

MASK

A major extension activity that the School of Social Sciences undertook is to assist Scouts and Guides of St. Behanan's HSS, Vennikulam in documentation of the Covid 19 pandemic. The outcome of the extension activity was the preparation of a volume titled MASK.

MASK (Monitoring of Awareness about SARS Covid 19 in Kerala), an album of Covid 19 in Kerala is a historical record produced by the VIthTVLA HSS Scout Group of St. Behanan's Higher Secondary School, Vennikulam in association with Kerala State Bharat Scouts and Guides. The project period was from February 2020- August 2020. The work is dedicated to the School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University. The chief project officer of the enterprise was Dr. Abhilash Babu, Director and Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences. His project team consisted of Project Manager, Jacob Abraham (Principal, St. Behanan's Higher Secondary School), Project Head Tojomon N George and Project Guide Binila Baby along with project leaders Jithin Thomas and Bibin Mathew Varghese.

The MASK is a comprehensive record of the period of Covid 19 outbreak in Kerala. The album consists of the newspaper records on Covid 19 since the first outbreak in China on December 1st, 2019. The team relied on Malayalam Newspaper dailies in order to collect data. Reports and statistical charts are incorporated in the album. Photographs of the pandemic along with captions by the students are also included in the work.

Personal memoirs and interviews of frontline fighters during the pandemic is another highlight of MASK. Rijo Joseph, Malayala Manorama Kottayam Photographer shares his vivid memories of the pandemic and his profession. Educational, Health and market sectors during the Covid 19 pandemic are also studied in MASK. The Covid 19 report and the interviews attached in the MASK also acts as an oral history material for future pursuits. The whole project is a primary source for further studies on the Covid 19 pandemic in Kerala.