and educated Youth through

- 👉 Improving communication skill using college language lab
- 👉 Facilitating public speaking skills
- 👉 Team work through Group Discussion exercises
- 👉 Improving creativity through competitions

II. Knowledge empowerment

- 👉 Providing hands-on training for simple concepts in basic science – Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology
- 👉 Setting up of libraries in the selected villages
- 👉 Training in computer operations
- 👉 Training on Food safety & security

III. Networking on sharing of knowledge through Holy Cross Community Radio.

IV. Establishment of Nature club in all the adopted villages.

V. Establishment of Non-conventional Energy resources units.

RESCAPES

Rural Enrichment through Students and Community Action and Participation for Environmental Sustainability.

Holy cross College, Tiruchirappalli is an autonomous college established in 1923 and affiliated to Bharathidasan University. It attained the autonomous status during 1987 and was accredited with 5 star status by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council in 1999 AND Re-accredited with 'A' grade in the year 2005. During the year 2000 this college moved on to the dynamic concept of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS).

NEED and SCOPE for RESCAPES

- One of the major goals of our college is "To awaken social consciousness and prepare socially responsible citizens".
- The College is continuously undertaking innovative and sustained activities to achieve this goal.
- The college has several service wings which provide the students hands on information which has highlighted the fact that there has been an overall decline in the quality of the environment in the villages, making them unsustainable for the livelihood of the common rural mass.
- To remedy this situation, the College has planned the RESCAPES project to rejuvenate the rural environment and create sustainable livelihood for the people residing in the villages. Several recommendations were made for the conservation of the ecosystem particularly in India.
- In order to equip the students to achieve this goal, the College had invited experts to conduct field visits, workshops and seminars to develop a comprehensive and sustained Action Plan to address a variety of issues relating to Students, Civil society and Community Service.
- Following this effort, a comprehensive package for Capacity Building and Community Development of the Students in their 3 year under Graduate Program was developed. It was titled RESCAPES.

PURPOSE OF RESCAPES

Rural Enrichment through Students and Community Action and Participation for Environment Sustainability (RESCAPES) is an Extension Project of Holy Cross College, launched in the year 2004 (6.07.04). It is a Structured Programme, built in to provide skills and opportunities for students to do things differently and achieve optimum benefits for their own development and for the welfare of the rural community.

This Community Development based course is designed not to be a stand alone programme but for integrated academic and personal development of the students.

OBJECTIVES OF RESCAPES

- ❖ To awaken Social Consciousness and prepare socially responsible citizens.
- ❖ To impart skills and knowledge
- ❖ To encourage creativity in students bringing out their latent talents
- ❖ To build genuine human relationships
- ❖ To inculcate concern and respect for persons and nature
- ❖ To enable the students to get exposed to rural community.
- ❖ To be a link between the Government authority and village community.
- ❖ To enable the village community to become self reliant.
- ❖ To enable the village community to sustain their eco system.

TARGET AREA

For the RESCAPES program the college has adopted 22 villages in Manachanallur Block, which are listed below:

1. Samayapurampudur
2. Akkaraipatty
3. Devimangalam
4. Ayyikudi
5. Melavangaram
6. Keelavangaram
7. Thaluthalapatti
8. Salakadu (south)
9. Azhagiyamanavalam
10. Azhinjikai
11. Gopurapatty
12. Thiruvarangapatty

13. Palaiyur
14. Sengudi
15. Ramagiripatty
16. Chennakarai
17. Cholanganallur
18. Arikarai
19. Malur(Valmanapalayam)
20. Keelur(Valmanapalayam)
21. Theyirkiyur(Valmanapalayam)
22. Salakadu(North)

Target Group

The target group for the project covers rural communities in general but will focus more on vulnerable marginalized groups like literate youth and children, women, subsistence farmers, unorganized laborers and dalits.

PROJECT

Keeping in view the need for sustained efforts to enhance the quality of life of the people in the target villages, the College proposed to undertake the following projects which are categorized as Core and Optional Projects.

1. Core Projects

1. Water and soil Conservation
 - a. Water Harvesting
 - b. Bund formation
 - c. Percolation pond construction
 - d. Desilting
2. Tree plantation
3. Kitchen gardening
4. Sustainable agricultural practices
 - a. Vermi- compost
 - b. Panchagavya
 - c. Azolla cultivation
5. Health, hygiene and Sanitation.

1. Optional Projects(Based on the need of the village community)

- a. Herbal Plants cultivation
- b. Strengthening of SHG's
- c. Mushroom cultivation

3. Department Specific Projects

STRATEGY:

The strategy for village rejuvenation will involve and mainly address issues relating to soil, water and energy and thus rejuvenation of green village is attained by

- ❖ Adoption of strategies for watershed and soil management.
- ❖ Promotion of sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural practices like organic farming and tree plantation
- ❖ Use of non conventional energy,
- ❖ Promotion of food security and
- ❖ Development of infrastructure and facile access to markets, through Information Technology enabled service.

The package involves 3 stages

- ✓ Orientation, learning and training
- ✓ Field application and reaching out to the communities
- ✓ Impact study, documentation, research and publication.

METHODOLOGY

Stage I: First Year

During the year, the students acquire skills for personal, interpersonal and group effectiveness through SBE-paper I Capacity Building Course. There will be specific Training programs to acquire skills on Environmental sustainability projects through SBE-paper II.

Stage II: Second Year:

Every student will spend a specified number of hours in fixed work in the adopted villages. The activities will include exposure to the realities of rural environment, sensitization to special needs of the local communities, problem identification through survey and resource mapping, designing and executing appropriate project through interaction and participation of the communities, local government officers, elected leaders of Panchayat and other bodies.

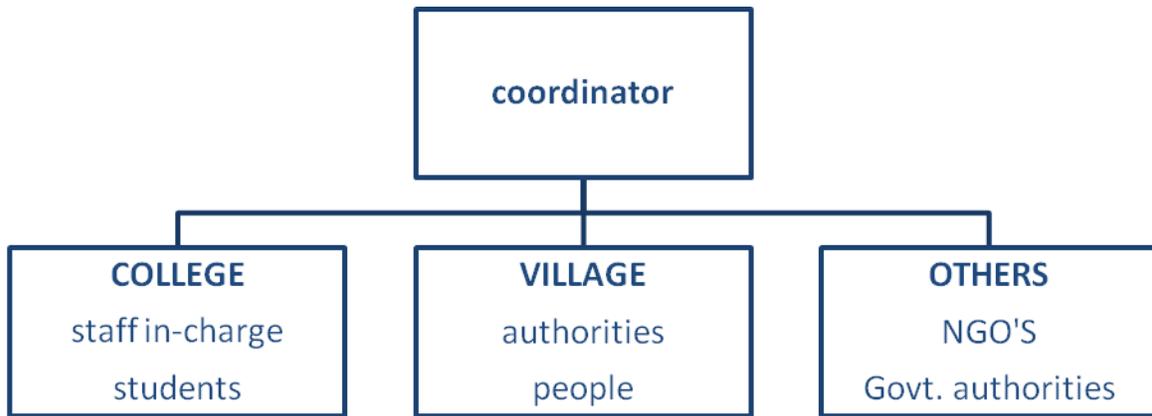
Stage III: Third Year:

Every student will undertake an impact study and prepare a report on the outcomes of the projects implemented in the village.

CONCLUSION

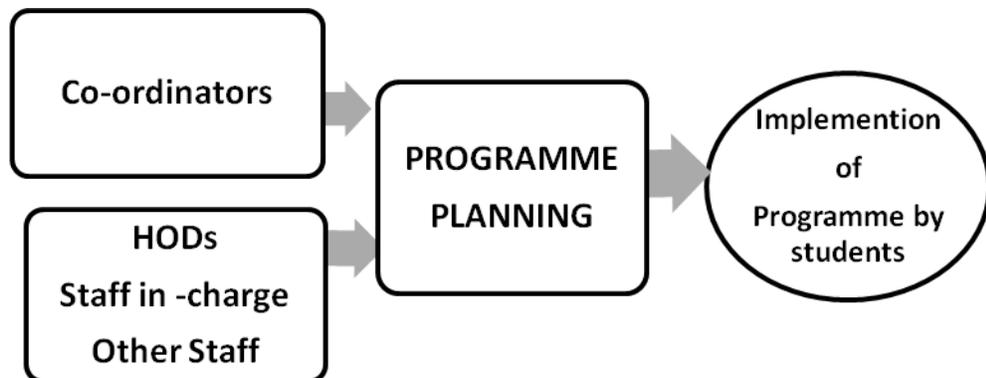
RESCAPES programme develops ecologically sustainable model village and develops rural community which realizes the importance of sustainable development. Above all, the programme facilitates the students to become potential leaders who can build the nation and the society at large.

Link between group of community and co-ordinators

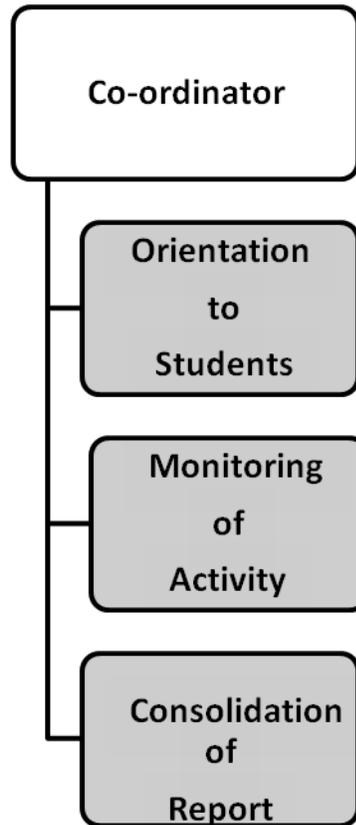


- We will be a bridge between students and village for the RESCAPES programme.
- We co-ordinate the programme of all department in an effective manner.
- We plan and co-ordinate the village visits.
- We would like to collaborate with other extension department for Rescapes programme.

Programme Planning



Administration



FIELDWORK

