

## Best Practices

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata aims at forming young men and women of academic excellence, competence, commitment, compassion and conscience, making its own contribution towards a transformation of the present-day social condition so that the principles of social justice, equality of opportunity, genuine freedom and respect for religious and moral values, enshrined in the Constitution of India, may prevail, and the possibility of living a fully human existence may be open before all.

St. Xavier's has always been known for its cosmopolitan and national character and has fostered among its students the spirit and practice of oneness, brotherhood and integration ensuring that they live in complete harmony, understanding and mutual respect. Thus they are encouraged to rise above local and group affinities, to develop loyalties to the country and to society at large.

### The Context

Curriculum development and updating has to be done on a continuous basis, in keeping with the contemporary needs of various stakeholders. To ensure this the institution has to upgrade the system of continuous feedback from various sections of the society.

The diversity of student composition comprising advanced and slow learners poses a serious challenge to the level and content of the lectures. The teachers have to make a special effort to address and reach out to all cross sections of the class.

Newer models of teaching have to be effectively devised in order to offer the students a holistic perspective on such subjects as Religious Studies, which requires an in depth understanding and research of complex issues. Creating secular awareness in multi-cultural society is what the course tries to ambitiously achieve.

Progress of serious academic research and sharing the fruits by reaching out to the society is another important contextual issue faced by the institution. The

institution has to constantly engage in the process of building and maintaining a research culture along with appropriate outreach programs to bring the marginalized sections of the society within the fold of our social services.

Promotion of learning requires continuous upkeep and development of both physical and academic infrastructure including hostels, a library with state-of-the-art facilities as also archives rich in heritage collections, along with a supportive campus infrastructure with special attention to the needs of differently abled students.

Finally, to put it all in proper perspective the institution has to nurture and develops its rich legacy of Jesuit Leadership and Governance with time-tested as also newly evolving methods of effective management practices.

## The Practices

Our best practices include multifarious activities spread across each of the broad areas of the Quality indicator Framework developed by NAAC. Here we highlight some of these best practices and their uniqueness in the present context of our higher education scenario. These are some of the steps that go a long way in promoting the values of liberty, equality, fraternity, tolerance and humanity enshrined in the Indian Constitutional among the students who are the future citizens of the country.

### 1) Teaching-Learning

The basic thrust in the teaching-learning process is student-centric classroom academics where every faculty member makes individual effort to cater to the varying requirements of the students. The Continuous Internal Assessments help teachers to distinguish the capable and slow learners so that their individual academic needs may be monitored. Remedial classes are also organized for the weak and slow learners. The Students are motivated to think on their own in order to sharpen their critical acumen and original thinking. It also hones their analytical and interpretive skills. Regular interactions between faculty members and students beyond class hours improve inter-personal relation between teachers and students.

## 2) Foundation Course (A: Inter-religious Studies and Social Harmony, B: Personality Development)

The Foundation Course introduced in the curriculum offers the students a panoramic exposure to newer methods of acquiring knowledge about society and environment, to foster a secular and democratic attitude through courses like Religious Studies and Personality Development.

## 3) Confluence of Students from all Sections of Society

The college makes every effort to be a bridge between the rural-urban divide, taking the benefits of education to the poor and the marginalized with the aim of their empowerment. One of the missions is to ensure access and equity in higher educational opportunity to all deserving and meritorious students particularly those from the marginalized sections, irrespective of religious avocation. This mission is accomplished through reservation for SC/ ST/ OBC/ socially and economically disadvantaged students in admission and financial assistance to such students.

## 4) Rural Campus

The college has opened a campus at Raghampur, South 24 Parganas, dedicated to and meant to serve and empower rural students. Most of the students of this campus are first generation learners and the majority of them are girls. The college administration provides quality education to these students at a highly subsidized tuition fee. To ensure that the students of this campus feel at home in the main campus, they are involved in sports and other cultural activities of the main campus. The college does not count the financial outlay that continues to be invested in this campus. It is inherent in our commitment to the underprivileged and marginalized, to provide opportunity to those on the fringes to join in the mainstream of life.

## 5) Mentorship

A mentor-professor is given charge of each class to ensure care, concern and counseling for students' problems including academic and social. In case of an academic problem, remedial classes are arranged for financial problems, special scholarships are granted and other such actions are taken.

## 6) Counseling Cell

The college has a fully staffed counseling cell open on all working days. Five qualified counselors are on hand to offer counseling services. Apart from our students, this service is extended to all the stakeholders of the college, viz., parents, staff and alumni. The activities of the cell are kept strictly confidential.

### Evidence of Success

The student satisfactions relative to academic benchmarks are determined through structured students' feedback and quantitative analysis of the same to improve and enhance the academic activities in relation to curriculum, infrastructure, facilities and co-curricular activities.

The faculties, HODs, Deans and VPs continuously interact with the students and make sure that these benchmarks are achieved. The BOS and Academic Council act as the watchdogs in these matters. Regular meetings of the Principal and Vice-principals with the Student Council members and class representatives are held to review the level of student satisfaction and to chalk out programs for the future. For personal and spiritual development of students, various programs and camps are organized by the Jesuits and their co-workers through NSS, AICUF, LTS and SC/ST cells.

St. Xavier's involves people from different walks of life as resource persons in the human and spiritual orientation given to students. St. Xavier's has always had the co-operation from all its stakeholders and it is this attitude of fellowship that has enriched this institution and has made it what it stands for – a way of life.

In this context, we are pleased to announce that St Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, had bagged the highest cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.77 out of 4 point grade to get an A grade from NAAC in 2017. The council followed seven criteria to assess institutes ranging from teaching-learning and evaluation, curricular aspects, research, consultancy and extension, infrastructure and learning resources. Furthermore, St Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata under PARAMARSH scheme is granted the right to mentor National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) accreditation aspirant institutions for promoting quality assurance in higher education in 2019. It gives me pleasure to mention that in NIRF 2020, our college has acquired 7th

rank under “College” category. We are now an ISO 9001:2015 certified college as well.