

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

2021 - 2022

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Loreto College aims at enhancement of quality culture and academic excellence. In view of this, the Cell has made efforts to incorporate suggestions and recommendations put forward by the various stakeholders. The following are the areas which were identified, and actions were taken for enhancing and evaluating quality in higher education.

New Initiatives

Upholding the Vision of IQAC which aims at being instrumental in organizing programmes on quality related themes and facilitating creation of a learner – centric environment.

1. International Lecture Series on Environmental Sustainability

- The International Lecture Series on Environmental Sustainability was initiated by IQAC to address and raise awareness about the environment. It was a privilege to collaborate with the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** Commission on Ecosystems Management (CEM) - Mountain Ecosystems Specialists Group for the first lecture by Dr. Heidi Steltzer, Fort Lewis College, University of Colorado, U.S.A and IPCC Lead Author on Mountain Ecosystems on July 24, 2021.
- The second International Lecture Series on Environmental Sustainability was in collaboration with Resilience Innovation Knowledge Academy (RIKA), the resource person was Dr. Ranit Chatterjee, Kyoto University, Japan on September 29, 2021

2. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

- The curtain raiser of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrating 75 Years of Independence was organized on Matryr's Day January 30, 2022. Social and cultural events, showcasing of scientific accomplishments and technological advancements will be a part of these celebrations. The series of events to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence will be based on public participation and revolve around five themes- the freedom struggle, ideas, achievements, actions and resolve at 75.

- Events organized under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav are as follows:
 - ✚ **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav Two – Day Workshop** on Techniques of Scientific Research Writing and Prevention of Plagiarism – Department of Geography February 8 -9, 2022
 - ✚ **Webinar** on Nationalism in Bengal – Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav – Department of History, March 12, 2022
 - ✚ **Veerangana 2022 International Women’s Day** – National Service Scheme Society, March 8, 2022
 - ✚ **Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav ICSSR Sponsored National Webinar**– Some Facets of Revolutionary Nationalism in Bengal - Department of History, April 23, 2022
 - ✚ **World Intellectual Property Day - Loreto LEADS Webinar** on Usage of IPR in Academic Domain, April 26, 2022

Commemoration of days of International and National importance

- ✚ Doctors’ Day Webinar July 1, 2021
- ✚ *A Tribute to Ocean of Knowledge* commemorating Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar’s Bicentenary Birth Anniversary July 19, 2021
- ✚ National Education Day November 11, 2021
- ✚ National Organ Donation Day November 27, 2021
- ✚ National Pollution Prevention Day December 2, 2021
- ✚ International Mountain Day December 11, 2021
- ✚ National Cleanliness Day January 30, 2022
- ✚ World Cancer Day February 3, 2022
- ✚ International Women’s Day March 8, 2022
- ✚ World Down Syndrome Day March 24, 2022
- ✚ World Intellectual Property Day April 26, 2022
- ✚ World Environment Day June 5, 2022
- ✚ International Yoga Day June 25, 2022
- ✚ World Music Day was celebrated on June 25, 2022.

These are the prominent days commemorated. In addition, many such days of importance were observed and the reports of each of them are uploaded on the institute’s website.

Formation of a Start Up

Loreto College Incubation Centre (LCIC) a Start Up has been initiated. The preliminary project of the Incubation Centre focuses on making a range of bags out of used fabric. This eco- friendly and sustainable venture hopes to inculcate the values of environmental consciousness among the community while training students in business operations. The Loreto College Incubation Centre organized its first sale on June 7, 2022 that was a success.

Memorandum of Understanding – A Step towards Positive Collaboration

Ten Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed with the following colleges:

- i) Jesus and Mary College, New Delhi (composite with D. El. Ed.)
- ii) St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai
- iii) Patna Women's College (Autonomous), Patna (composite with B.Ed.)
- iv) St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet
- v) Providence College for Women (Autonomous), Coonoor
- vi) Loyola Academy, Secunderabad
- vii) Salesian College, Sonada-Siliguri
- viii) Nirmala College, Ranchi
- ix) St. Ann' College of Education (Autonomous), Secunderabad (B.Ed. College)
- x) Mount Carmel College of Teacher Education for Women, Kottayam (B.Ed. College)

All the Departments have framed Proposals for collaboration with the above institutions at different levels.

Focus on Research Methodology

To encourage a culture and develop an environment of motivating students in research the following programmes were organized:

- Department of History organised a **Web talk on *Historical Research*** on December 17, 2021. The speaker, Professor Anindita Mukhopadhyay from the University of Hyderabad, elucidated how research in History is not just about the 'subject' but also about a deep involvement with the learning of languages.
- **Webinar titled *APA Style Research Paper Referencing and Formatting*** was organized by the Department of Psychology, on November 25, 2021. Ms Shankhabela Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Loreto College, was the resource person. Ms Mukherjee lucidly explained the process of referencing and formatting as proposed in the 7th revision by the American Psychological Association for reporting research. She highlighted the differences between the previous editions and the current edition.
- **Two – Day Workshop on *Techniques of Scientific Research Writing and Prevention of Plagiarism*** – Department of Geography February 8 -9, 2022

Research Promotion

The Research Cell is motivating faculty and students to undertake research projects and publish their research findings in reputed journals and particularly those in the UGC CARE List.

The Critical Imprints – Annual Peer-reviewed Journal by the Department of English, Vol IX, 2021 was launched.

Book titled **Feminist Consciousness and Its Literary Manifestations**, Co - Edited by Dr. Sanghita Sanyal and Sonal Kapur, Published by the Departments of English, Loreto College and The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata, 2021

Book titled **Psychopathology and Psychotherapy: A Review of Causes, Consequences and Curative Measures**, Edited by faculty members of the Department of Psychology, Loreto College was released on September 7, 2021

In pursuance of the Mission of Loreto College, the Research Cell organized the following events to promote research culture in faculty and students.

- A presentation on **Colonising Caste: The Early Census Operations in India (1872-1901)** was organised by the Research Cell, Loreto College, Kolkata on March 5, 2022. The speaker was Dr. Krisnokoli Hazra, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loreto College, Kolkata
- Research cell hosted two presentations, the first was on *An Assessment of the Intention of Married individuals in Kolkata towards Professional Psychological Help seeking and its Predictors* by students of the Department of Psychology.

The second group presented a paper titled *An Exploratory Study on Mental Health and Interpersonal relationships of Adults during work from home situation in Covid 19 Pandemic*.

Action taken on suggestions

The following actions were taken on the basis of the feedback from students and members:

1. On the basis of the suggestion given by Dr. Chatterjea, the first Loreto LEADS Webinar for the academic year 2021 – 2022 focused on **Financial Independence and Technology as an enabler** was Ms. Chhavi Wadhvani, Executive Director, Head of Securities Reference Data Technology, India at Morgan Stanley Advantage Services. The main objective of this webinar was to create awareness among the students regarding attaining financial literacy. The session was geared specifically

towards women and the financial challenges they face as they navigate their careers, families and lives

2. Under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav the World Intellectual Property Day was commemorated with a Loreto LEADS Webinar on **Usage of IPR in Academic Domain**. Dr. Deevanshu Shrivastava, Head, School of Public Policy, Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal.
3. As per the suggestions for future course of action the IQAC and valuable suggestion by Mrs. Prasad regarding the growing importance of HR, under the aegis of the Loreto LEADS Series organized a Webinar **From Classroom to Corporate** on how to face the interview board and how to write a Resume. This was conducted by Ms. Aditi Mukherjee, Executive Vice President & Head HR, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX), Mumbai. The Reports of all these events are uploaded to the college website.
4. **Staff Development Webinar on Wellness** a College Initiative had a session with eminent alumna and Professor of Dance in the Uday Shankar Chair at the Rabindra Bharati University, Amita Dutt. Her presentation focused on The Power of Dance in Achieving Well Being – Physical and Mental. This was one of the suggestions made by Mrs. Khullar in the last meeting.
5. Web Talk **The Beacon Beckons – Steering Graduates to a Career in Civil Services** – Department of Economics
6. Panel Discussion on **Gender Dynamics in Disaster Risk and Resilience** – Women's Studies Society
7. Webinar on **Unfolding the Mystery of Autism** – Department of Education
8. National Webinar on **Psychoanalysis Today, in an Era of Quick – Fix** – Department of Psychology
9. Two – Day Workshop on **Techniques of Scientific Research Writing and Prevention of Plagiarism** – Department of Geography

Faculty empowerment

- International and national Webinars were organized for faculty empowerment. Faculty members were encouraged to participate in various activities at national and international levels. Several faculty members participated in Orientation and Refresher Courses.
- Faculty members are motivated to pursue quality research. Several publications in the journals of high repute with good impact factors, presentation of research work by faculty in conferences and students are the testimony to the intensification of research culture in the college.

Focus on Learning outcome

Webinars, Special Lectures and Talks by eminent personalities were organized by all the departments. The IQAC has acted as a nodal agency for coordinating quality – related activities and has stressed that each of the programmes organized in the college have specified the Learning Outcomes of the same.

The departments list out the Objectives of their respective events as well as specify the associated Learning outcomes. These are statements that describe the knowledge or skills students should acquire by the end of a particular course / programme. Thus, the aim of IQAC is to focus on the potential applications of knowledge and skills that would help students in the future and would help guide assessment and evaluation.

The Learning Objectives and Outcomes are uploaded in the college website.

Regular updating of departmental websites

The academic year witnessed numerous events ranging from International / National Webinars, Special Lectures, Panel Discussion, Memorial Lectures, Debates and Workshops organized by departments and societies in collaboration with IQAC.

The format of the reports of these events were standardized, which included the Learning Objectives and Outcomes. This promoted a culture of Outcome – based learning. The Webinar/ Programme Rating was incorporated in the Report, which assessed the effectiveness of the event. The rating in a cartographic format reflected the opinion of the participants who expressed their views through Feedback Forms which were mailed to their registered email IDs. This online mode of evaluation was robust and prompt, which helped us not only to celebrate our achievements but highlighted areas which needed improvement. These Feedback Reports have been uploaded in the College Website.

National Integrity/ Contribution to National Development

- Inspired by the Gandhian vision of India's future lying in its villages, the NSS Society of Loreto College, Kolkata organized an introductory visit to a remote area of a village named Harishpur located in the vicinity of Naihati Station, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, on May 22, 2022.
- A webinar on **Rural Entrepreneurship** was organized by the Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Entrepreneurship (MGNCRE) Cell, on the February 24, 2022. The resource person for the webinar was Mrs Tuti Sandhya, senior faculty MGNCRE, Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Academic Quality enhancement

Bridge course was taught by the departments of Geography and English, which enabled the freshers to embark on college life.

A bridge course for newly admitted students was conducted before the commencement of the first semester syllabus prescribed by the University of Calcutta. The main objective of the course is to bridge the gap between subjects studied at Higher secondary level and subjects they would be studying in Graduation. The syllabus for the course was framed in a manner wherein the students would gain basis knowledge of the subject which they have opted.

Promotion of Inclusiveness

Keeping in mind the suggestions provided by our members to organize programmes to raise awareness on inclusion of the differently abled, the following programmes were organized addressing these suggestions.

- Kalakriti - A Celebration of All Abilities, the annual event of the Psychology Society of Loreto College aims to provide a platform to differently abled children to showcase their talents, on the virtual platform of YouTube, in the form of a video premiere
- Webinar on *Unfolding the Mystery of Autism* – Department of Education
- The Department of Education, Loreto College in collaboration with MENTAID, Kolkata celebrated the World Down Syndrome Day (March 21) on March 24, 2022.

Addressed Mental Health Issues

Mental health problems have emerged as one of the biggest challenges of the pandemic. In order to address this sensitive yet pertinent issue the following programmes were organized:

- **National Webinar on *Psychoanalysis Today, in an Era of Quick – Fix*** – Department of Psychology
- The Department of B.Ed. of Loreto College, Kolkata, organised a special lecture by Ms. Shuchismita Raha on ***New Challenges in Education and the New Age Teacher***. She explained the paradigm shift in education and technology in the pandemic years and the new challenges which teachers have to face in the post-pandemic era
- The Psychology Department conducted a ***Webinar on Yoga and Mental Health***. Yoga is practiced as part of a healthy lifestyle not only in India, but also abroad. It has several benefits, such as relaxation, de-stressing, regulation of blood sugar and blood pressure and has also been found to be beneficial in producing helpful brain chemicals like endorphins.

Alumni Interaction

The Department of Geography, Loreto College organized an **Academic Orientation** for the students of the Department, especially the freshers on December 20, 2021. This endeavour facilitated sharing knowledge and helped build strong relationship between the students and alumni. This proved an apt platform to recognize alumni who have achieved success played a pivotal role across various sectors.

An **Alumnae Webinar** titled Using Material Objects in Qualitative Research was organized by the Department of Geography. Dr. Jayani Jeanne Bonnerjee, Assistant Professor, O.P. Jindal University and an alumnus of 1999 Batch of the Department of Geography was the resource person.

Covid – 19 had adversely affected the education sector. In the wake of the pandemic the staff of Loreto College has adapted and adopted several interventions and innovations to maintain the continuity of quality education. The college witnessed the smooth transition back from virtual to the physical classroom. The college has been resilient and managed the crisis to the best of its ability. The college was successful in organizing events in a hybrid mode and plans to organize programmes in an online, offline and hybrid platform and uphold the Vision of the college.