

Institutional Distinctiveness

Loreto College is a part of the Order of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded by Mary Ward. The founder's vision was to empower women to take charge of the future and make a difference in the world. An extension of that commitment, Loreto College, Kolkata is proud of its contribution to society in nurturing women of substance and compassion in the 107 years of its existence. The creative and sensitive approach of the College coupled with the desire to accommodate change helps create an environment conducive for the holistic development of students. While the College encourages academic excellence it lays great emphasis on personality development and community service.

The aim of empowerment is not just to help students realise their privileged position but to also educate them on how to utilize their privilege to alleviate the suffering of others. Values and concern for the community can never be taught, they are imbibed through example and practice. Therefore through its own ingenious ways, the College tries to inculcate these values in students. Some of the established practices of the College in this regard are:

- **Value education:** The Principal of the College conducts weekly Value Education classes throughout the year with every batch. The objective of these classes is to impart life and soft skills which help the students stand out in the world of mechanical learning and working processes.
- **Social Service Society and NSS:** There is an active Social Service Society which along with the NSS acts as the perfect platform for students to reach out to society at large. By organising blood donation camps, cleaning campaigns under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and visits to NGOs these societies encourage participation from students. Mandatory Social Service is a compulsory aspect of the curriculum for final year students.
- **Inclusive Education:** Providing equal access to the differently-abled is a priority of the College. The College is now a barrier free campus with the installation of ramps, construction of special washrooms, upgradation of lift facilities and availability of writers and sound recorders for the visually-challenged. In this regard special mention ought to be made of Kalakriti, a special programme organized by the Psychology Department each year to showcase the talents of the differently-abled and provide a forum for theoretical discussions on inclusive education.
- **The Loreto College Women's Cell:** The Women's Cell of the College was founded in September 1996 to provide free non-formal education to young women who have had no opportunity to go to school. With the main thrust being adult literacy, teachers comprising college staff, retired staff, alumnae and friends offer voluntary service in the Women's Cell to help students who had dropped out from school, to pass the board exams through the National Indian Open School.
- **A Public Speaking Course for SC, ST and Minority community students** is held to impart self-confidence in students coming from less-privileged homes and for first generation learners.