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Up and about

## Youth venture into social service, the education way

### College students sensitise school kids, corporate employees give tips on math and some spend years at government schools

Youth in the city are extending their tryst with school education long after they are done with classes, by volunteering in several ways at government schools in the city.

Several college students spend hours with Corporation school kids in their free time by engaging them in discussions. Students of Loyola college visit Corporation schools and sensitise them on environment issues, said a Corporation official, adding that **Stella Maris students speak to students in Triplicane** and Mylapore schools on the importance on women's education and safety.

But this is not all. IT professionals, too, are getting on board. According to the headmistress of a Corporation school, young professionals from corporate firms visit her school every Saturday and hold group discussions on current affairs, help them with spoken English and math coaching. "They are very enthusiastic about engaging with the children," she said.

Manasa Ramakrishnan (24), who was previously working in Delhi for a news agency, quit her job and joined Teach For India, an NGO that trains young professionals to be teachers and places them in various government schools for a period of two years. "I wanted to be part of the change that education can bring about in our country," said Manasa, who is into the second year of her stint in a Corporation school in the city.

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For most college students, pocket money is a big problem. With expenses increasing, many of them now depend on online jobs to ensure they have enough cash.

There are a number of avenues through which one can earn online. These jobs have now become very popular amongst students, with many of them spending a few hours a day to earn some money.

For M. Sathyan, who studies at a city engineering college, these jobs ensure that he doesn't have to ask his parents for money anymore. "In the past one year, I have made enough money to be

able to take care of my expenses comfortably. Depending on the amount of time I have to spend, I am able to make anywhere between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 15,000 a month,” he said.

There are several ways to earn money online, whether it is writing articles on sites like iwriter.com, where you can author articles, rewrite them or even generate ebooks. Apart from content generation, many students opt to fill data entry forms and online tutoring from a variety of sites including tutor.com.

R. Priya, who is doing her undergraduate degree in English literature, prefers logging on to one of the many gaming sites in order to make money. “There are a number of sites like paidgameplayer.com, where you can play new games that people are developing and earn money. It may not be as much money, but it is a lot of fun,” she said.

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