

For A Cause (FAC), An NGO Contributing to the Society-A Case Study on Transformation of Undergraduate Students Through Community Engagement

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Abstract— A Case study on Societal contribution done in Hyderabad Institute of Technology and Management (HITAM), Hyderabad is presented in the paper. As the vision of the Institute clearly emphasizes on contribution to the society, HITAM students initiated an NGO “FOR A CAUSE (FAC)”, A Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in the year 2017. The objective of this NGO is to feed and help needy by providing technical solutions to their problems and extend their support to the poor. Initially it was started as a club then it got recognised by the Government as an NGO. The curriculum of the Institution is designed in such a way that there are few courses where students would get motivated and encouraged to work and contribute to society in various ways. A team of students from multiple disciplines join their hands and identify societal needs. The team provides the technical solutions through their Engineering knowledge. This community engagement activities created an impact on undergraduate students' thinking towards society. Students learnt project management and critical analysis through these activities. This also helps in the holistic development of the students.

Keywords— NGO; Curriculum; Society; Engineering.

I. INTRODUCTION

Students pursuing their graduation or going to be called engineers will always be one step above the others in many aspects. Engineers will have a broad range of thinking, creative ways for solving a problem, and also providing multidimensional solutions for a single problem. If the Engineers use the same knowledge and skills in community service then the people who are seeking the service will get maximum benefit. FOR A CAUSE Social Welfare Organization which was set up by the students of Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management is a Non-Governmental and Non-profit Organization. The main motto of For A Cause is “Passion To Help”. The Zeal of the students to help the people who are in need has given birth to the For A Cause. Initially For A Cause was a part of Street Cause Hyderabad but later due to arising of some issues the students of Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management formed For A Cause. For A Cause started in the year 2017 and

later in 2018 got itself recognized as the Non-Governmental Organization by the state government of Telangana.

In the past five years For A Cause has provided financial aid, Domestic supplies, and educational resources to many people who are in need. The main focus areas of For A Cause are helping out women, educating the kids in rural areas, and providing emergency medical requirements for those who are in need [Benitz, M. A et.al 2021].

History of FAC:

For A Cause (FAC) was formed in 2017 by the students of the Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management. But before the formation of For A Cause, the students were part of Street Cause Hyderabad. Street Cause is also a recognized Non-Governmental Organization formed in 2009. All the colleges of Hyderabad city are part of Street Cause which makes it the biggest student Non-Governmental organization, till 2016. Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management students were part of Street Cause but later transformed into an NGO of their own which was named as For A Cause (FAC). There is also a mentorship program in For A Cause where the past team lead will be acting as a mentor for the present leads. The team in the early days of 2018 started with 8 members. The current team size is 51 including all the committee heads.

II. CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IN RURAL AREAS

The transformation in a country occurs when the future of India is educated, keeping this in view For A Cause has strived for developing the education scope in rural areas [Harsh et.al 2017]. The children in rural areas only lack requirements and infrastructure facilities. 5 Government schools were identified and remodelled 5 by providing necessary water, electricity, furniture, etc. In addition to this, For A Cause also donated stationery requirements like notebooks, textbooks, etc to all the schools which are in need. The team also taught a few life skills to the children.



Fig.1 Remodelling the Sarvasiksha kendram in Kesavaram village.

For A Cause believes juvenile children also have the right to learn and empower themselves. So, the For A Cause team once every two months visits juvenile homes and interacts with them. For A Cause has also donated computers to the juvenile home which can be used for the education of the children.



Fig. 2 For A Cause provides lunch to Juvenile students.



Fig.3 For A Cause team interacting with Juvenile students.

III. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The other main focus area of For A Cause is to Empower women. This includes creating awareness and educating a girl child. There are orphanage homes where FAC provides quality food and engages them with many activities. For A Cause also supports women doing small businesses like promoting their goods or selling them on their behalf.



Fig.3 For A Cause donating required groceries to a girl's orphanage.

IV. EMERGENCY MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Medical emergencies are very uncertain and blood is the major requirement for anyone undergoing surgery or met with an accident etc. so to find a solution to this there is a blood bank is initiated by For A Cause. This is a cloud bank where the blood is not physically stored, the list of all the capable donors of all the blood groups will be available. Whenever there is a requirement for blood, the donor can directly go to the hospital and donate. Every year For A Cause organizes blood donation camps at Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management on "world blood donor day" where a maximum number of students and faculty participate in this and make it successful.



Fig.4 Students and management taking part in the blood donation drive.

V. FOR A CAUSE TEAM AS COVID WARRIORS

Covid-19 pandemic which started in 2019 not only affected the health of many people but also disturbed many people's livelihoods in all aspects. The major effect was on the daily wage workers and no-pay people of the society. So, to help them, For A Cause has also worked in the peak time of the pandemic by following all the safety norms.

Team For A Cause has divided into different groups, identified the people who needed help and gave them the groceries and other requirements for their daily needs.

For A Cause also donated sanitation and medical dispensary kits to various offices which were working during the pandemic time.



Fig.4 Team For A Cause donated medical dispensary kits to a government school.

VI. OTHER ACTIVITIES OF FAC



Fig. 5: Team For A Cause at the blanket drive 2021.



Fig. 6 Gala Night 2021- A fundraising event organized at the Hyderabad Institute of Technology And Management



Fig. 7: HITAM Students on behalf of STREET CAUSE donate electric appliances.

VII. IMPACT OF ENGINEERING EDUCATION ON SOCIAL CAUSE

The problems of society will be taken up as a projects by For A Cause not only solve the problems in society but also help the students in learning new trends and developing their skills. Members of For A Cause can also develop multiple skills like leadership, communication, speaking, teamwork, and networking. For A Causes have become a platform for its members and stakeholders in the involvement of social problems for community development [Natarajarithinam et.al 2021]. The activities conducted in the juvenile schools helped HITAM students to become sensitized to the society. The products developed by the Juvenile kids were marketed in the HITAM campus to generate revenue in order to motivate them. The inter personal skills developed in the students helped them to take up many activities for the society fulfilling the vision of the Institution.

CONCLUSION

Engineering students engaging themselves in community service will not only help them develop their skills but also sensitize them toward public problems. For A Cause is set up by engineers functioned by engineers and developed by engineers. By being a part of For A Cause the engineers learn

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