

Loreto College, Kolkata Report 2022-2023

We, in Loreto College believe that *our pupils are made for the skies*, and have done our best to prepare them to fly high, while firmly rooted in values that will hold them in good stead. For the Academic Year 2022-2023, the College fared well in academics as well as in social service and related activities.

As in previous years, most of our pupils, having graduated, have proceeded for higher studies, in Universities in States across India and the globe. All B.Ed. teacher-trainees have secured **1st classes for the 16th year in succession** and many have found placement in schools; a few pursue studies with specialization in Education. Many students of the Master Department in English have proceeded for research, a few have obtained placements.

The **Loreto College Incubation Cell** is happy in its humble effort in empowering young women through enabling the commencement of **Start-ups** among the students. Helping hone the skills of the Undergraduate pupils while still in college has been rewarding; *Seed Money* generated by the cell and awarded to promising projects proposal, in keeping with the **National Education Policy (2020)** has helped the pupils grow in confidence in their **entrepreneurial abilities**, the chief collaborators being Lions Club.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) conducted a Youth Empowerment Programme of 100 hours for 3rd Year students (2 students have since obtained employment); IBM Skill Build was another motivational session for students. The B.Ed. students were exposed to a workshop on **STEAM Experiential Learning**, by International STEAM Research (ISR) as part of the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** commemorations. IIT Bombay, awarded the College **Budding Master** for its contribution as **Educator Resource** in the implementation of the **Spoken Tutorial** Project.

The College Outreach programme, the Women's Cell having completed its 25th year in the College perseveres in empowering young girls who drop out of school to **drop in** for studies, resulting in completion of education up to the Higher Secondary level. The **Silver Jubilee Celebrations and Reunion of past pupils of the Women's Cell** brought much joy to the Founder Mrs. Bubna and the teachers who have spent several years of dedicated service with our young pupils.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) Society of the College, in celebrating **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav** has focussed on outreach in areas of education (in our adopted school, Bal Shiksha Sadan), awareness campaigns on Dengue, Malaria, AIDS, health (through Eye Camp, a health camp for the support staff of the campus), the importance of conservation of water and greening our planet **Sustain the Blue by Saving the Green**, silent **Pheri** to create awareness for the need to protect the environment, *seed distribution* on World Environment day and several cleanliness drives. Two Blood Donation drives tapped the students' generosity to share of their good health with the others and a collection of books for **Gift a Library** to a Government School through a NGO were on-going projects. **Toy Joy**, through a collection of toys by the Social Service Society brought smiles to children faces on Children's Day.

Our past pupils have been instrumental in motivating and broadening perspectives for the students; **Teach for India** has inducted several pupils after graduation into meaningful service in schools for the less privileged, sessions on **Embarking on the Concrete Path, Editing and Publishing, Legal Awareness for Women, Personal Branding** are indications of the kindness of Alumnae and a desire to give back to the College, having found a niche for themselves in society, in the true spirit of our Founder, Venerable Mary Ward, "When I am in place I will serve thee".

Annual **Kalakriti** by the Psychology Society, a beautiful confluence of students from inclusive schools, schools for students with disability and the undergraduate students of the College brought

many a tear to the eye as did the commemoration of Downs Syndrome Day and Autism Day by the students of the Education Department; the latter has borne fruit in the signing of a MoU with Mentaid.

The College had signed 15 MoU's with other colleges around India under the aegis of Xavier Board of Higher Education during the course of the year. Collaborations have been kept active by the sharing of inspirational talks, and International Symposium ***Understanding the Importance of Gender Equity in Climate Change*** (in association with Lions Club, Mahanagar), an International Seminar sponsored by the National Commission for Women, ***Women in Sports in India: Politics, Nationalism and Media***, and another National Seminar, ***Gender Mainstreaming: The Road Ahead*** (with the support of ICSSR). Research papers were presented by the faculty from across the colleges with whom we have signed MoU's. A publication, ***Education...Gleanings***, the fruit of a seminar was released by an Alumna, Denise and her husband, Barry O'Brien, on the occasion of National Education Day.

The College in collaboration with Centre for Law and Policy Research, Bangalore, hosted the East Regional finals of the 6th edition of ***Con-Quest***, India's Premiere National Quiz on the ***Indian Constitution, History and Politics*** for the second time in succession. Human Rights Day was observed; several addresses on the place of the Child in National and International Law, ***Shadows Behind the Mask: Stop Human Trafficking*** dotted the academic year. The College in collaboration with the West Bengal Commission for the Protection of Child Rights conducted a session, ***Child Rights and the Media***. The B. Ed. Teacher-trainees, as part of social awareness and analysis considered ***The Current State of the Handloom Industry in West Bengal, Tribal Empowerment and Preservation, Mahatma Gandhi and his Ideas on Education: Reflections on the National Education Policy 2020***.

The transition from Lockdown online mode to physical classes has been a challenge; the faculty and staff tried help the students from different academic backgrounds come to terms with change and discipline; this will be an ongoing process in the months to come; the spill-over of delayed commencement of Semesters has been another task to contend with, and all in college have striven to support the students.

Students' Week was celebrated, wherein the pupils displayed their talents to the appreciation of their peers and the faculty; ***Samagam***, their annual much-awaited Youth Fest brought together youth from across the city and the enthusiasm ran high with the buzz of activity on campus. The revival of ***Put Your Best Foot Forward*** saw students dancing to their hearts content one afternoon, and was a hit.

The highlights of the year included collaborations, moving forward in faith, shoulder to shoulder with the students, so as to enable and empower them, helping them grow in self-assurance; striving for self-improvement, listening willingly to good counsel, showing courtesy to all, in the footsteps of our Founder, Venerable Mary Ward, and asking for Divine inspiration and largesse, "What will You have me do?"