



Institutional Distinctiveness

2023 - 2024

Introduction

St. Francis College for Women is committed to empowering rural communities through a multi-faceted approach that addresses their unique needs and challenges. By bridging the rural-urban divide, the college promotes inclusive growth and sustainable development. Key initiatives include the **Swarnojwala Rural Student Adoption Scheme**, **Vajrojawala Village Adoption Scheme**, **Social Intern Projects**, and partnerships with NGOs such as **Street Cause**.

Francis Alumni Association (FAA)

In collaboration with the **SFC Rangers Unit**, the **Francis Alumni Association (FAA)** actively engages in rural outreach. On December 11, 2023, the FAA visited **Prashanthi Nilayam**, a senior citizen home in Bijjinapally Palem, Telangana, to mark *Daan Utsav*. Donations included:

- Stand fans
- Adult diapers, under sheets, tissue boxes
- Groceries and ration
- Snack items

The team also decorated the premises and sang carols to spread Christmas cheer.

Swarnojwala – Rural Student Adoption Scheme

Launched in 2009 during the college's Golden Jubilee, this flagship program adopts **three deserving rural students each year**, offering:

- Quality education
- Accommodation and clothing
- Full access to campus facilities

To date, **38 students** have benefited from this scheme, with **four currently enrolled**. The scheme empowers rural girls to become confident, competent women aligned with the college's vision.

Vajrojawala – Village Adoption Scheme

Introduced in 2019–20 as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, this initiative focuses on the development of **Edulapur village** in Medak district. Staff and students collaborate to improve:

- **Health and Hygiene:** Promoting sanitation and access to healthcare
- **Education:** Supporting learning outcomes and infrastructure
- **Employability Skills:** Building vocational competencies for livelihood

The program is implemented in coordination with **NSS Programme Officers** for effective grassroots impact.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)

In November 2023, SFC voluntarily joined **UBA 2.0** and adopted five villages in the Sangareddy District:

- Vaddenaguda
- Erdanoor
- Ippalagadda
- Kandi
- A differently-abled colony in Kandi village

A comprehensive survey by **90 students, 12 faculty, and 2 staff** achieved **91% household coverage** (394 homes), identifying key developmental gaps. Interventions focused on:

- Waste segregation and management
- Tree planting and environmental conservation
- Vocational training for sustainable livelihoods
- Health and nutrition education
- Awareness of government welfare schemes

Under Swarnojwala, free education and hostel support was extended to five deserving girls from these villages, demonstrating SFC's commitment to rural empowerment.

Social Intern Projects

As part of their **summer social internship**, NSS volunteers visit old age homes and orphanages in rural areas such as Vijayawada, Guntur, Nalgonda, and Pochampally. Over five days, they:

- Assist staff with daily routines
- Conduct interactive teaching and entertainment sessions
- Build meaningful relationships with residents

These experiences help students develop empathy and social responsibility while making a tangible difference in rural communities.

Street Cause Francis – Hyderabad Chapter

Street Cause Francis is a student-managed NGO chapter focused on rural and economic upliftment. Activities include:

- Fundraising through events like movie screenings and dandiya nights
- Constructing toilets and installing water tanks
- Providing furniture for rural schools
- Distributing essentials to underprivileged communities

Students gain leadership and organizational skills while contributing to meaningful social change.

Conclusion

The **Village Vanguard Program** of St. Francis College exemplifies a sustained commitment to inclusive rural development. By integrating education, health, environmental sustainability, and social awareness, SFC fosters a generation of socially responsible women ready to transform communities and lead with compassion and purpose.