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Road-laying by College Students in Hutment Colony

BY OUR STAFF REPORTER

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Some 50 students of the Stella Maris College have spent their Christmas vacation in community service to benefit the less fortunate.

With commendable enthusiasm, they have worked at least four hours a day for a week to lay a 450-foot-long road in the Grama Street hutment colony (Division 71) off Kodambakkam High Road near the Gemini Studios. Some of these girls studying in the P.U.C. and B.A. First year courses, have also been conducting literacy classes at the colony, entertaining the residents with film shows and playing with the children, too.

Most of them are members of the National Service Corps, one of the three activities officially recommended for students' voluntary participation, the others being the N.C.C. and the National Sports Scheme.

In frequent visits to the colony, where they had successfully persuaded more than 70 families to join the Small Savings scheme, the young social workers found the approaches to the low-lying area in a "messy condition". They decided to spend the Christmas vacation in laying a modest road there. Starting work on December 26, they first raised the ground level by 1½ feet and topped a 450-foot stretch with red gravel and other road material, the Highways Department providing the technical "knowhow". The girls hope to metal the road during their next vacation.

A resident of the colony expressed his appreciation of the service rendered by the Stella Maris students, saying that the road has given a new look to the locality.

According to Mrs. Mary John, Lecturer-in-charge of the National Service Corps at Stella Maris College about 280 girls have enrolled in the N.S.C. Their activities consisted of improvement work in slums, hospital service, kitchen gardening and conducting literacy classes.