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Loreto College Report 2021-2022

“Educate in such a manner that one does not get caught in the whirlpool of existence but live in the river of life” (adapted from J. Krishnamurthi). In Loreto College, the purpose of education as envisaged by our Founder Mary Ward and her successors is to empower young women to swim in the river of life with strong and professional strokes. Over the year the college has made an effort to help the students experience a variety of facets of college life by transcending these in the online mode.

During the year 2021-2022, the second pandemic year, the college went all-out to secure scholarships for the financially-challenged students in addition to those being granted by the college. Those receiving scholarships were inducted into a community service programme so that the students realized their social responsibility to reach out to others in need. One of these students has been awarded the CCIP (Community College Initiative Programme), USA Education Programme 2022-2023 and another the Global UGRAD programme at San Francisco State University, California.

With 6 months of the academic year being in the online mode, the students faced difficulty in reinstating themselves in the physical classroom. The faculty were patient with them in the process of re-induction, and our counsellors were attentive to those in need.

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council deputed a Peer Team Visit for the 4th Cycle of accreditation; the college was awarded an ‘A’ grade once more; thereafter an all-out effort has been made to follow the Peer Team Visit recommendations. So as to empower women and young girls, the Loreto College Incubation Centre (LCIC) was initiated whereby ‘recycle, reuse and renew’ is the focus, motivating us to have environmentally-friendly, reusable, marketable cloth bags stitched by needy young women in the campus. The LCIC will enable young students with an opportunity for entrepreneurship through the college, which will provide the seed for start-ups, the proposals of which have obtained approval by the committee.

An IIM Shillong online Bootcamp of 30 hours was offered to students, 76 of whom availed of this programme titled Bootcamp on Career Aspirants and Decision Making, thanks to the intervention of the Alumnae of the College. The beneficiaries were awarded certificates by the Director of IIM Shillong at an awards ceremony in the college on completion of the course. Other Enrichment Courses that the students participated in were Spanish, IIT Spoken Tutorial-Mumbai, Cursive Writing, Calligraphy, GIS, Mathematics for Competitive examinations, Self-Defence and Piano in the offline mode in the last Semester.

The Loreto College Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) under its LEADS has been active throughout the year, broadening and deepening the perspective of students, enabling an exposure to global education possibilities, reflection on environmental sustainability, understanding and organizing one’s finances, health and immunoboosters, international UN days through web-talks, and online and offline interactive sessions, including International Yoga Day among others.

3 publications have rolled out of the press – Critical Imprints Vol IX, Feminist Consciousness and its Literary Manifestations, and Education... Gleanings. A long awaited volume, The Loreto Institutions and Higher Education: Centenary Essays was also released at a simple, but beautiful programme.

Loreto College had the privilege of signing MoUs for academic and co-curricular interaction with ten colleges from around India under the aegis of the Xavier Board of Higher Education and is working at keeping each of these vibrant through programmes in the latter half of July 2022 and thereafter. A seminar proposal by the college was accepted by National Commission for Women and faculty and a student each of three of the Colleges with whom we have signed MoU's will be presenting papers and participating in the Seminar.

MoUs were also signed with Mentaid and Asia in Global Affairs, the former of which is an outreach to sensitize the pupils to reaching out to children with disability and the latter to enhance academic critical thinking. The collaboration with Asia in Global Affairs has borne fruit in a two days' International Conference in the blended mode at which some of our students listened to 26 renowned speakers and presented papers at a Roundtable; this event took place in the College Auditorium and was much appreciated.

Annual events Kalakriti in the online mode, and Historia and Ecolore in the offline mode by the Psychology, History and Economics Departments, respectively, were conducted. Student Council elections and Investiture were both organized online; Mr. Jawhar Sircar was the Chief Guest for Investiture. Mrs. Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation so graciously delivered the much appreciated annual Neelu Sacheti Memorial Lecture.

Two free Covid-19 Vaccination camps were conducted in the College for students, parents and staff of the college in collaboration with Kolkata Municipal Corporation at which 248 persons benefited. A Blood Donation Camp evoked generosity in 83 healthy student blood donors; students also donated blood to patients in hospitals at the request of their relatives.

The college was accorded the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education Green Campus Award for Kolkata District and the Dr. Sashi Bhusan Ray Memorial Award by the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors, West Bengal for the highest number of blood donors among all women educational institutions.

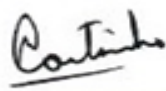
The students participated in a virtual National Inter-collegiate festival -Kaleidoscope hosted by Sophia College, Mumbai and were acclaimed as Winners among Outstation Colleges. Students' Week was celebrated with a virtual Musical Talent Show which witnessed an enjoyable showcase of talent. A multi-gym installed in the Sister Stella Lahiry Wellness Centre is the latest attraction for the students. A Drug Awareness programme was organized for the students of the 2nd and 4th Semester; a Police Officer formerly from the Narcotics Department of Kolkata Police delivered an informative and interactive lecture that held the attention of the audience and evolved questions.

Recruitment drives for placement saw Bajaj Allianz, Life Insurance Company, German Portals, ICICI Bank, Cognizant, PWC come to campus for placements and internships for our students; most of them, however, opt for higher education in India and overseas.

The Women's Cell, the outreach programme of the college has persevered through the Lockdown through personal contacts with students. The college is making an effort to adopt a village in Naihati; a pilot visit has proved successful. The 'adopt a family' project near its completion in post-Covid times as the bread-winner is reinstating himself in employment.

All B.Ed. students secured 1st class in the academic year 2021-2022, for the 14th year in succession. At the under-graduate level remedial classes and much-needed Mentoring have enabled the students to cope with academic. In order to authenticate the vision and mission of the college, Inspirational Talks and web-talks by persons of eminence have fanned to flame the youthful spirit of our pupils who search for relevance.

In order to motivate research among the faculty, a policy has been prepared by which faculty publishing papers in UGC-CARE listed journals will receive an incentive of relief of two classes a Semester. One teacher will benefit from this initiative in the current academic year. The manifold activities in the college have a thrust on social upliftment intertwined with academic progression. The spark that keeps the fire in Loreto College aglow, is "Do good and do it well" (Mary Ward) and this propels the students forward.



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