

Loreto College, Kolkata 2016 – 2017

Intrinsically woven into the vision and mission of the college is to bring about equity and equal access to as many as possible from different sectors of society, especially first generation learners to higher education in the college. **Scholarships** to economically needy students are awarded and **free meals** provided for needy students. **2 students with disability** have been admitted to the 1st year B.A. /B.Sc. class (2015-2016), bringing the total studying in college to 8; Loreto College is an **inclusive college** and is **barrier-free** with ramps constructed around the college and an automatic elevator installed.

All graduating students complete a period of compulsory community service as part of the **outreach** programme. The **NSS, AICUF** and **Social Service Societies** organized **two Blood Donation Camps, a five days' Slum Camp and a free health check-up for all the support staff of the Loreto campus**. The value of saving life by sharing good health they enjoy is instilled in our pupils who also rally around and donate **whole fresh blood** whenever blood is needed. **Swatch Campus Day** was kept up by the students who, armed with brooms, buckets and swabs cleaned the college.

The porcelain anniversary (20 years) of the **Women's Cell** this year was celebrated through a dance drama, '**Yasodhara**', performed by the students studying herein and so graciously choreographed by a former student of the college, **Dr. Amita Dutt**. This was followed by a panel discussion '**Empowering Women through Education**'.

The **Women's Cell** conducts classes for **underprivileged young women and school dropouts**. **2 students** have cleared the NIOS Class X exam while 6 cleared the XII April 2017 exam. The former have registered for Class XII with the NIOS. There are a total of 38 students studying in the Women's Cell this year. **2 Women's Cell** pupils have been admitted in the **BA 1st year General** course in Loreto College, a total of 5 at the undergraduate level.

Our pupils, after an annual **collection drive**, shared toileteries and warm clothes with the poor. Open Day saw about **14 NGO's run by women** coming to display and sell handmade items in the college at **Open Day**. We were happy that the past pupils' reunion was attended by many more former pupils than in previous years. The **Alumnae** organized a seminar, 'Women Entrepreneurs: Challenges and Experiences' hosted in the college and organized a Memorial Service for one of our esteemed past pupils, **Justice Leila Seth**.

The Psychology Department of the College hosted an annual 2-days' event '**Kalakriti 2016**' for **differently-abled children** and their educators, at which students from 'special' schools participated. The focus this year was 'Psychotherapies-Contemporary Approaches in the 21st Century India and it was in collaboration with West Bengal State University; this was sponsored by ICSSR.

Research is an indicator of growth at tertiary level. In keeping with progression, the **Research Cell** made **6 presentations** in the year (4 student and 2 staff) with updates on papers presented by staff and students. The Research Cell organized a **seminar**, 'Development Perspectives in the Indian Context' sponsored by Peerless and Indian Bank .An **ICSSR- sponsored seminar** 'Landscapes at the Edge: Risks, Resilience and Restoration' was organized by the Geography Department.

An intercollegiate students' meet was organized by the pupils of the Department of Economics, '**Ecolore**'. Intercollegiate '**Historia 2017**', saw students research and present papers on 'Religion in Society: Interpreting Influences' and debating on 'Feminism is an Illusory Concept in the 21st Century' graced by the **Education Minister, Dr. Partha Chatterjee**, as Chief Guest. Two pupils of the History Department were awarded prizes at the District level and later at the State level for essay writing and poster making. **2 research projects by the students** of Psychology Department were successfully completed and the reports presented.

We have been able to motivate our pupils to offer their services in the '**Teach for India**' Programme. Students have obtained employment in Cognizant, Indigo, Intellectual Properties' Attorneys, hospitality receptionists through **Campus Placement**. **Student development programmes** offered by IBS and one on the honing of mathematical skills for competitive exams during the year enabled many of our pupils to grow in confidence for interviews for postgraduate courses.

The college acknowledges **RUSA** (Rashtriya Uchchatra Sikshya Abhijan) for a grant received, thus enabling growth in infrastructure and facilities offered to students; a refurbished **Hostel** housing 27 lady students was re-opened for college and TTC students; student facilities were also enhanced. RFID has been installed in the Central Library. A **Virtual classroom/ conference** room has been set up with funds from the Department of Higher Education.

Our students are **our priority** – recognizing and assisting those who require **extra academic help** is the focus of the college. Students were given the opportunity to use the **facilities of the Library** during study

leave. Library facilities are provided to **past students** on request. Regular **interface meetings** are arranged for parents to interact with the teachers.

All B.Ed. students secured **first class** in the academic session 2015-2016 for the 9th consecutive year. **All B.A. / B.Sc. 3rd year Honours students** 2015-2016 were declared passed in the University exams. Many of the pupils have obtained admission for the **Master's Course** in TISS (Mumbai, Bangaluru and Gawahati), Azim Premji University, Christ University, Montford College, and Symbiosis (Pune and Bangalore), Delhi University, Delhi School of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jadavpur University and in Calcutta University.

Loreto College has been **ranked No. 18** by **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** by **Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD)**, Delhi. **Human Rights and Empowerment (Career-Oriented Course)** **approved by the UGC** was successfully conducted for the 4th year in succession. **M.A. in English** commenced in September 2016, thus fulfilling another commitment made on the centenary of the college to serve the youth of Kolkata. The University of Calcutta also granted affiliation for **Sociology Elective** at the undergraduate level w.e.f. 2017-2018.

Progress, improvement and evolution with the times has been the policy of the college. In order to **empower staff**, the college enabled 1 teacher to concentrate on research by **deputing** her to complete **Ph.D.** 1 teacher was awarded **Minor Research Project (MRP) by UGC.**

The college received an honoured guest, **Lord Swraj Paul**, husband of a former student, **Lady Aruna Paul** and sponsor of the new **Mary Ward- Lady Aruna Paul wing** of the college to inaugurate the fourth floor that now houses the B. Ed. And M.A. courses of the college. At a programme specially arranged Lord Paul released **two publications** of the college.-'Rethinking the Renaissance' **ISBN 81-85861-59-52** by the History Department and 'Socialization and Psychotherapy – Reviews and Empirical Studies' **ISBN 81- 85861-60-9** by the Psychology Department.

'Public Policies for Inclusive Development' **ISBN: 978-93-84106-54-6** by the Economics Department and published by Levant was released at an earlier date. Proceedings of two other seminars as publications of the college are in the pipeline.

The annual **Neelu Singhvi Sancheti Memorial Lecture, 'Leadership Qualities'**, was delivered by **Shri Jawhar Sircar** during the academic year 2016-2017. '**Critical Imprints' ISSN 2319-4774**, a peer-reviewed journal by the English Department has been **recognized and enlisted by UGC.** The fifth volume (2017) has since been published.

Students' day was kept up through an enlightening programme on Social Networking and Youth. The Fourth King was a part of the Christmas pageant presented by the students. Our students and some of other colleges were trained in **shadow play** by Rahi Foundation and put up powerful performances on **gender-based violence and incest** in several colleges in the city. The college acknowledges the influence of **Mrs. Kamala Bhasin** who spoke to our students on Women's Rights. **Jewelry Design** enrichment course for students in collaboration with Sawansukha commenced.

The teachers of the college put up a scintillating **Rabindra Jayanti** programme to a thundering applause by the students. The students rose to the occasion in performances for Teachers' day and organized **Samagam 2016**, their youth fest.

To promote **sustainable development** in our **Green Campus initiative** Water Day, Earth Day and Environment Day were kept up; seeds of vegetable were distributed to staff and students of the College. The college was the **first** among Loreto institutions to have **60 Solar Photo-voltaic panels** commissioned on the rooftop of the college with a daily production of **15 KVA** which is shared with CESE through a grid; this has **reduced the electricity bill** due to a rebate granted for the purpose.

The **celebrations of 175 years** since Loreto first set foot in India commenced in December 2016 and the **opening dance** to the programme was performed by the college students; this was choreographed by a recent past pupil.