

Loreto College, Kolkata
Department of Geography
Exploring Geography:
Academic Orientation through Exposure, Experience, & Alumnae Engagement
IQAC Initiative
November 13, 2024

The Department of Geography, Loreto College, Kolkata organized **Exploring Geography: Academic Orientation through Exposure, Experience, & Alumnae Engagement** in collaboration with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell on November 13, 2024.

The Academic Orientation of the Department has been a tradition over the last three decades. The Orientation programme began with the presentation of a documentary by the third-year students on the learnings of their field trip to Aizawl, Mizoram. Field trips have traditionally been important to geographers. The students put forward a comprehensive presentation of the study area highlighting their activities. Socio-economic survey of the households was conducted at the Tanhril Village, a rural center in the outskirts of Aizawl, where scholars from Mizoram University guided the students. An interactive session was organized by the Departments of Geography and Geology of the Mizoram University, where the students were enriched on the aspects of palaeomagnetism, weathering and landslides. Prismatic compass and Abney level surveys were conducted in Tanhril Village. A fluvial survey along River Tlawng, the longest river of Mizoram was conducted by the students.

The objectives and methodology involving the pre-field, field, and post-field experiences were addressed and presented through a documentary, which acted as a source of encouragement and enthusiasm for both the first and second years.

The resource person for the session on Alumnae Engagement titled **Climate change and the role of youth in shaping our future** was Sayanti Sengupta, Technical consultant, UNICEF/FAO/Red Cross, Germany.

Learning Objectives

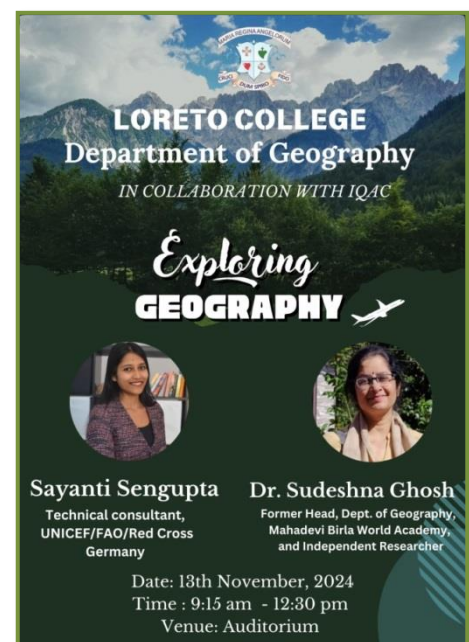
- Introduce the fundamental concepts of climate change
- Explore the current state of global climate discussions
- Introduce practical steps to reduce their carbon footprints

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the Interactive session the participants were able to:

- Understand the fundamental concepts of climate change
- Comprehend the current state of global climate discussions, including initiatives like the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Climate Change Conferences (COP), and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- Understand that youth are not just passive victims of climate change, but essential players in shaping a sustainable future

To make the session relatable, real-world case studies of climate action projects, including examples from India, were employed. Interactive elements like using a Mentimeter to quiz students on climate facts made the session engaging and informative.



The resource person for the Second Lecture titled **East Kolkata Wetlands: A Living Heritage – Internationally acclaimed locally unknown** was Dr. Sudeshna Ghosh, Former Head, Department of Geography, Mahadevi Birla World Academy and an independent researcher.

Learning Objectives

- To identify the various components of the ecosystem (natural and man-made) and recognise the traditional practices adopted by the locals
- Explore the landscape and how it has been transformed by the community
- To shed light on the functioning of the wetlands as a wastewater treatment plant
- To identify the threats adversely affecting the wetlands

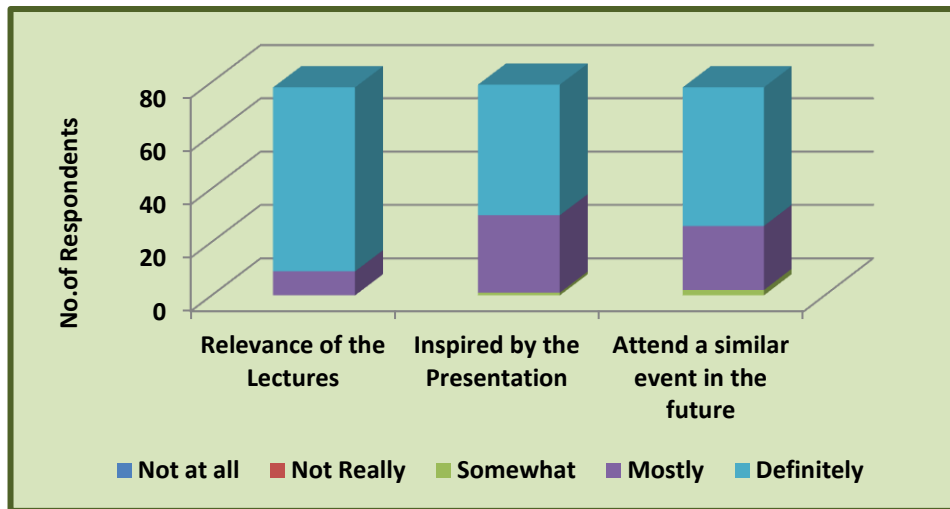
Learning Outcomes

At the end of the session the participants were able to:

- Understand the dynamics of conducting fieldwork
- Comprehend the functioning of this unique wetland ecosystem
- Understand why is Kolkata called ‘an ecologically subsidized city’, with respect to wastewater treatment
- Identify the threats affecting the wetlands and realize how the wetland landscape is changing in recent times



FEEDBACK



Total Participants – 82
Total Respondents – 78