

Loreto College, Kolkata 2019-2020

Loreto College strives for improvement in the teaching-learning process, in fostering research, in **increasing consciousness** about the **environment and community welfare**, **sensitization towards women's issues** and in motivating students to endeavour for global academic standards.

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 challenged students are awarded and **free meals** provided for needy students.

The college applied for the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** status and was ranked **75 in 2020**, by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India and has opted for the **4th Cycle** of Accreditation by NAAC in 2019-2020; we await the peer team visit.

The college commenced another subject – **Statistics** (Elective) in 2019-2020. The infrastructure of a classroom was modified to enable the introduction of the subject.

Construction of the 2nd part of the **vertical extension** of the building was completed; and **Fire Safety** provisions satisfactorily made.

Our students have been able to fit themselves in various types of employment worldwide, and show high competency; the organization of growthful events by inviting eminent academicians as guest lecturers/ resource persons and standards maintained with an efficient network of associations towards the '**mission of being**' have enabled our pupils do us proud.

Student academic co-curricular activities, as student Meets stand out- **Eduquest**, was organized for the first time by the Education Department, **Historia**, by the History Department, brought together students from Colleges around Kolkata; **Kalakriti**, an annual expression of commitment to inclusivity and to those with disability by the Department of Psychology is a confluence of students from schools for the disabled; and **Ecolore**, an annual event by the Economics Department. Likewise, every event in the college celebrates our dedicated service in the cause of youth.

The vision of the College is for holistic development, attuned to the needs of the times and to its stakeholders. Conferences, Seminars and Workshops conducted indicate the broad spectrum of exposure our staff and students receive in consonance with **the vision and mission** of the college.

Among the innovative student activities and programmes activities organized during the academic year **enrichment courses** as Editing and Publishing and Spanish stand out. Courses in Legal Awareness for Women, Calligraphy and Cursive Writing were also offered. The **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** was celebrated by all classes.

The Student Council works hand in hand with the management to ensure the smooth running of college activities. **Samagam**, the Youth Fest is organized for and by the students. The theme this year was '**Coalescence**' which focused on environmental issues and eco-friendliness through human intervention.

Counselling and mentoring is provided for all students; remedial classes for slow learners have helped the growth of students in different areas. Advanced learners are motivated to take on **student research projects** under the guidance of teachers. Others took on paid internships in an '**earn while you learn**' endeavour.

Our students are **our priority** – recognizing and assisting those who require **extra academic help** is the focus. Students were given the opportunity to use the **facilities of the Library** during study leave. Library facilities are also provided to **past students** on request. Regular **interface meetings** are arranged for parents to interact with the teachers. **Spoken Tutorial by IIT Mumbai** was offered to every student in the college. Tests taken were taken and IIT Mumbai awarded certificates to those who passed.

An **interactive session with the renowned journalist Barkha Dutt**, was a prelude to the programme, **We the Women**, where students spent the day interacting with women of courage who in small and big ways have found a niche for themselves in society as role models for our own pupils to emulate. Many of those invited by fearless Barkha Dutt were our past pupils for whom this was home-coming; they have done us proud! A play, **Muskaan**, dealing with the universal menace of AIDS brought to us by Oindrilla Dutt, an alumnus of our college.

Kama Productions in association with **Culture Monks**, presented an stunning play highlighting the horrific incidents of Jallianwala Bagh, the shooting of Gauri Lankesh, the barbarous rape of Asifa Bano of the Kathua case and the rage this instilled in young minds. The Consulate General of Italy, in association with **Culture Monks**, held a musical evening in the Loreto College Concert Hall, **‘Songs of Love and Destiny’** a concerto of songs of Rabindranath Tagore, translated in English and performed 2 by Italian artists; this held our staff and students spell-bound.

The college students also put up a **‘Green Initiatives’** stall for the very first time, selling packs of stainless steel straws, cloth bags and vermi-compost prepared in college, in order to spread awareness and contribute to the cause of **preservation of the environment**.

Annual Sports Day held at the Loreto Entally Grounds brought a homely feeling and the event was enjoyable. The staff and students were introduced to Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre in the campus.

Graduating students completing a period of compulsory **community service** as part of the **outreach** programme, interact with the under-privileged. In addition to 2 **Annual Blood Donation** sessions in the campus, our students have enabled gifting life by voluntarily **donating whole fresh blood** to patients who were at death’s door. An **Annual Health Camp** for all the Non-teaching staff of the campus organized by NSS, Social Service, LTS and AICUF was successfully attended and diagnosis and treatment of ailments commenced.

All B.Ed. students secured **first class** in the academic session 2019-2020 for the 12th consecutive year. **All B.A. / B.Sc. 3rd year Honours and M.A. students** 2018-2019 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.

The College Outreach Programme of women empowerment, the **‘Women’s Cell’** completed its 24th year. This Cell supports the education of **‘drop-in’** women students whose school education, for reasons beyond their control, was interrupted. In Loreto College, they resume their studies and on completion of NIOS Class XII, 9 students chose to join UG education in the college in 2019.

A **barrier-free college**, students with disability blossom with us. A student with visual disability and two who are bravely battling with malignancies feel at home with us. Another student with 86% disability is completing her third year B.A. course.

The college has signed **Memorandum of Understanding** for academic collaboration with 2 Universities- West Bengal State University and the SNDT University, Mumbai. A Seminar to seal the collaboration is in the pipeline.

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 professional studies by **deputing** her to complete **M.Ed.** 3 teachers were awarded Ph.D's during the year. A **workshop on Self-Protection** was conducted for all faculty, both UG and PG faculty. The initiative of the ICC of the College was an eye-opener for the staff and exposed them to possible implications of sexual harassment.

The 2nd and 3rd issues of the college newsletter *Glimpses* were released. A colourfully depictive biannual, in online and hard copy-form describes interesting and memorable activities of college life.

At the request of UGC (ERO), the college hosted a **NAD Workshop** in the Auditorium and **Deeksharambh – Student Induction Programme (SIP)** in the Concert Hall. We feel honoured to be able to **share our infrastructure**.

For the fear of spread of COVID-19, the college was compelled to close a week before the Lockdown was announced. **On-line classes** started within days, and teaching-learning commenced in the new norm. Assignments, assessments and evaluation progressed; arrested office work was continued once the Department of Higher Education resumed work with a skeleton staff performing all tasks. **Online activities and competitions** commenced weeks before the Lockdown as a premonition to the current eventuality; this involves staff and students, the latter of who were excited to receive **e-certificates** on performing well in these e-activities.

Rabindra Jaynanti was celebrated virtually. The WE Nature and NSS Societies prepared elaborate e-programmes to help create awareness on our 'Common Home'. A much appreciated International Webinar '**Mapping the Pandemic: Plight of Women, Migrant Labourers and the Human Mind**' was organized by the college. Collaboration with a college which we have a MOU saw staff and students interacting on the virtual platform. Staff and students were encouraged to attend webinars so that lateral learning continued.

The onset of COVID-19 compelled us to move with the times and respond appropriately to reach out to the starving; the Amphan bought its own challenges; our hearts went out as we visited and **shared with the tribals of Sunderbans and Gangsagar** down-trodden our own mite in collaboration with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre. The college has **adopted a family** in need.

Growth, progress and **values** have been keywords leading to the development of the college, while availing of the opportunities offered to us. Furthering the charisma of our Founder, Mary Ward, whose faith in women inspires us and who said, '...Women in time to come will do much' is the spark that glows in our hearts. May **our service to women and the girl child** continue to bear fruit in the years to come.