



Lekshmipuram College of Arts and Science
Neyyoor-629802
(Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli)
Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu

Institutional Distinctiveness 2023-24
Free Noon Meal Scheme to Needy

Lekshmipuram College of Arts and Science, Neyyoor-629082, Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu has played a pivotal role in providing higher educational opportunities to the weaker and socially deprived section of the society namely the rural and coastal belt of Lekshmipuram village, Mondaicadu, Colachel and the neighbouring areas of the district.

The majority of the students who seek admission to the college belong to the economically and socially weaker and deprived section of society that hails from the interior parts of rural villages. Several students are doing part-time before or after the college's working hours along with education. A few students continued their education without taking lunch in the afternoon; a few of them left the institution without attending afternoon classes and became dropouts from higher education. Hence, the institution has decided to provide a free noon meal to the needy and weaker sections of the student community, which in turn helps to minimize the dropouts. Its objectives is framed as follows, 'To provide free noon meals to the needy, deprived, and socially weaker sections of the student community, thereby minimizing the dropout rate in higher education and helping to reach higher education to the unreached'.

It was started in 2004, with the financial contributions of the members of the teaching faculty; initially free lunches were provided to 20–25 students daily. Later on, the number has increased to 30 per day. The beneficiaries of the initiative are identified by the respective class teachers or mentors, and the same is forwarded to the principal through the head of the department. The principal has constituted the committee to scrutinize the recommendations without informing the students, identify the target beneficiaries, and monitor the programme. The amount collected from the scheme is directly credited from their salary to the account open. Tokens are issued daily to the beneficiaries, who take their lunch from the canteen. The quality of the food, the attendance of the students, and their academic achievements are monitored.



Kepillai
PRINCIPAL
LEKSHMIPURAM COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCE
NEYYOOR.