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STELLA MARIS COLLEGE

On the spot blood report lengthens application queue

There was a long serpentine queue inside Stella Maris College for getting the 'Instant blood group report'. Students didn't know they had to attach their blood group report with the application form. The report was to fill up the ID cards. Those who did not have their blood group report were provided a facility for blood tests within the campus. This proved beneficial, especially for those who had come from far off places like Madurai, Tiruchy and Coimbatore.

The blood test was being done by professor Raja Chidambaram who charged ₹50 for each test. "I have been conducting blood tests for more than 10 years," he says. Harini, Deepa and Tamizh Arasi, a group of three friends who had applied for B Com at the college, were shocked to see the queue of people waiting to get their blood tests done. "I have never come across any 'on the spot blood group report' before. This is something new for me and my friends," said Harini.

There were a few like Selina Jasmin, who had travelled all the way from Guduvanchery to apply for BA Literature at Stella, and then there were students like Madhumathi from Vizhupuram, who were shocked to realise their favourite course was not being offered by the college. "I was misguided by the information I read on the Internet. I wanted to apply for psychology, but when I approached the application desk, I was informed that Stella Maris had no such course as of now," she said.

There were very few people who opted for maths. Chennai-based student Abinaya opted for sociology though she had cracked her boards with 185 in math. "I have had a strange fear of the subject from the age of 15. I was forced by my parents to take science group in my 12th grade. I underwent huge pressure, attending several coaching classes for maths. Finally, I made up my mind



10 YEARS OF SERVICE

For the past ten years, Professor Raja Chidambaram has been taking spot blood tests for applicants at Stella Maris College. It is mandatory to submit the blood group report along with the application form at the college. Raja has been in the same profession since 1985. "The procedure of producing blood group proof is compulsory in Stella Maris at the time of submitting the application form because it is essential for ID cards. It is important because it helps to a great extent at the time of accidents and urgent donation of blood," he says. The charge for each blood group report is ₹50.

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— Harini, Applicant at Stella Maris College

and convinced my parents that I would select the course of my interest," she said.

Two students Thenijah and Vithursika had come from Sri Lanka to pursue BSc

Biochemistry.

Contributed by Vidya Gowri Venkatesh, B Malavika Sruthi R, Varsha Raja Mythreyee Ramesh, Shambhu Theagarajan

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