

Student Group Leaders Meeting for the Outreach Program.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2024, we successfully hosted a meeting for the functional group leaders of our SHEPHERD program at the community center on the college campus. The meeting aimed to cultivate and enhance leadership skills among college students while encouraging active participation in social development initiatives.

Keynote Speakers: 1. Dr. Shahayaraj, Director, Extension Department, St. Joseph's College
2. Dr. Mariadas, Principal, St. Joseph's College
3. John Peter, Social Activist and Administrator, CREA Metric Higher Secondary School
4. Chandrasekar, Secretary, Education and Development Organization for Laborers

****Event Highlights**:** - A total of 550 student leaders from various undergraduate and postgraduate programs, representing 96 villages and 22 urban slums, participated in the meeting. - An exhibition showcased the social work efforts of the students. - Participants shared their experiences and innovative ideas related to social development.

****Seminar Proceedings**:** Dr. T. Shahayaraj SJ highlighted the Extension Department's commitment to providing students with opportunities to develop their leadership abilities, enhance their decision-making skills, and increase their social awareness. Dr. S. Mariadas SJ, the Principal, inaugurated the exhibition and emphasized the significance of experiential learning in fostering social advancements. Dr. Rajendran stressed the importance of social justice and equality within our communities. Mr. John Peter encouraged students to recognize and engage with social challenges in order to strive for societal improvements. Additionally, Chandrasekar motivated students to collaborate with communities to better understand their needs. Rev. Fr. Gilbert extended a warm welcome, while Mr. C. Jeyachandran and Mr. S. Jeyaseelan provided insights and guidance to the group leaders involved in the SHEPHERD program through a PowerPoint presentation.

The seminar served as an effective platform for students to improve their leadership capabilities, deepen their understanding of social issues, and contribute to community development. The event concluded with acknowledgments and expressions of gratitude from coordinators Mr. P. Vijayakumar, Christhuraja, and Mrs. Yasodai. The master of ceremonies was Mr. S. Lenin, Senior Coordinator. A total of 550 student leaders participated in this impactful initiative.



