

PAVANATMA COLLEGE MURICKASSERY



**Best Institutional Practices
Extending Palliative Home Care**

Objectives:

1. Provide awareness to stakeholders on the crucial need of extending support to the needy and bed-ridden people
2. Give opportunity to youth for palliative home care services
3. To inculcate values such as human dignity, empathy, and concern for the less privileged with the curriculum
4. To promote a culture of social life acknowledging the praiseworthy services of the elder generation
5. To facilitate holistic education, being responsive to the needs of the economically backward society
6. To help students become socially responsible and emotionally mature

The context

- Human society is in its pursuit of accomplishing material goals and achievements. Unfortunately, we are not much concerned about the needs of the others, especially the less privileged. There is a major category of people in every society which include the aged, bed-ridden, paralysed, economically backward, and seriously disease-affected. Though they had contributed much to social development, now they are neglected and the younger generation doesn't know much about their role and services. Moreover, a consumerist culture of 'Use and Throw' has influenced the social life which indirectly causes pain and sorrow to many people.
- Palliative Home Care is one of the courageous steps taken by the Civic bodies in Kerala which extends medical, paramedical, economic, and palliative care support to the bed ridden patients. With the collaboration of various departments such as Panchayats, Medical practitioners, and a group of dedicated volunteers, the programme flourishes quite successfully in the state.
- There are above 250 patients in the Vathikudy Grama Panchayath (where the college is situated) who receive palliative care regularly. The Panchayath Team has set apart 16 days per month for home care and the college team joins them once or twice a month. Medicare, food support, equipment, etc. are provided as per the requirement.
- The youth volunteers spend time with the patients- listening and sharing experiences, singing and dancing, and entertaining them with variety cultural programmes.

Evidence of success

The following facts stand as testimony of the achievement of the objectives of the practice:

- Students return from the homes with a feeling of fulfilment and they determine to extend such support to the society in their future.
- Without any external influence or force, they volunteer financial assistance to the needy families and hence the college keeps such a 'Voluntary Fund Rising' for the Palliative Home Care Unit.
- The Panchayath authorities and the Medical Department express their appreciation for the special care and concern of the youth in this venture, without any inhibitions. It's quite evident that the Home Care team arranges food and travelling facilities for the volunteers and ensures their participation.
- Besides regular home care visits, the unit supports Palliative care activities of the Panchayath through cultural events, kit distributions, finance collection, etc.
- Report of home care is maintained in the college which is an indicator of the students' enthusiasm. Voluntary membership in the unit and earnest participation in the home care stand as an indicator of the youth's social responsibility.

Problems encountered

- The major difficulty that we face is to coordinate the programme with the syllabus and curriculum. Since we run short of time to complete the syllabus, most of the Saturdays are working days either with regular or special classes. This leads to a practical difficulty in arranging the programme.

Resources required

- Most of the families require financial assistance and we cannot ignore their need
- The most precious resource is of course, our time.
- Availability of faculty is another requirement.

Contact details

Name of the Principal	:	Dr. Johnson V
Name of the Institution	:	Pavanatma College, Murickassery.
City	:	Idukki (District)
Pin Code	:	685604
Accredited Status	:	A
Work Phone	:	04868 263235
Fax	:	04868 263235
Website	:	www.pavanatmacollege.org
E-mail	:	mail@pavanatmacollege.org

















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