

Principal's Annual Report: 2020-21

As we come to the end of the academic session 2020-21, I would like to place before the members of the Governing Body, administration, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, Alumni and parents, the annual activities of the past year. I will not be true to myself if I claim that our institution witnessed overwhelming number of academic and non-academic activities. It is a known fact that Covid-19 created havoc impact with the lives of human beings, something unprecedented in the history of human civilization. However, it is also true that human spirit does not bend even in the face of adversities, human life has rolled on. The indomitable human spirit was exhibited in the field of education too. And the institution, like ours, had curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that ensured that the educational engine was operational and running at a certain speed. Given below are the activities that continued despite the pandemic:

Academic Activities:

Exam and Exam Results:

Perhaps for the first time, exams for the outgoing 3rd year were conducted on a platform that compelled them to write exams in assignment mode which meant that there was no chance of any failure, unless some students wanted to skip writing exams due to health issues or other reasons related to the pandemic. Of the 250 students who appeared for their final exams under CBCS, 7 secured 'O' (outstanding), 47 secured A+, 99 secured A, 89 secured B+ while 8 failed.

COURSE	STUDENTS	O	A+	A	B+	F
B.A. (H)	127	0	13	57	55	2
B.COM. (H)	42	0	3	23	16	0
B.COM. (P)	10	0	0	0	8	2
B.SC. (H)	71	7	31	19	10	4
TOTAL STUDENTS	250	7	47	99	89	8

Under old (1+1+1) Annual System the result was as such:

COURSE		I CLASS	II CLASS
B.A. (H)	5	1	4
B.COM. (H)	1	1	0
B.COM. (G)	1	0	1
B.SC. (H)	9	8	1
TOTAL STUDENTS	16	10	6

Teaching-Learning Process:

As the pandemic continued and a fear-stricken society refused to meet physically, the government and the health departments imposed stricter guidelines on educational institutions resulting in continuation of Online classes. Our college, using the virtual platforms, adopted various apps freely available to conduct online classes. Therefore, apart from audio online lectures, audio-video or live lectures, dissemination of notes through WhatsApp, video recorded lecture, YouTube, doubts clearing (clarification/question- answer) and other innovative methods were employed for new methods of teaching and learning.

Achievements by Faculty

Three of our teaching faculty, after having successfully defended their doctoral thesis, received the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degree in 2020-21:

Dr. Dipeeka Majumdar (Dept. of Microbiology) and Dr. Aparna Chatterjee (Dept. of Sociology) and Dr. Haimanti Barman (Dept. of Bengali, Part timer) successfully received their Ph.D Degrees, while about half a dozen of faculty members have submitted their doctoral theses and awaiting their report. About a dozen are either pursuing Ph.D at different stages or starting their course works.

Webinar / Workshop / Conference

- Microbiology Dept., in collaboration with DNA Lab, Dehradun, organised a Webinar: “COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities in Clinical Knowledge Research.”
- On 16th June, 2020, the Dept. of Commerce & Business Administration organised a Webinar on “Revival of Economy & Tourism in North Bengal Region: Road Ahead” by inviting Expert Speakers.
- A Webinar on “Different styles of Art forms in the Indian Sub-Continent from Ancient to Modern Period” on 23rd Dec, 2020 was organised by Dept of History.
- Dept. of Sociology organised a Webinar on “Urban Sociology and Rethinking Development in India” on 8th Jan, 2021.
- Dept. of Microbiology organised a Webinar on “Covid-19: Tools for its Containment and Management” in collaboration with DNA Labs-A Centre for Applied Sciences, Dehradun on 3rd May, 2020.

- A Webinar on “Drug Discovery and Pre-Clinical Drug Development” on 6th June, 2020.
- A Technical Workshop on “Computer Networking and CCNA” by the Dept. of Computer Science and Application on 20th Oct, 2020.
- A webinar on “National Education Policy (NEP)-2020: Issues, Implications and Implementations” organised by Internal Quality Assurance Cell, NBSXC on 30th Sept, 2020.
- A four-day Awareness Program by the Dept. of Geography on “RESOURCE, CLIMATE & CONSERVATION”, in collaboration with Dept. of Zoology, Cooch Behar PanchananBarma University, from 21st Sept, 2020 to 24th Sept, 2020.
- An International Webinar on “Tell-tale Signs: Making Stories, (Un) making Histories” was organised by the Dept. of English in collaboration with IQAC, NBSXC on 20th November, 2020.
- Dept. of Zoology organised National Level Webinars on: i) “Induced pluripotent cells: A classic example of union of basic and translational research” on 19th Sept, 2020. ii) “Genomics of endometrial cancer: A fresh look to an old disease” on 26th Sept, 2020.
- Dept. of Botany organised a National Level Webinar on “Role of Indian Traditional Medicines in Covid-19 Pandemic Situation” on 11th October, 2020.

Staff/Student Orientations

- Using virtual platform one-day Faculty Development Program on “Becoming Virtual Teacher: E-Teaching and E-Learning in the Post Covid World” was organised by Commissions of Secondary and Higher Education of the Darjeeling Jesuit Province on 16th July.
- Teachers’ Orientation Program on “Educators for 21st Century: Integrating Changing Educational Scenario with Jesuit Education” was organised by North Bengal St. Xavier’s College on 27th August, 2020. Junior teachers of two other Jesuit colleges, namely St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling and Loyola College of Education, Namchi (Sikkim) also participated.

- On 19th August, an orientation programme was arranged for 2nd and 3rd year students wherein Principal, Vice-Principals and the Dean of students gave some motivational talks while some select students also shared their experiences under the pandemic.
- Using virtual platform which was relayed using YouTube and college Facebook platforms, the Freshers' Welcome and Orientation Programme for newest members of the college family was organised by the Cultural Committee, NBSXC on 14th Sept, 2020.

Co-curricular Activities:

- Pre-Christmas Celebration, combined with the Farewell of Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ and Welcome of Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, SJ as the new VP (Administration), took place on 22nd Dec, 2020 in the Conference Hall where only the staff was present due to pandemic.
- Inaugural ceremony of the 1st batch of NCC, 4 Bengal Battalion took place on 21st January.
- Celebration of International Women's Day organised by Women's Cell, NBSXC on 8th March, 2021.
- X-travaganza 2021 (Annual Cultural Program), organised by the Cultural Committee, NBSXC was steamed live on 12th April. Chief Guest, Rev. Dr. Dominic Savio, SJ, Principal of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata sent his recorded message for the viewers.
- Music Club, NBSXC organised "X-finity Music Fiesta", a sing-song competition, which was streamed on You Tube channel *The Xaverian Symphony* from 24th May, 2021.
- 'Manomita', an initiative by NBSXC, offered psychological counselling (virtually) to the students of the college during the pandemic scenario.
- Dept. of Commerce and Management organised the Annual Dept. Quiz Competition 'X-QUIZIT 2021' on 9th April, 2021 at Siliguri Campus.

Social Outreach programme:

- During the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic and its subsequent lockdown period NBSXC undertook the social outreach program by way of distributing dry food materials amidst the people of neighbouring villages. Relief Works were organised in 5 places : Balaigacch/Hatimore, Manuaganj (KMajhiali GP), Shikarpur tea garde, Kheripara (Nandan Tea Estate) and Pabnikheri
- During the 2nd wave of Covid-19 pandemic scenario, NBSXC sanitized its neighbouring villages including Shikarpur and Sonmari, distributed masks, sanitizers, food materials and some common medicines prescribed by doctors among the villagers.
- On 14th June, College organised Covid Response programme in Dinbazar of Jalpaiguri Town and distributed dry ration besides masks, sanitizer and some medical check-ups.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MoU between DNA Lab-A Centre for Applied Science, Dehradun and North Bengal St. Xavier's College, West Bengal was signed on 18th May, 2020.

NAAC Preparatory Process

Academic & Administrative Process: An Audit Team comprising eminent academicians visited the college on 8th and 9th Feb, 2021 as the college was going for the first cycle of NAAC and the grading. After the final group presentation on 19th October, 2020 a Core Committee was formed in order to compile various documents. On 22nd December, the institution formally started the work for its 1st cycle of NAAC by uploading the IIQA. On 23rd Feb. 2021, Self- Study report (SSR) of the college was uploaded towards its 1st Cycle.

Infrastructural Development:

The following infrastructure and physical facilities were added in the college: (i) The

classrooms on 2nd and 3rd floor of the second block was completed. The second block which has been added after about 13 years of college existence is named Loyola Block. (ii) In order to conserve hydroelectric power, and to fulfil the college' motto of 'green and clean campus' off-grid rooftop solar panels were installed. (iii) Five tanks containing 2000 lt each was installed in the college as water collector for conserving water during non-rainy seasons. (iv) In 2021, June a bridge/ skywalk was constructed connecting the two buildings on the 1st floor.

Administrative Changes

The following administrative changes took place during the year:

- Fr. Bijay Kirti Kindo, SJ replaced Fr. Xavier Alangaram, SJ as the new Vice-Principal (Administration). In the subsequent days as Br. Broney Chettri was transferred elsewhere, he also took charge as the Estate Manager.
- At Siliguri Campus, Mrs. Sanjukta Mitra replaced Dr. Asim Mitra as the Vice-Principal.

Looking Ahead

In the words of Jean Piaget, "The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things". We have a great mission ahead and it is to help our students learn the right thing and enable them to manifest what they have learnt. So, we pledge to seek for deeper knowledge and achieve greater things. In order to achieve that we must unitedly march towards the goal we have set to achieve with single-minded intention.

Thank you and God bless you all!

Rev. Dr. Lalit P. Tirkey, SJ
Principal