

## **Inauguration of Community Outreach Programme as part of CC@60**

In commemoration of its six decades of noble service to society, Parvatibai Chowgule College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Margao in collaboration with Camorlim Village Panchayat, South Goa inaugurated its Community Outreach Programme on 24 November 2022 at the Camorlim Village Panchayat premises. As a part of this Outreach Programme, the college commenced 'E-Granthalaya,' an e-library initiative that will help the village panchayat to digitally identify and access books from its library. The initiative involved digitally cataloguing books in the library using free software, leading to an e-catalogue for easy online searching and lending.

Besides this initiative, Chowgule College has planned to carry on various activities such as establishing a Reading Club and Art Club in the village panchayat premises as part of the outreach. Activities like counselling youth, awareness against substance abuse, importance of the Gram Sabha system and participation in Gram Sabha meetings; active involvement in village development committees etc. will be organised through talks and street plays. In order to increase digital literacy, various basic computer software will be taught to aspiring students from the village as well.

To help the village farmers, soil sample collection, soil testing and issuance of Soil Health card will be done in collaboration with the Directorate of Agriculture, South Goa district. This unique initiative will result in symbiotic benefits to the village community along with the Chowgule College students. The entire project is funded by the Chowgule Education Society and will be executed by the staff and students of Chowgule College under the aegis of Chowgule College at 60 (CC@60).

The Chief Guest for the event was Shri. V. C. Kumaresh, Vice-Principal, Chowgule College while Mr. Joseph Vas, Sarpanch of Rachol village was the Guest of Honour. The event was graciously blessed by Fr. Rony Fernandes, the Parish Priest.

Mr. Mitendra Alve from the Computer Science dept. of Chowgule College and Mrs. Poonam Joshi, the college Librarian, were the Resource Persons for E-Granthalaya and facilitated the library books cataloguing and bar-coding, respectively. The entire event was hosted by Mr. Basilio Fernandes, the Sarpanch of Camorlim, Mr. Nilesh Shirodkar, the Secretary, along with other panch members. The event was also attended by Social Worker, Anthony Barbosa and V.D.C. convenor, Engineer Ravi. Chowgule College staff along with a large number of Camorlim villagers happily participated in the inaugural function which was planned and compered by Dr. Bhanumati Pilli, convenor of CC@60. Dr. Sachin Moraes, co-convenor of CC@60 proposed the Vote of Thanks for the event after which the function concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.