

#

**Govt College of Teacher Education
Kozhikode**

Community Living Camp 2005-06
Tunchanparamba , Tirur

#39#V # #3;#V #5338#
#

D#U # #

by

#

#####F1#S d
#

#

#

#

Abstract

The old Citizenship Training has reappeared as Community Living Camp and has found a place in the curriculum of the University of Calicut. Among the affiliated colleges of the University of Calicut, the Govt. College of Teacher Education , Kozhikode was the first to conduct the camp.

This report of the camp throws light on the conditions that affect the conduct of a camp. You will see how Nature and circumstances can upset even the most meticulously planned programmes. It goes on to illustrate how, through the sheer urge to participate in community life, it is possible to transform apparently dismal extraneous conditions into a memorable learning experience .

Community Living Camp

The University of Calicut revised its curriculum in 2005. A three-day Community Living Camp with an allotment of ten marks was included as part of the Practical Work of the BEd. Course. Immediately after the commencement of the course a meeting of the teaching staff of the college was held in the Principal's Chamber to discuss the curricular programme including the Community Living Camp.

According to the Press and Electronic Media reports, the Community Living Camp held at Thunchanparamba, Tirur was unique in every respect. In fact, it was the first of its kind to be held as part of training programmes for BEd. trainees in Kerala.

Aim and Significance of the Camp

Camps help to create a free and friendly atmosphere. The camp members get an opportunity to interact freely with others which helps them to shed inhibitions and shyness if any. The homely atmosphere in the camp helps one learn from others and the new surrounding. As the member of a new family they learn to share happiness and sorrow and participate in daily living chores like cooking, cleaning etc. The camp activities provides scope for developing both social and communication skills.

Planning : Students

A core committee of the trainees was selected well in advance with a representative from each optional classes to discuss, plan and decide the venue, dates etc. Mr. Narayanan was selected as the convener and Mr. Unnikrishnan, the treasurer. After enquiries and help of local social workers, Tunchanparamba, Tirur was selected as the venue.

Planning : Staff

The planning and designing of the camp was a collaborative endeavour of the teaching staff of the college under the supervision of the Principal of the college. Several sittings by teachers in charge of different activities helped in drafting an activity oriented programme schedule which helped achieve the following objectives:

1. Familiarize trainees with community living
2. Familiarize trainees with the organization of co-curricular activities.
3. Develop an eco-friendly attitude
4. Introduce trainees to the problems and needs of a proper teacher – community relationship.
5. Acquire skills in discharging the duties of a competent teacher in the prevailing socio-cultural system.
6. Acquire democratic and social values essential for an ideal teacher.

Committees : Staff

For the smooth conduct of the camp several committees were formed. Dr. Krishnakumari and Mr. Ramakrishnan, being residents of Tirur, were given overall supervisory roles. The latter and Mr. K. P Hussain were appointed the Camp Director and Camp Co-ordinator respectively.

Dr. Indira and Mrs M.B. Syamaladevi two lady teachers, members of the programme committee, were in additional charge of directing and assisting the women participants.

The entire activities of the Camp was supervised by a Steering Committee comprising the Principal Dr. Ida Nancy, Prof. C. Abdurahiman and Dr. A. K Raveendranath.

Mr. C. Praveen, also a member of the Programme Committee, was given the additional charge of documenting the entire camp activities in print and video form.

*Programme Schedule: Community Living Camp
2005-06
06 to 08 September 2005*

6.9.2005

Morning Session

Session	Time	Activity
	9.30	Arrival at Tunchanparamba
1	10.00 -11.00	Familiarizing location
2	11.00-11.30	Assembly : Discussion
3	11.30 -12.00	Basic group formation

Afternoon Session

4	12.00-1.00	Task presentation: Group discussion
	1.00 to 2.00	Lunch
5	2.00-3.00	Group discussion: Planning
6	3.00-6.00	Educational Theatre (Mr. KS Vasudevan & Mr. TK Jose)
7	6.00-7.00	Interaction with a Psychologist (Dr. T Sasidharan)
8	7.30-9.00	Cultural activity
	9.00-9.30	Supper

7.9.2005

Morning Session

Session	Time	Activity
	1.00	Wakeup
1	5.30- 6.30	Yoga
	6.30-7.30	Personal time
	7.30- 8.00	Breakfast
2	8.00-1.00	Field work

Afternoon Session

	1.00 to 2.00	Meals
3	2.00-3.30	Group work: Report Presentation
4	3.30-4.00	Stage plays
5	4.00-5.00	Panel discussion (Mr. Sathyanathan –Moderator) (Mr. P Basheer – Introduces the topic)
6	5.00-7.30	Solo drama : discussion (Miss Rathi Peruvattur)
7	7.30-9.00	Camp fire
	9.00-9.30	Supper

8.9.2005

Morning session

Session	Time	Activity
	5.00	Wakeup
1	5.30-6.30	Yoga
	6.30-7.30	Personal time
	7.30-8.00	Breakfast
2	8.00 - 9.00	Report Presentation
3	9.00-12.00	Field work : Survey

Afternoon session

4	12.00-1.00	Feedback
	1.00-1.30	Meals
5	1.30-2.00	Closing ceremony

On 06 Sep 2005 , at 7.30 AM all the participants (115 trainees) with three teaching staff assembled at the Kozhikode railway station. All wore the Delegate Badge. At 8.15 everyone boarded the Kannur-Coimbatore passenger train. It was a delightful start with songs and jokes in the compartments .Those who frequently travel by train introduced the participants to the various landmarks and scenery along the route to Tirur. At Tirur railway station the participants were received by Dr Krishnakumari and Mr. Hussain By 9.30, hiring autorickshaws all arrived in front of the majestic gate of Tunchanparamba.

The very sight of the place helped many to recall Ezhuthachan's lines which they had memorized in their childhood.

Inauguration

On entering the venue the participants were directed to the dormitory where they kept their luggage and refreshed themselves. Then everyone assembled in the main hall of Tunchanparamba for the inaugural ceremony. Mr. Praveen assisted by the trainees set up the public address system and the session began with a prayer by Miss Sajina. This was followed by a welcome address by

Mr. Narayanan , Convenor of the Camp Coordination Committee. In her inaugural speech Dr. Ida Nancy, Principal, reminded the participants about the various roles a teacher has to play. *"The teacher is a social engineer and is responsible for producing the quality our society demands. This camp provides an opportunity to gain that skill and knowledge"*. While rendering felicitations,

Dr. Raveendranath, Dr. Krishnakumari and Mr. Hussain requested for the whole hearted cooperation of the participants .

Immediately after the ceremony, Mr. Ramakrishnan gave general instructions regarding the camp and directed all the participants to go and explore the whole campus.

Familiarizing the Location

Objective:

1. To familiarize the location
2. Introduce participants to learning through observation.

The campus had a number of monuments which included the Tunchan Mandapam, Saraswathi Mandapam where children are initiated to the world of learning during Navarathri, The Kalari of Tunchath Ezhuthan ,a grand old tree, the recently renovated tank and the Tunchan Smaraka - (Parrot and stylus).

The participants had the rare opportunity to see ancient palm leaf manuscripts (thaliola) and the stylus(Ezhuthani) supposed to be used by Ezhuthan himself - the Father of Malayalam language.

The participants also had a glimpse of Mahakavi Uloor's personal library donated to the Research Centre in the campus , Open Air Auditorium and Guest Cottages built in Kerala style architecture.

The buildings now being constructed for a museum did not mar the sight of the coconut tree planted by the doyen of Malayalam literature, Takazhi Sivasankara Pillai and the mango tree planted by the Majroo Sultan Puri, the celebrated north Indian.

The singing birds which dwell in the well maintained garden and trees rejuvenated the participants who had a delightful expression on their faces when they assembled for discussion.

Outdoor Discussion

The participants sat under the shade of a huge mango tree and were asked to report on what they saw. Questions were asked as to the relevance of learning through observation. This helped them to draw insights about this learning strategy which can be easily adapted for learning at many levels.

In the discussions which followed the participants shared their experiences . It provided an opportunity for developing the skills required for conducting learning through observation.

Basic Group Formation

Objective:

1. Facilitate smooth conduct of the camp
2. Familiarize themselves fully with Community living
3. Gather an overall view of the camp
4. Appreciate the importance of group work
5. Ensure equal participation of all camp members in all camp activities
6. Develop values of cooperative living

The entire camp members were divided into three groups- Sarika, Narayam and Thaliyola. The duties assigned to the three groups were :

- * Food arrangement
- * Cleaning and Water supply
- * Documentation and reporting

> All these duties were changed in turn every day .

Task Presentation and Plan of Action

Objective

1. To familiarize participants with different strategies and methods of learning
2. Acquire knowledge of constructive classroom processes
3. Gain knowledge of the social significance of a community over an individual.

To ensure uniformity of the tasks a common theme was chosen: River Nila, its surroundings and its special role in the life and culture of the people of Tirur.

Task/Topic allotted to the different Optional Groups

Optional

Task / Topic

Arabic	The influence of Arabic language on the people living in the costal areas near river Nila
English	Attitude of the Community around Tunchanparamba towards Learning English
Hindi	Preparation of a documentary film script about Tunchanparamba
Malayalam	River, Plot & Author (Puzhayum Kathayum Kathakrithum) An interview with the noted writer Mr. C. Radhakrishnan

Mathematics	Use of Geometrical Figures in the Construction of Houses around Tunchanparamba
Natural Science	A Study of the varied fauna and flora around Nila River
Physical Science	Use and Misuse of Electricity in and around Tunchanparamba
Social Science	Nila River Its History Past and Present : An Enquiry

Once the tasks were assigned to different optional groups, the participants sat optional wise to prepare the plan of action for the task. They had two sessions one at 1.20 PM till Lunch and the second after Lunch till 2.30PM

Education Theatre

Objective

1. Introducing participants to education through theatre
2. Developing creative skills
3. Introducing participants to the optimal use of the human body for learning
4. Developing the skill of providing enriched learning experience through histrionic skills

Mr. TK Joshi, a state award winner for Educational Theatre Script Writing and a teacher of Olavattoor High School Malappuram and Mr. KS Vasudevan of Ganapath Boys Hr. Sec School, Kozhikode, introduced the participants to the use of educational theatre for learning.

The activities commenced with an ice- breaking session which involved informal walking, purposeful walking and walking following instructions. The spacious auditorium was ideal for an activity which involved 115 participants. They were asked to act like a child and release the suppressed child in them. Rhythm created through clapping, stamping of feet and

singing helped participants realize the educational value of theatrical skills in learning.

Using a stick, a cup, a piece of cardboard and a small wooden piece the participants were asked to conjure up themes to use all the objects in a drama which they were to plan and act out. To many it was an eye opener as they grasped the simple truth the any dull situation or lifeless object could be made vigorous and interesting through dramatization.

The session which continued for over three hours were not interrupted by the heavy rain outside . After a break six groups were formed and they were asked to plan for a performance on the theme ‘water’.

From 9.45PM to 11.30PM each of the six groups made stage presentations on the assigned theme . The activity was an exercise in informal and creative learning . Innovative presentations which exploited different aspects related to the theme of water , offered insights into the significance of water conservation .It also provided an opportunity to exhibit the histrionic skill of the participants.

Interaction with a Psychologist

Objective

1. Introducing participants to psychological interpretation of educational problems
2. Developing an ability to psychologically analyze social problems

An eminent psychologist, Dr. T Sasidharan of the Dept of Psychology , University of Calicut interacted with the participants in a brief session in the evening.

The topic chosen was ‘My Respected Student in the Class’.The discussions which followed was enriched through research findings on the topic provided by Dr. Sasidharan

During the session the participants had an opportunity to compare and analyze their own ideas about classroom learning and Teacher – Pupil relationships. They also realized how learning takes place as a result of

experience and that each situation is unique and provides a certain kind of learning .

On 07 Sep 2005 all woke up at 5.30AM. From 6.10 AM the participants had a Yoga demonstration and practice under the guidance of Mr. P Lakshman. For many , this was a first time experience . It helped them realize ways of relaxing their body and controlling their breathing.

After bath and attending of personal needs ,the participants had a quick breakfast and got ready for the Field trip ignoring the heavy downpour.

In the afternoon three new students who joined the BEd. course that morning introduced themselves and joined the camp.

Fieldwork

Objective

1. Introduction to data collection and interaction with the community
2. Developing skills of analysis of data and interpretation of results
3. Develop skill of interviewing
4. Learning to work in groups and share ideas
5. Developing the skill of preparing a report

By 8.00 AM the campus was empty save the teachers . By 1.00 PM all the participants returned . Many were drenched in the rain but their spirits were not dampened. After lunch each group sat separately to prepare a report of their Field Trip for presentation.

By 3.30 PM , the English optional group guided by their optional teacher Mr. C Praveen presented a detailed analysis of the topic given to them. They presented the unpleasant truth that the English language has begun to exercise a profound influence on the people living around Tunchanparamba- a memorial dedicated to the father of Malayalam language. Naturally an emotionally charged discussion ensued where students of the Malayalam optional refused to accept the findings of the English Optional group . For students of the Science optional this was indeed an invaluable experience as they learned ways in which arguments and counter arguments could be framed.

As time was running short it was decided to make presentations of reports the following day and if not possible back in the college.

Panel Discussion

Objective

1. Introduction to panel discussion
2. Developing the ability to substantiate facts using illustrative examples
3. Grasp issues related to roles teachers are assigned to play in society

After tea , the participants assembled in the auditorium for a Panel Discussion on the topic ‘Teacher’s Social Responsibility and Commitment’. Two panels were formed-one comprising teachers of the locality and departmental trainees and the other the general public comprising residents of Tirur.

The moderator of the discussion was Mr. Sathyanathan a DIET Lecturer. Mr Basher a teacher and regular participant of SCERT’s programmes introduced the topic.

The Mundasseri Bill, teacher insecurity, the absence of a scientific syllabus, indifference and lack of enthusiasm of teachers etc came up for lively discussion. Many arguments were convincing but it suffered the drawback of frequent digression from the original topic of discussion.

Jwala Film Society

Squeezed into the programme schedule were two events which satisfied the request of local residents and lovers of film and literature. The first was the inauguration of the Jwala Film Society by the film producer Mr. Aryadan Shoukat. The second was the release of **Jwala News** by Mr. Alancode Leelakrishnan a popular Malayalam writer.

Ekakini- Solo Drama

Objective

1. Introduce participants to a burning social issue
2. Introducing participants to the possibility of exploiting drama for teaching

Ekakini meaning solitary woman, depicts the hardships a lonely woman has to face in society. Nicknamed 'Tarikida Sarojini' the lone character played by Miss Rathi Perugvattur is a mind stirring performance of the inner agony of Sarojini who is forced to commit suicide as a revenge to the society around her.

The stage setting and performance helped the participants recall some of the contrivances and techniques they had unconsciously employed for depicting the theme 'water' The interaction with Miss Rathi helped the participants grasp the subtle nuances of the play , its mode of generating feelings and rousing emotions.

Camp fire

Objective

1. Introduction to after- dusk informal Community gathering
2. Developing literary skill

It had rained the whole day and at 10.00 PM when the participants had their supper it was still raining . This forced the organizers to change the venue of the Camp Fire from the quadrangle to the auditorium. A symbolic fire was lit and all the participants sat in a large circular form. The participants sang, danced and gave memorable mimicry performances. By midnight the organizers had to call it a day.

On 08 Sep 2005, the participants got up as in the previous day at 5.30 AM. Following Yoga exercises till 7.30 AM , they returned to the dormitories . After breakfast everyone assembled in the auditorium. The unexpected transport strike forced the organizers to continue with presentation of their Survey report.

The Mathematics, Physical Science and Hindi optional students, made their presentations which was followed by serious discussions and suggestions for improving.

Guest of the day Mr. KP Ramanunni

As both the transport strike and rains continued , the organizers invited the noted poet and administrative officer of Tunchanparamba to interact with the participants.

The guest not only spoke about his works and experience but also about the present scenario of Malayalam literature and the important role of a teacher.

Field Survey: Govt. Old Age Home , Rescue Home & Juvenile Home

Objective

1. Familiarize participants with Govt. institutions for the aged, neglected women and juveniles
2. Introduce participants to problems related to these institutions
3. Enable participants to identify roles a teacher can play in such institutions

The unexpected transport strike which clashed with the closing ceremony forced participants residing in neighbouring districts to find alternate transport facility to return to their homes. Hence many left the camp at 10. AM.

Thanks to the cooperation of a neighbouring school which allowed the organizers to hire their School buses, the participants got an opportunity to go on a Field Trip to a government run Old Age Home, Rescue Home and Juvenile Home in Tavanur.

The Superintendent Ms. Chandramathi who also accompanied the participants back to the camp venue, described to the participants the feelings, problems and difficulties faced by the inmates of the institutions.

The participants realized the fact that behind the sunny face of society there is a shocking and distressing seamy side. The poor facility available and the negligence and apathy of society in general was made clear to the participants. Many left the institutions with a heavy heart.

Bye to Tunchanparamba

All the remaining participants assembled in the auditorium after lunch. There was a feedback of the camp and after a few minutes of cultural programmes the participants left for their homes around 5 PM.

Camp Impressions

Ms.Meera Baby : "...The camp was a great experience. The approach and attitude of the people in and around Tunchanparamba was cordial. They will always be remembered with love...It (the camp) was a miniature community with duties and rights assigned to everyone and everyone did his/her best for the smooth working of the community."

Mr.Jyotish Kumar : "The three day stay at Tunchanparamba was an unforgettable experience. We now have understood the relevance of community living in an individual's life."

Ms.Rekha: "On the whole the camp was wonderful, with the majestic, calm meditative venue: the campers living together like a joint family filled with love, affectionate discipline, decent ways and good heartedness! This will surely stay in our hearts for a long time"