

Institutional Values and Best Practices

Women's Christian College, Kolkata has been steadily forging ahead since its inception in July 1945, adapting to the changes in the world around it but invariably retaining its core values of service, integrity and discipline. It hopes to live up to its mission of churning out confident, selfless and responsible young women who would be of service to society as well as assets of our nation in the years to come. Our college tries to inculcate lofty moral values in our wards and adopts salutary practices to that end. Below is a list of the institutional values and best practices that the college has been implementing to achieve a holistic growth amongst all its stakeholders.

2018-2019

Academic Collaborations

- **Academic partnerships** with esteemed institutes like **The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata (CSSSC)** and **Centre for Environment and Economic Development (CEED), New Delhi, a research institute affiliated to NITI Aayog, Government of India**, have been forged with the objective of upgrading the overall know-how of all the different stakeholders, (especially students), even while revitalizing the overall academic ambience of our institute. In fact, the **panel discussion** on **“Questioning Citizenship: The NRC Debate,”** that was hosted in our college in collaboration with **CSSSC** on 25th September, 2018, marked the beginning of such collaborative ventures.

Faculty and Student Exchange Programmes

- **Academic exchanges** in the form of **Faculty and Student Exchange Programmes** were arranged for, by the **Departments of History and Bengali** of our college, in collaboration with those of **Bangabasi Morning College** and **Women's College, Baghbazar**, in **August and September 2018** respectively, that benefited a large number of students and faculty alike in both the concerned institutes. Additionally, our students across several departments have presented academic papers in inter-college students' meets like **Historia (Loreto College)**, **Clioventure (RKM Narendrapur)** et al.

Workshops on Intellectual Property Rights

- Our IQAC took the initiative of hosting a **Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights** on **7th September, 2018**, while the Department of Economics also held a similar **Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights-Emerging Issues and the Implications for Indian Economy**, on **20th September, 2018**.

Introduction of New Certificate Courses

- In keeping with the view that a working knowledge of English would definitely improve the chances of our students' employability, a **(14 Hours) Certificate Course on English Language** was introduced from **September 2018 to March 2019**, in collaboration with the **School of Languages, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, (RKMIC) Golpark**.
- A short professional course of **25 hours duration/ 2 months** on **QGIS software** was conducted in our college by **Opsis Academy** from **September 2018** under the aegis of the **Dept of Geography**.

Alumnae Association Initiatives

- Our Alumnae Association has helped our college to acquire and install a **10 KW Solar Rooftop PV Grid Connection Energy System** that is fully funded by the **West Bengal Renewable Energy Development Agency (WBREDA)**, through the generous patronage of **Shri Sobhandeb Chattopadhyaya, Honourable Minister of Power and NES, Government of West Bengal**, on **December 1, 2018**.

Co-curricular Initiatives

- In order to inculcate genuine **reading habit** amongst today's younger generation, the **Department of English** took the initiative of setting up a **Reading Club** in **2018**, which in turn **collaborated** with **New Alipore College** in hosting a **Poetry Reading Festival** on **27th March, 2019**. This inter-college event featured poetry readings from nationally renowned poets as well as from students of various colleges across the city.
- A **book exhibition** on **Rabindranath Tagore** was organized on **8th May 2019** to mark the Bard's birth anniversary.

Divyanjyan Initiatives towards fostering inclusivity

- In its bid to fulfil its **Divyanjyan** commitment, our college has been sensitizing students on **inclusivity**, besides spearheading infrastructural revamping in the form of setting up of **ramps, rails and a lift** so as to cater to the needs of its **specially-abled students**. The Alumnae Association too on its part helped the college to acquire a **wheelchair** for the benefit of those physically indisposed.
- Our students attended the annual programme - **ANWESHAN, 2018**, conducted by the **NGO - ANWESHA**, on **29th September, 2018** at Madhusudan Mancha, to identify the special educational needs of children with hearing impairment and the importance of instilling inclusive education.
- **The Inclusiveness Studies and Practices Centre (ISPC)** that was set up in the college around March, 2018 with a view to instilling empathy, involvement, compassion and responsibility in the students and other stakeholders about the exclusionary practices that are rampant in society, arranged the screening of the award-winning film, '**Nibhritochar**' (**Solitary Soul**) on "**Active and Community Ageing**," on **3rd October, 2018**, in collaboration with the **Cine Club** of our college. The film exhibition was also accompanied by a lively interaction on the subject of **gerontological problems** in society, by its award-winning director Sri Sourav Sarkar, to sensitize students about the problems faced by our senior citizens.
- Our students have participated in the rally of **DAF (Disability Activists Forum)** on **3rd December, 2018**. The students realized the significance of improving the existing practices pertaining to inclusivity, and evolve better methodologies of action so that our institutional commitment to inclusiveness remained real, relevant and sustainable.
- Our NSS unit also arranged a programme on **HIV Awareness** that was sponsored by the **Red Ribbon Club** on **11th January, 2019**. The **Durbar Mahila Sammanyay Samiti** was also roped in for the occasion to spread **AIDS Awareness**.

Gender Sensitization Programmes

Our college takes immense pride in conducting several outreach activities, that are mostly organised under the banner of our NSS Unit, as well as by the Women's Study Cell of our college. Below is a

list of such activities spearheaded by our student volunteers and staff members that was especially in keeping with gender sensitization:

- A **Workshop on Gender Equality** was organized on **16th November, 2018**.
- **International Women's Day** was celebrated this year under the aegis of our **Women's Study Cell**. A **Global Mentoring Walk and Panel Discussion** on '**Women Leading Sustainability Development in the World**' was held, organized as it was by **Rakshak Foundation** in association with **Vital Voices** on **9th March, 2019**.
- A Gender Sensitisation programme on "**Transgender Empowerment**" was conducted on **30th April, 2019**

Extra-Curricular Activities and Achievements

- The **Sports and Adventure Club (SAC)** of our college, encouraged its student volunteers to attend a nationally certified **five-day Kayaking and Disaster Management Course** organized by the **National Adventure Foundation (NAF)**, West Bengal Chapter, (recognized by the **Ministry of Youth Affairs**), from **6th to 10th July, 2018**. **15 students** successfully completed the course that was conducted by certified NAF trainers on the **Hoogli River**.
- Our **Students' Union** organised the **Annual Talent Search Contest** between **6th - 7th September, 2018**, which saw **85 students** showcasing their talent through different cultural contests.
- **Sacchatoya Roy** and **Krishna Senapati**, Dept of History, secured **Third Position** in the **Inter-College Quiz Competition**, on *Sister Nivedita* organised by Bethune College on **15th September, 2018**.
- A **four-day (4th-8th March, 2019) rock climbing course** was organised by **SAC** in collaboration with **NAF West Bengal Chapter** at **Mudidih, in Purulia**. **13 students** and 2 faculty

members participated in this camp, where basic courses on rock climbing, mountaineering, equipment handling, safety management, rappelling, zip-lining, trekking and hiking etc. were provided by certified trainers from **NAF and Shikhar Mountaineering Camp**.

ICT Initiatives

- Our institute makes optimal use of latest **ICT** in order to augment regular classroom lectures. Thus, the chalk and duster methods are being complemented by smart classrooms, ICT - enabled class rooms, classrooms with LCDs and smart boards, projectors in auditorium and audio-visual rooms, besides smart televisions in Chapel and Conference Hall.
- Besides, while some departments have **webpages** of their own, students of other departments are encouraged to connect with their teachers online and interact or clarify academic issues with them.
- Moreover, since our college believes in keeping its stakeholders abreast with latest technological mores, teachers and students have undergone **ICT training in FOSS** like as before.
- A Two Days' Workshop cum hands on training programme on the **Application of ICT and E-learning Module in Teaching-Learning System was held in our college between 13th -14th July, 2018.**
- In fact, the **E-lecture on Play-Way Education**, held by the Department of Education, on **6th August, 2018**, being a first of its kind in our college, set the ball rolling for similar such ones to be had in future. The innovative meet had **Dr. Charlotte Vegas Simpson, of St. Xavier's College**, taking classes with our students **on a virtual platform**.
- The Department of Bengali and our College Central Library organized a '**Workshop on Digital Archiving**' in collaboration with the **Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata**. Mr. Rupinder Singh, Technical Assistant, Librarian, CSSSC, conducted a workshop on **10th August 2018**, that was attended by 10 staff members.
- Equipped with a Wi-Fi enabled campus, our College also takes pride in having an Academic Library that enjoys electronic support, equipped as it is with E-resources – the latest being ***Bhugoliyo***, that has recently been brought out by the **Department of Geography in September, 2018**.

- Our college has a very rich collection of rare books and journals on social sciences and literature. It even **purchased two e-books, viz.** Handbook of Urban Studies, and The Sage Handbook of Special Education and **four e-journals** namely (a) Bioscope South Asian Screen Studies, (b) Indian Journal of Gender Studies, (c) Journal of Education for Sustainable Development (d) South Asian Research.

Placement and Career Counselling Drives

⑩ Our College tries its utmost to rope in various corporate houses by way of generating employment for its students. Some such collaborative ventures with industrial houses that had been forged in the current year are listed below:

- A one hour Orientation Programme was conducted by **Bank Edge**, an organisation, providing **training to the students for Banking and Primary Teachers' Training Programme in August, 2018.**
- A **Placement Workshop cum Orientation Programme** was conducted by **ICICI Foundation** where they met 30 students (that included some of our past pupils too), in the first stage, and a shortlisted 20 in the second, for their 12-week long **internship programme, in August and September, 2018** respectively.
- The reputed printing house, **The Times Of India** organised a postcard writing competition to inject life into the fast disappearing art of postcard-writing in our college campus.
- A one hour **Career-cum-Academic Counselling** lecture presentation was delivered by Sri Tanmoy Roy, Career Adviser & Admission Consultant/ Business Head, **Product and Digital Marketing** of a California based leading education cum technology company in **November 2018.**
- A **Career Counselling Programme** was conducted by **International School of Designing (INSD)** in **February 2019.**
- A month-long Student **Internship Programme** was held with **Wrytin Internshala** which saw **Gudaba Sreshtha**, our 3rd Year English Honours student taking part, from **15th April 2018 to 15th May, 2018.**

Initiatives towards Environmental Sustainability

Our institute believes in ecological sustainability. It strives its utmost at making the campus as **green** and **plastic-free** as possible. In keeping with such a desired objective, the **Eco Club** of our college adopted the following measures in its effort to institutionalize its environmental policy:

- The re-purposing of the existing **Rainwater Harvesting System** of our institute is still very much in place as before – (collecting and discharging/distributing 361200 litres of water annually) for groundwater recharge through recharge pits and waste water management in the cisterns and toilets of the ground floor.
- The **Eco Club** has also collaborated with the **Swachh Bharat Mission** team in the college to renovate the hostel kitchen, modernize students' wash-rooms, and participate in clean-up drives in the locality. Our **NSS Unit** had also initiated the move towards **sprinkling bleaching powder amidst our neighbourhood slum of Saheb Bagan** on **7th September, 2018**, both in keeping with the Swachh Bharat Mission as well as with a view to preventing the outbreak of dengue, malaria and other vector borne diseases.
- Our Eco Club volunteers along with our NSS students have in fact gone on a **door-to-door campaign** to educate the residents of our adopted slum **to use toilets and keep the civic spaces clean.**
- Apart from maintaining a **Green Audit** as before, our Eco Club **supervises the maintenance** of the **sanitary napkin vending machine** (which had been installed earlier with monetary help received from the Government of West Bengal), with a view to keeping the **health and hygiene** issues of its student stakeholders in mind.
- The **Eco Club** has also helped the college earn a **Certificate of Merit** from the **Green Revolution Global Certification Program** under the aegis of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**, which benefited as many as 32 students.
- A one day **International Conference on Sustainable Living Concerns: A Perspective on**

Psycho-Social Environment was jointly organised by the **Departments of Education, Sociology and Eco Club** of the college in collaboration with **CEED, India**, on **3rd January, 2019**. It promoted academic discussions and presentations on various aspects of environmental sustainability with a multi-disciplinary and global approach.

- In a bid to celebrate **World Environment Day**, students and faculty members of our NSS Unit attended the Calcutta University-sponsored special programme on **Environmental Awareness** on **5th June, 2018**.

Initiatives to make our Campus eco-friendly

- Apart from having a proper **e-waste disposal system** in place, our college also tries to recycle electronic gadgets and paper as far as possible.
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- Regular programmes on **disaster management** and **ecological awareness** are also held in the college, celebrating important occasions such as **World Meteorological Day** for instance, to sensitize students. This year **Earth Day** too was celebrated on **23rd April 2018**, with student volunteers making power point presentations on the menace of plastic usage, in keeping with the significance of the occasion.
 - Senior student volunteers of the **Eco Club** addressed new entrants in the club through a power point presentation titled **Green Habits, Clean Habits**, to guide and generate awareness about the **green practices** of the college on **28th August, 2018**.
 - With a view towards making our alumnae economically self-reliant as well as to champion the cause of a plastic-free environment, even while promoting the use of plastic-substitutes such as jute, paper and cloth, **the Women's Study Cell, the Placement Cell and the Eco Club** of our college organized a first of its kind **exhibition-cum-sale of handmade and environment – friendly products** at our college premises on **1st October, 2018**.

Infrastructural Makeovers

- Our college has even built a **G+3 new building** with ample and spacious classrooms, with each floor possessing separate rest rooms and water purifiers. The ground floor of the new building

houses our **Central Library** as well as a cosy **cafeteria** for students and staff alike. The new building has also been equipped with a modern, state of the art **gymnasium** for both students and staff, fitted as it is with a large range of **cardio machines, free weights, lifting facilities** and a fully sprung floor with space for group classes and yoga, along with a separate **staffroom** for its faculty members.