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Loreto College Report 2020-2021

Outreach Programmes in Loreto College remain an integral part of college life, a call to put shoulder to the wheel, despite Lockdown and Post-lockdown circumstances. Undeterred, these have been online, some on-site. The **NSS** and **Social Service Society** have conducted several humanitarian activities. Our pupils rally around and **donated fresh blood** at times when blood is urgently needed. The college has reached out to financially-challenged students and secured **scholarships** for them from generous donors through regular correspondence. An initiative to **adopt a family** who were starving during the lockdown has continued, a member of whom assists in routine duties in the college. A **Free Covishield Vaccination Camp** was organized by the College for the students in collaboration with KMC at which 248 availed of the vaccine. The College premises was also prepared for availability for those who may have been marooned by Yash Cyclone, in response to a Government request.

With all activities being conducted in the virtual mode since March 2020, the staff and students have had to learn and relearn new means of teaching-learning, determined not to be undone by the long education freeze. In order to bridge the digital divide, the college successfully **appealed to its Alumnae** for electronic devices that they were not using to enable needy students to receive one to attend classes. The teachers were considerate to these students.

The impending **NAAC Peer Team Visit** rescheduled thrice under the uncertain circumstances has been planned for mid- September 2021. There was **Visitation by the Province Leadership Team** at which different sectors of the staff of the College were met and the facilities visited. Recognition for the B.Ed. Department of the College was re-gained after much heart-ache.

Our B.A. 3rd year students 2020-2021 have performed well in the University exams. Many pupils have obtained admission for Master's Courses, and attend classes online. **All B.Ed. students** secured **first class** in the academic session 2019-2021 for the 13th consecutive year. Undergraduate students have also worked hard to bring satisfactory results in examinations.

Providing opportunities to our pupils has been the forte of the College. A first-year student, Semester II, was awarded the **first prize** in the **Royal Thai Consulate Essay-writing competition**, 'Monarchy's Role Towards Thailand's Sustainable Development Goals' among 142 entries. Our students were also enabled to take up online internships after these were scrutinized for authenticity.

With much joy the College accepted the **P.C. Chandra Knowledge Hub Award** that was gratuitously offered for the growth of the College Library. **The Mahatma Gandhi National Council for Rural Education** awarded the College the Green Champion Award for the District of Kolkata, in appreciation of the focus of the college on environmental sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Student academic co-curricular activities- **Historia**, by the History Department, **Ecolore**, an annual event by the Economics Department; **Kalakriti**, an annual expression of commitment to inclusivity of those with disability by the Department of Psychology which is a confluence of students from schools for the

disabled, brought much joy to the children, their parents and their teachers. Likewise, every event in the college celebrates our dedicated service in the cause of youth. An **online Investiture Ceremony** was conducted to **invest and empower** the Office Bearers of the College.

While the impact of Covid- 19 vacillated and the Covid-Tsunami raged, two **College Counsellors** listen to our students online, relieving them of emotional burdens and youthful confusions. **Mentoring** is also provided for all students; **remedial classes** for slow learners have helped their growth in different areas. The College Outreach Programme of women empowerment, the '**Women's Cell**' completed its 25th year. This Cell supports the education of '**drop-in**' women students whose school education, for reasons beyond their control, though interrupted in the Covid situation picked up momentum and enabled the students to appear for the NIOS Examination.

Webinars to seal **collaborations/MoUs** that the college had embarked upon were kept alive- NSHM Knowledge Campus involved our pupils past and present in two online activities, SNTD University and West Bengal State University faculty attended collaborative programmes with their counterparts in college.

Webinars conducted indicate the broad spectrum of exposure our staff and students receive in consonance with **the vision and mission** of the college. Several webinars to continue to motivate and enthuse the staff, students were conducted. **Inspirational talks** by renowned speakers for our **students of all Semesters** was an initiative of the college to fill our pupils with zeal during the troubled times when they were house-bound. Departments, too organized **web-talks on academic themes** and were able to avail of speakers from around the globe. As many as 104 such events were conducted during the year.

Staff development webinars of varied nature were held for both faculty and non-teaching staff during the academic year. Staff were also enabled to attend webinars of different nature organized by other institutions. In continuation with previous years, an **Induction Session for the parents** of the first-year students was conducted by a resource person; an **Orientation Programme** for the incoming students was prepared and conducted by both student Council and Society Staff – Advisors.

The IQAC initiated the **LEADS** (Loreto Empowerment and Development Series for Students) series of talks for our pupils. The latter was a follow-up on a request from student Office Bearers who were members of the IQAC. The IQAC also approved of Departmental web-talks which were indicators of Quality Assurance. A series of International Lecture Series on Environmental Sustainability was embarked upon to commemorate Pope Francis' '*Laudato Si*' and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress, improvement and evolution with the times has been the policy of the college. In order to **empower staff**, the college enabled a teacher to concentrate on professional studies by **deputing** her to complete **M.Ed**; **another deputed teacher completed M.Ed.** and yet another **deputed faculty** was **awarded** her **Ph. D** during the year.

The 4th and 5th issues of the college newsletter **Glimpses** were released. The colourfully depictive biannual, in online and hard copy-form describes interesting and memorable activities of college life.

A Research Cell-approved project undertaken by 2 Psychology students under the guidance of a faculty saw its way into a journal published during the year. Five outgoing third year students of the Education Department completed their inter-disciplinary dissertation in collaboration with a Psychology faculty member. There have been three **Research Cell** presentations in the academic year.

Two **publications of proceedings** of pre-Covid seminars, Landscapes on the Edge: Risks, Resilience & Restoration by the Geography Department and Psychopathology and Psychotherapy by the Psychology Department, saw the light of day during the trying circumstances of post-lockdown; this was in response to a request made to the faculty to use this time fruitfully to further research and publication. **Critical Imprints Volume VIII** by the English Department also came out in print; 'The Poetry Forum' and 'Arts Sake', by the Ug and PG students respectively, of the Department have been uploaded on the college website.

Value-based development of the college, in consonance with 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 continues to glow in our hearts. **Our service to women and the girl child** continues to fire us to bring education with relevance for social commitment in nation-building.

The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Coutinho". To the right of the signature is a circular official stamp. The stamp has a double-line border. The outer ring contains the text "LORETO COLLEGE" at the top and "KOLKATA" at the bottom, separated by two small stars. The inner circle contains the word "PRINCIPAL" in the center.

Sr. Christine Coutinho
Principal
Loreto College, Kolkata