

SOPHIA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

The year 2019-2020 brought us both graces and challenges in unexpected ways.



The theme for the year, **Fostering Secularism and Social Responsibility**, seemed particularly apposite given the present political situation at the national and global levels. A number of curricular and co-curricular activities were organised, providing a safe space for the exchange of ideas and opinions, leading to a deepening of the values we seek to foster. Our classroom teaching too was coloured by this theme, inviting reflection and discussion through the lens of different disciplines.

The autonomy we were granted in the previous year continues to be galvanic in its impact in every aspect of life in the College. The year was defined in many ways by the various tasks that had to be undertaken, the fine-tuning of the various structures and systems that we were putting in place –syllabus formation, examinations, etc. It is a challenging, but

exciting task, bringing with it both opportunities and responsibilities. At times, it feels as though there are not enough hours in a day or days in a year to achieve all that we would like to accomplish! The expanding of our horizons as a consequence of autonomy, as well as the liberty to set our own academic calendar, conduct our own examinations etc are exhilarating and prod us to keep raising the standard of teaching-learning processes. To this end, an academic audit was conducted on 25th February 2020. The College invited Dr Ashok Wadia (Jai Hind College), Dr Vivien Amonkar (formerly St Xavier's College) and Dr Vatsala Pai (Ruia College) to conduct the audit. We were happy to receive much appreciation and a number of constructive suggestions, which we hoped to integrate in the coming academic year.

The RUSA grant has presented its own levels of possibilities and challenges. There have been ambiguities about the regulations and restrictions that surround any expenditure. As a result, the spending has gone much slower than envisaged, and some of the budgeted plans have had to be tweaked to accommodate the parameters laid down by the government. Nevertheless, we have been able to put the grant to good use in improving some of our equipment and in widening the scope of opportunities for staff and students.

We were also fortunate in being offered a number of opportunities for collaboration, both nationally and internationally. The College was visited by representatives from Temple University, Philadelphia, St John's University, NY, and Loyola University, Chicago – all with proposals for various forms of collaboration which offered our staff and students various possibilities for exchange, collaborative teaching and research, further studies etc. Closer home, we work closely with the other autonomous colleges in the city and the country, sharing insights and experiences to our mutual benefit.

The college has also been asked by the National Accreditation and Assessment Board to mentor three colleges in the vicinity through the process of applying for accreditation. Several sessions have been carried out to this end. More recently, the State government has asked us to mentor Maharshi Karve Model Degree College, set up by the government in the rural section of Maharashtra, viz. Shrivardhan, Raigad Dt. We would be expected to accompany them through efforts to enhance pedagogical skills and assessment processes, as well as help them develop their academic programme to facilitate skill-development and exposure to a wider range of experiences for the students. Initial plans have been drawn up and we were meant to have a preliminary visit to the college, when the lockdown was imposed. The plans are currently on hold.

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE:

Some of the activities undertaken included

- * **Organizing workshops for staff and students:** These included
 - An induction programme for new staff
 - A workshop on Assessment and Evaluation processes for all senior college teachers
 - A workshop on Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) and preparation of the CAS files for promotions
 - A workshop on Good Laboratory Practices for the lab staff
 - Workshops on Cyber security and cyber security open to staff and students
- * **MIS Upgrade:** Facilitated and assisted in the selection, installation and training for the new cloud-based ERP CCM. Online admissions and payment of fees were continued, and the potential of both MasterSoftware and Campusby were tapped during the time of the lockdown.
- * **Feedback** was obtained by the use of a cloud based mobile app Alumni feedback as obtained by sending out a questionnaire drafted by IQAC & SCESA (Sophia College Ex-Student's Association) to all members of the Alumni. A quantitative analysis was obtained and conclusions were arrived at.
- * **Assisted** in conducting and collecting data for student feedback and TAQs
- * Helped in **collecting data for sending reports** to RUSA, NIRF and other agencies e.g. India Today.
- * **Upgrading the systems in view of the Autonomous status:**
 - **Website:** Coordinated with various departments and the web designer to update the website, as information had to be changed after we received Autonomy. Coordinated with the web designer at every stage of online admission. We had difficulties here, as the website was hacked twice. In the coming year, we plan to revamp the website completely so as to make it more attractive, interactive and viewer-friendly.
 - **Paperless processes:** Efforts to reduce our use of paper and hard copies have been undertaken, however it is a slow process since it requires us to rethink our understanding of office-work and maintenance of records.

ACADEMIC WORK:

Academically, the College has continued to do well. The Boards of Studies in each department, the Academic Council and the Governing Body as per the guidelines laid down by the UGC. met twice in the year, except for the Governing Body, which met only once, on account of the lockdown. It has been a good opportunity to interact with persons from other universities and from industry/the professional world for which we are preparing our students. This has helped us to get other perspectives on the various changes we were proposing to implement. It has also helped to streamline our processes while ensuring that we comply with the university, UGC and government regulations.

Curriculum Revision:

All the departments undertook a further restructuring of their syllabi. In a number of departments, the changes are being introduced in a phased manner, so as to ensure a smooth transition to the new syllabus over a period of time. In all cases, we have sought to remain faithful to the rigours of each discipline, factoring in new developments, while ensuring that we respond to the needs and profile of our student body. It has been an exciting process, and with autonomy, we hope to revitalise our teaching-learning processes over the next ten years.

While we have our own Boards of Studies, a number of our teaching faculty are on the Boards of Studies of other autonomous colleges and of the University of Mumbai. This also keeps us aware of new directions and changes in our subjects, while allowing us to contribute creatively and realistically to the development of each discipline.

Assessment:

We therefore continued to work with a blend of internal assessment and semester-end examinations as integral elements in our evaluation. The examination committee has worked extremely hard to put systems in place and implement a programme that was both rigorous and realistic.

- ❖ Meetings were held to outline and plan the evaluation procedure
 - * Internal Assessment
 - * SEE
- ❖ Evaluation Procedure included providing three sets of question papers with an answer key, random selection of the paper for the exam, external moderation for all papers, entry of marks in MIS. The regulations regarding the procedure were passed by the Academic Council.

- ❖ MIS format was updated to accommodate additional data and make it more easily accessible, and cloud storage was introduced.
- ❖ Students could apply for reevaluation / re-external/ verification / photo copy
A notice was put up on the day of declaration giving students 7 days to apply.
- ❖ Results were declared within stipulated 45 days from the end of SEE, both semesters.
- ❖ The committee met after the declaration of results at the end of each semester to review the procedures.
- ❖ ATKT exams were held once a year – within 90 days of declaring results.

In addition, the process of adding additional (non-academic) credits was put into practice this year. Students could get additional credits for extra-curricular activities, outreach activities, add-on courses. This year, the earning of these additional credits was still optional, as these students are still ones who had joined us before the advent of autonomy. However, from the next academic year, it was planned to make it mandatory for all students to earn 3 or 4 additional credits (over the three years), with at least one in each of the areas mentioned above.

Teaching Learning Processes:

Each department in Junior and Senior College sought to make their teaching-learning processes relevant and effective. A variety of methods are used to ensure that the experiential dimension is included at every stage. Field trips, experiments, internships, research projects, all seek to ensure that the interface with the external world is invoked, reflected upon and integrated. Mentoring and remedial programmes seek to address the problems of students and help them in different ways. While all the departments employ some form of these student support services, a few have systematised their strategies and maintained clear records of these. We hope to extend this to more and more departments so that, eventually, all the student body has access to these. This is of particular importance in the present scenario, shaped as it is by the pandemic. Necessarily, such mentoring will take place, initially at least, online. However, we are striving to develop effective ways of making the mentoring a robust part of the Sophia experience.

Our Junior College too, continues to offer yeoman service to the young women of our city. The HSC results speak of the commitment and dedication of our staff, since even with the inclusion of private candidates the results were an excellent 96.57%, with 97.28% in Arts and 95.03% in Science. We were particularly happy that our topper in Arts, Sanika Thakurdesai, scored 92.76%, and our topper in Science, Sarah Sayed, scored 89.84%. Some of the highlights of the Junior College year are given below:

SOPHIA JUNIOR COLLEGE 2019-20

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PARTICULARS</u>
JUNE	INTERNATIONAL YOGA DAY	Students participated in the Yoga Day event organised by the College Sports Department.
JULY	FRENCH DEPT. - ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION	On the topic Indian Independence for SYJC Arts and Science.
	SOCIOLOGY- SYJC FOCUSED CLASS BASED DISCUSSION	Tribal culture – Impact of non-tribal cultures on the tribal way of life; the concerns around cultural disintegration and challenges of development.
	POLITICAL SCIENCE- MOCK PARLIAMENT	Enactment of Mock Parliament for SYJC Arts students.
	ENGLISH DEPT- MUSIC CONCERT FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS	A folk music recital featuring renowned vocalist Padmashri Dr. Soma Ghosh was held on 6th July to showcase the rich and diverse tradition of Indian performing Arts.
	NATURE TRAIL AT SANJAY GANDHI NATIONAL PARK	A nature trail at SGNP with the SYJC students was planned by the Biology department.
	ENVIRONMENT DAY ACTIVITY	Competitions:- poster making, collage, seed in a pot, green day.

	ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION TRIP TO IGATPURI	About 100 students (SYJC) & 4 teachers went for the same.
	MASS MEDIA AND HISTORY	Power Point Presentations on various MASS MEDIAS AND THEIR HISTORY- by SYJC History groups.
AUGUST	TALK ON "STRESS MANAGEMENT"	The counsellor of the college Ms. Avanti Desai was invited to speak to the SYJC students.
	ECONOMICS DEPT- CAREER TALK	Students of SYJC were given a talk on career guidance by Ms. Shamira Abdulla Ex lecturer of Economics in HR College.
	SPORTS DEPT- SELF DEFENCE WORKSHOP	Students participated in 5 days self defence workshop organised department .
	FIT INDIA ABHIYAN (Govt. of India)	Students participated in Different sports activities.
	INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS	Peace March To August Kranti Maidan.
SEPTEMBER	HINDI DEPT- STORY TELLING COMPETITION	For FYJC Arts and Science based on MUNSHI PREMCHAND'S Stories.
	VISIT TO NEHRU SCIENCE CENTRE-WORLI	Visit to the Nehru Science Centre with SYJC students was organised by the Physics and Chemistry department.
	BANKING ACTIVITY	Visit to the bank and ATM to learn procedures of opening saving account and cash withdrawals.
	HINDI DIVAS CELEBRATION	Poetry recitation and speech competition on importance of Hindi.

OCTOBER	ECO DEPT- VISIT TO RBI MUSEUM	About 100 students of SYJC went for the same.
NOVEMBER	SOCIOLOGY - FYJC FOCUSED BASED CLASS ON CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING	Socialization – it's impact on our lives – through multiple agents like family, school, media, neighbours, literature etc.
	HINDI DEPARTMENT- FYJC CLASS ACTIVITY	Nukkad Natak (Street Play) on Anmol Jeevan (Precious Life).
	SPORTS DEPT- MAHA WALKATHON	Students participated in Maha Walkathon 2019 conducted by Dept. of MVD (transport) and PWD Gov. of Maharashtra.
DECEMBER	TALENT DAY	Organised by the Activity Committee for the FYJC and SYJC classes.
	HINDI DEPARTMENT- SYJC CLASS ACTIVITY	Debate on AAJ KI YUVA PEEDHI (Today's Youth) and E- ADYHAYAN (Learning).
	POLITICAL SCIENCE QUIZ	General political awareness quiz for FYJC ARTS students.
	MARITIME EXHIBITION	FYJC students visited the maritime exhibition held at Dockyard, Mumbai.
	ANANYA ACTIVITY	A competition to explore physics through working models was organised for the FYJC students by the Physics department.
	ECO DEPT- ORIENTATION ABOUT HSC EXAM	Guidance regarding how to write HSC Economics paper was given by Ms. Kusuma, Lecturer of Economics in Ruia College.

	DEMONSTRATION OF EXPERIMENTS	Dr. Prabha Shetty along with students of SYBSc demonstrated different analytical techniques of purification and separation used in Chemistry through experiments to the FYJC students. This activity was organised by the Chemistry Department.
	SPORTS WEEK AND ANNUAL SPORTS DAY	Variety of Individual and class events took place both for ELIMS and FINALS.
JANUARY	HINDI DEPT- ELOCUTION COMPETITION	On Secularism and National Integration for SYJC Arts and Science.
	ENGLISH-INTER COLLEGIATE DEBATE COMPETITION ORGANISED BY MUMBAI POLICE	Student representatives for this event were selected through an inter class debate competition. Ms. Aliya Shroff (SYJC-Div. A) made it to the final round.
	SOCIOLOGY - ANANYA BASED ACTIVITY	'The Best of Kashish' film-screening and discussion. Curated by filmmaker, Sridhar Rangayyan (Related to the goal of inclusive education.)
	ECO DEPT - MOVIE SCREENING	In collaboration with Logic Department movie screening was organized for FYJC.
FEBRUARY	ECO DEPT- POSTER COMPETITION	On The topic "Economic Problems" was organized for FYJC.

	HSC BOARD EXAM	About 500 candidates were accommodated at our centre for 20 different subjects for a period of one month starting from 18th February to 16th March 2020.
	CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT FOR CIVIC AWARENESS	Workshop consisting of four sessions were conducted by SCESA for FYJC Students.
MARCH	FLAG DAY COLLECTION	RS 1,00,000/- was collected by FYJC students for the defence personnel and the college was felicitated by the Collector's office.
APRIL	CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC - LOCKDOWN	No classes nor exams were conducted except for HSC Paper assessment work from home.
MAY	ONLINE SESSION - ENGLISH ENRICHMENT SESSION. 'HOW TO BE A LIFELONG READER'	This session was conducted on 26th May, 2020 for FYJC DIV A and B by Ms. Gitika Kishanchandani who is a passionate reader, educator and founder of an education start up.
	ONLINE SESSION - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT. 'HOW TO BE A RESILIENT STUDENTS AND BEAT THE LOCKDOWN BLUES....'	Ms. Pragya Lodha, a clinical psychologist with the De Sousa Foundation and a former student of Sophia college conducted an interactive session for students on 29th May to discuss strategies to stay well and how to stay focused during turbulent times.

Research and Consultancy :

A Research Development Cell has been set up to promote and document research activities. Information is given to the staff about new projects. This has helped them in the application process. Five of our faculty members are registered Ph.D. guides. The cell also has a system in place to help researchers get relevant material.

Details of Major Projects:

- One ongoing research project under the Dept. of Biotechnology awarded to Dr. Yasmin Khan, - The Effect of Retinoic Acid on Migration of the Developing Lateral Line in Zebrafish.
- One ongoing research project under the ICSSR awarded to Dr. (Sr.) Ananda Amritmahal and Dr. Anagha Tendulkar - A Descriptive Study of Hegemonic Configurations in Traditional Folk Performance Forms of Maharashtra
- One ongoing research project under the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai, awarded to Dr. Roymon T.C. – A Comparative Critique of Advaita, Buddhist and Physicalist Views on the Problem of Consciousness

Details of Minor Projects:

- One ongoing research project under the University of Mumbai awarded to Dr Rajbinder Kaur Dehiya – Fabrication of Low-cost Indigenous Amperametric Whole Cell-based Biosensor
- One ongoing research project under the University of Mumbai awarded to Ms Sandhya Kadiru – Evaluation of Acute Mixture Toxicities of Cyfluthrin, Phosmet and Methomyl on Zebrafish embryos

Research projects have also been undertaken as part of the EXSP and EXAP programmes. These challenge gifted students and encourage them to push back the limits of their own capabilities, engaging with co-curricular subjects and expanding the boundaries of their knowledge and consciousness.

Our students also took part in Aavishkar, the intercollegiate research competition organised by Mumbai University.

Many staff members have participated in local, state-level, national and international conferences. Some have presented papers which have subsequently been published. The detailed list of these will be attached at a later stage, when we have been able to collate all the data.

Consultancy:

A number of our staff members are invited as consultants at CAS processes, appointment interviews, guest lecturers, practical examinations, PhD assessments and viva-voces.

STAR COLLEGE SCHEME OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY:

In our fourth year under this scheme, the effort has been to strengthen our participation and functioning so that we may move to the next stage of being accorded Star College status.

Some of the improvements that have been implemented through this scheme:

1. Laboratory skill enhancement:

New instruments/ equipment purchased and the benefits-

- Multiple units purchased helped the students to perform experiments independently and explore beyond the syllabus.
- A number of new experiments could be conducted and many existing experiments were creatively extended. In the beginning, formal addition of the new experiments in the syllabus was not possible due to a fixed university syllabus. Once the College got autonomy, many of the new experiments encouraged under DBT star scheme could be introduced in the syllabus.

2. Enrichment of students and staff

- There was an increase in experiential learning through industrial and field visits with the help of financial support from DBT.
- The quality and the number of workshops conducted, seminars organized for students and faculty (teaching and non-teaching) development were increased.
- More guest lectures could be arranged, as there were funds for honoraria and TA.
- With the mandate and support of the scheme, a number of faculty received subject related training; a few were invited as trainer at state/national level and as resource persons to share their expertise.
- Every student undertakes a research project in the second and third years.
- Lab staff are regularly sent for intercollegiate workshops on Safety Measures in the Lab, Improved Laboratory Maintenance, etc.

3. **Improved social interaction and environmental awareness:**

- The students have become more enthusiastic and interested. This has led to an increase in student participation in various intercollegiate events and competitions.
- There has been an enhancement of sensitization of students to socially relevant issues and social outreach.
- **Nobel Oration** - Annual Sophia Nobel Oration which discusses the Nobel Prize winning work by eminent scientists working in the field, is held every year in the fields of Physiology or Medicine /Chemistry/ Physics/Peace. It serves as a science update platform, open to all as a public lecture and creates an awareness.
- **Ananya**, an unique institutional academic College festival, which is based on the annual theme of the year, encourages each department, individually or in collaboration with other departments, to organize seminars/debates/competitions/exhibitions and other activities for students and encourages an inclusive approach. The festival got an impetus with DBT support.

4. **Innovative research activity:**

- Immersive learning - Instead of select few students, all students were able to do hands-on projects and UG students could present their work in the College research meet, 'Quest' held on Science Day. (A few of these are listed below)
- **The Excellence in Science Program (EXSP)** which has been running for over 25 years, permits few students, who are interested in pursuing academic interests beyond the syllabus, undertake activities such as seminar presentations, literature reviews and projects under the mentorship of staff members. The additional facilities and funds available through Star College Scheme, in terms of equipment and consumables, now permits these students to explore more challenging projects.
- There has been an increase in interdepartmental collaborations for research activities and projects.

5. **Communication skill development :**

- Students presented at state level research meet 'Avishkar', which led to publication (both for student and staff)
- Improved level of projects led to encouraged improvement of writing skills, through a course in scientific writing. It improved the quality of the in-house

science newsletter, Spectrum, which is published in collaboration with the department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, St. Xavier's College.

- A new journal SCRIBE was launched on 28th February, 2020, to mark the National Science Day. An issue will be brought out each year.

Some of the minor projects undertaken under Star College Scheme:

- a) "Effects of ethanol on motor neuron development and cell death in zebrafish embryos (*Danio rerio*). Presented in the Medicine and Pharmacy Category at the undergraduate level cleared the first round at the 14th Avishkar Research Convention 2019-20.
- b) "Role of DHA in hypoxia induced motor impairment in *Caenorhabditis elegans*". Presented in the Medicine and Pharmacy Category at undergraduate level cleared the first round at the 14th Avishkar Research Convention 2019-20.
- c) Detection of adulterants and microbial pathogens in traditional Indian sweets
- d) 'Synthesis, characterization and application of nanoparticles in novel skin cream formulation' Presented in the Basic Science Category at undergraduate level at the 13th Avishkar Research Convention 2017-18.
- e) "Comparative antioxidant potential of two draught resistant medicinal plants of Rajasthan- *Prosopis cineraria* and *Capparis decidua* Presented in the Basic Science Category at undergraduate level at the 14th Avishkar Research Convention 2019-20
- f) 'Synthesis of tribromoaniline –a green novel approach' Presented in the Basic Science Category at undergraduate level at the 14th Avishkar Research Convention 2019-20

Novel aspects introduced during the duration of the Scheme.

- A science newsletter **Spectrum** a brain child of the Life Science department was launched in 2017 with the objective to popularize science in the younger generation, targeted for grade VIII and above. Later, in the year 2018 this

publication became a joint **collaboration** with the department of Life Sciences and Biochemistry, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous).

- In the academic year 2019-2020, on National Science Day, 28th February, 2020 the inaugural issue of **SCRIBE** (Science Chronicles in Research and Investigation Based Education), annual science journal of Sophia College (Autonomous) supported by DBT Star College Scheme, was released. The journal was a culmination of a long-felt need to encourage undergraduate as well as postgraduate students to nurture a scientific curiosity and inculcate the necessary skills for scientific writing. SCRIBE offered a platform for sharing scientific thoughts, ideas and experiments.
- Encouraged by the mandate of Star College Scheme, **feedback** for activities conducted was sought; this has today become an essential part of all the activities undertaken. The feedback helps the organizers to know the interest of the stake-holders and thus improve, organize and plan better giving scope for continuous quality improvement.
- **RBPT** (Research Based Pedagogical Tools) workshops sponsored by DBT has not only trained many staff members but staff have been invited to participate in state level training also. This exposure has brought about a paradigm shift in pedagogy and motivates the students to become active learners.
- **POGIL** (Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning) has been initiated by some staff members, which focusses on putting the students first and provides teachers with tools to optimize learning i.e. a shift in teaching- learning from being teacher centric to student centric.
- **SOP's** (Standard Operating Procedures) for the new experiments have been developed/created. This documentation will help to achieve efficiency for systematic and smooth conduction of the experiments.

Plans for the future if accorded Star Status:

- **Strengthen the existing outreach program/ activities**

The Star College Scheme helped initiate outreach programs at a school at Rajgurunagar and also in Haloli, which is adopted by the NSS unit of the college where varied classroom activities, demonstration using simple experiments with

hand - made models and some confidence boosting exercises were conducted. This experience drew enthusiastic response.

If accorded Star status, it is planned to go to the next level and encourage the students to become facilitators of inquiry-based science learning. The mentoring would be done on a regular basis, by more frequent visits by groups of students. Online teaching tools will also be used to monitor and stay connected with the school students on a regular basis. It is also proposed to extend the programme to the community level and address issues like nutrition, health and hygiene so that the entire village benefits from it.

• **Creation of resource material for E – learning**

In view of the current scenario it is envisaged that creation of resource and E-content would be of immense value both in the current situation and for use later. A major lacuna currently is lack of E-learning platforms like Virtual Labs, where learners can gain the experience of practical experimentation without any direct physical involvement or bench work. Using equipment bought from the enhanced finances of Star Status each department will mandatorily prepare videos of some experiments from their syllabus. It is also proposed that the SOPs created under the star college mandate will be compiled into an E-manual and will be uploaded as a ready resource and reference.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS:

The existing MIS programme has been upgraded and a cloud-based ERP CCM (Centralized Management System) has been installed. It consists of the following modules:

- * **Academic Management System** that facilitates Online Registration, Merit list generation, Online fees collection and transfer to Tally. The admission online forms had to be customized as it needed to meet our requirements as autonomous college. We give a number of subject combinations and the software had to be designed to meet our needs. Change of subject can too be registered and attendance registers have been generated.
- * **Student Administration:** Transcripts, transfer Certificates (TCs) and Leaving Certificate (LCs), Recommendations and Bonafide Certificates can be applied for online and payment for these services can be made online.
- * **The Examination Management Module:** The Annual Students Management and Result Processing Module is designed to meet the needs of the college. This module

also generates ATKT Results under Autonomy. This module is in place, results, marksheets and progression reports are being generated.

- * **Student Attendance** is maintained through Campusby, and it has been operational since last year. This mobile-based app maintains attendance records, defaulters list and circulates notices and important information to students. Students fill up the feedback questionnaires on this app and a collation of their responses is generated and sent to the IQAC for qualitative analysis.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Annual Theme of the year was “Fostering Secularism and Social Responsibility”.

The theme was explored and developed through curricular and co-curricular activities (culminating in ANANYA) in all the departments in both Junior and Senior College. Elements of the theme that were highlighted in activities as well as classroom discussions relating to current events. Some of these initiatives took place through organised events, while there was also much informal inclusion of the theme in topics directly or indirectly linked to the syllabus.

KALEIDOSCOPE 2019 - IN FUTURE TENSE

Kaleidoscope 2019 was held on the 14th and 15th of September 2019 with a workforce of over 600 young, talented and hardworking women. The theme for the year, “In Future Tense” gave the organisers the opportunity to extend their imagination and showcase Kaleidoscope at its best.

The Pre Kaleidoscope team partnered with UNICEF for a social cause rally held at Bandra, Carter Road. The theme for the rally was Child Abuse. A flashmob was organised at Infinity Malad with a wonderful turnout. Colleges from all over India flooded the gates of Sophia during the elimination days, buzzing with enthusiasm to take part in and win Kaleidoscope. We hosted over 75 colleges with over 40 competitive events over 5 days.

One of the milestones of the festival was the Pride Panel that had people like Harish Iyer, Bidisha Mohanta, Aniruddha Mahale and more as panelists. Taking forward the idea of the future, these people offered a different perspective on alternate sexualities and encouraged all those who attended to look towards a more accepting future with a real sense of freedom. A number of the events also focussed on social messages that needed

to be heard. For example, The Times They're A-Changing showcased child abuse issues that brought to light the true hardships suffered by children with abusive relatives.

Kaleidoscope 2019 was about possibilities of the future, a testament to what can be achieved together. With the support of a stellar workforce and all those involved, Kaleidoscope was able to yet again unify diverse crowds to hope for a better future.

MUNSOPHICAL 2019-2020

MUN is a simulation of the working of the United Nations which exposes youngsters to contemporary international issues and attempts to educate youth on matters like International Relations, Diplomacy, etc. MUN delegates emerge as bright and sensitive individuals who are capable of managing complex situations with maturity.

MUNSOPHICAL Mela was conducted on 18th, 19th and 20th of December 2019. The fundraiser was a success, not just for MUNSOPHICAL, but also for the sponsors, who were extremely satisfied by the turnout on all the three days. The students of Sophia College also thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the same.

MUNSOPHICAL 2019-2020 was conducted over a period of three days, on 10th, 11th and 12th of January 2020. This year we had 5 committees- UNW, UNHRC, Lok Sabha, UNSC and a surprise Committee, the X Committee. MUNSOPHICAL based the agendas of each committee on the college's theme for the year, "Fostering Secularism and Social Responsibility". The committees saw quality debate on their respective agendas, where United Nations Security Council (UNSC) debated on the Yemen Conflict, Lok Sabha worked towards revisiting articles 370 and 35A, United Nations for Women (UNW) deliberated on the issue of security of women in armed conflicts with special emphasis on conflict-based gender violence, United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) witnessed intense discussions on the persecution of the Uighur Muslims in China, and the secret committee or the X Committee aimed to look into the raging diplomatic crisis in the Middle East and attempted to mediate a peaceful way through this conflict.

The ending ceremony of MUNSOPHICAL 2019-2020 was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Dr. Vasundhara Mohan, who is the Programme Director at the Institute of Indian Culture. Dr. Mohan was highly impressed by the discussions that were conducted during the course of the three days. The week after the conference saw the release of MUNSOPHICAL's Newsletter, 'MIC DROP- Protest Against Formality'.

SPORTS:

The sports club is the biggest club in college with maximum number of members. It comes directly under the Sports Department and is headed by the students - secretary and executives, while guided by the teachers in-charge.

The first event of the academic year 2019-2020 held by the Sports Department was the International Yoga Day celebrated on the 21st of June 2019. An esteemed Yoga trainer, Mrs. Anjali Joglekar, with 45 years of experience in Yoga instruction, and her two students conducted two consecutive Yoga sessions with the junior college and senior college students. Approximately, 350 students participated in this two-hour event and learnt various postures, breathing techniques and exercises in Yoga.

The 73rd Independence Day of India on 15th August, 2019, was celebrated with the flag-hoisting and the annual Peace March to August Kranti Maidan. Two hundred and fifty students and fifty teachers and staff of Sophia College marched towards August Kranti Maidan marking the 23rd year of this event.

A five-day Self Defence Workshop was successfully conducted from the 19th to the 23rd of August, 2019. The department received over 300 registrations, and two sessions were conducted separately each day to accommodate all the students.

National Sports Day of India was celebrated on the 29th of August, 2019, when our Prime Minister launched the first ***Fit India Abhiyan***. The Sports Department of Sophia College commenced the day with Yoga exercises conducted in the Multipurpose Hall. While the gym trainers guided students interested in working out in the Gymnasium, a live screening of the FIT INDIA pledge was also conducted for the students and staff members of the college. The activities culminated in a fun activity called “The Sophia Circuit Race” which involved a series of physical, motor and mental tasks.

In September the degree college Hockey team qualified in the Inter-collegiate tournament up to the quarter finals and Erika Barnes and Palakjeet Kaur were selected for Inter University trials. Erika was then shortlisted to represent University of Mumbai in Jaipur, Rajasthan, from 7th to 16th November.

This year, junior college students participated in the District level competition conducted by DSO in 16 different sports and even qualified for the state level competition in some sports. Some of the highlights were:

- A karate competition held at DSO, Dharavi Sports complex on 10th September, 2019 where **Hethanshi Mahendra Panchal** secured the first place and was eligible for division participation.

- On 14th September, a few students represented the college for skating and received the third place.
- Simultaneously, our team for Ball Badminton and Tennikoit were awarded the second place in the Inter-collegiate DSO competition.
- Three of our junior college students, namely, **Neerja Nabar, Neeyati Lobo and Shajmi Khan**, participated in Fencing and bagged the third place leading to their participation in division level which was held at Alibaug on 16th September, 2019.
- **Angelina** secured the second place for Shooting in Open Air Rifle category at the DSO competition. She qualified for division level and won the first place thus, participating at the State level shooting competition which was held on 24th September at Kolhapur.
- Students participated at DSO competitions in Taekwondo and Boxing and secured the third and second place respectively.
- **Neerja Nabar** represented the college at the DSO competition for Mallakhamb on 1st October, 2019 bagging the fourth position and further participating in division level in Thane.
- Students took part in various athletic events, including 100 metres relay, 1500 metres race, shotput, discus throw and javelin throw. **Neeyati Lobo** secured the second place in Shotput and participated at the division level which took place at SAI Kandivali. She further qualified for State level which was held at Satara district.

Overall, not only was the participation at its peak but also the quality of sports displayed by the students of Junior college is a matter of great pride.

The Sports Department and the Sports Club of Sophia College (Autonomous) organized an event in collaboration with the University of Mumbai, namely, Maha Walkathon 2019 conducted by the Department of MMVD (Transport) and PWD - Government of Maharashtra. The Maha Walkathon took place on Saturday, 30th November 2019. The event, aimed at spreading awareness on Road Safety - No Honking - Responsible Driving, involved a 2 km walk beginning and ending in our campus i.e. Sophia Main Gate- Mahalakshmi temple- Peddar road- Sophia College. There were around 600 students from over 15 courses, and some students from the Polytechnic. The students were encouraged to make posters based on the theme of 'Road Safety' which were held for display during the walkathon.

The month of December has always been an eventful month for the Sports club due to the flagship event, SPORTS DAY. This year, the department revived their SPORTS WEEK. There were various outdoor sports organized like football, throw-ball, volleyball, dodgeball, and indoor games like carom and chess too.

The Annual Sports Day was held at the University Sports Pavilion on 6th December 2019, after heats and elimination rounds in the preceding days. Events were held simultaneously for both Junior and Senior College students as well as staff. The track events ranged from the 100m to the 800m and the field events included the shot put, discus and javelin throws as well as long jump and high jump. Beginning with the March Past, and culminating in the Prize Distribution, the day included sports events as well as games and fancy relays for staff (teaching and non-teaching) and audience.

Students also participated in the university level football and basketball tournaments held at the University Sports Pavilion, Marine Drive and Mumbai University, Kalina campus respectively. The football team qualified up to the semifinals and won the third position at University of Mumbai tournament while the basketball team were the topmost team in their pool. **Gabrielle Soans** of TYBMM further qualified for the trials and went on to represent the University of Mumbai in the inter-university tournament held in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, whereas **Vishakha Deshpande** went on to represent the University in Gwalior and Solapur, Madhya Pradesh.

A major development in the last few years has been the introduction of fencing as a sport in which a number of our students have excelled. Since Ms Shruti Waydande Kadam, herself a national level fencing champion, this sport has become popular in the College. On the 18th of December, the Sports Department held a major event under the **University of Mumbai, namely, the Intercollegiate Fencing competition**, in the Multipurpose Hall. College students from all over and around Mumbai took part, under the 3 categories of Sabre, Foil and Epee. This was further divided into boys and girls with at least ten participants in each group. These knock-out matches went on for at least fifteen minutes each, after which players were selected for their next battles based on their points. There were two matches happening at one time in our own college's Multi-Purpose Hall. Participants competed for the first, second and third place through a round of quarters, semis and finals each. **Nikita Mathew, Stuti Saha and Sreedevi Laxman** of our College, represented the University of Mumbai at the Inter University Tournament in Amritsar in January, 2020. **Stuti Saha was further selected for the Khelo India tournament which was held in Kalinga Institute of Information Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 21st till the 24th of February, 2020. This was the first ever held Khelo India Inter University Games 2020.** Ms. Shruti Waydande Kadam (Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Awardee) was also nominated as a coach of Khelo India Inter University Fencing Men and Women team by the University of Mumbai.

NATIONAL SOCIAL SERVICE:

The academic year 2019-2020 saw a revitalization of the NSS unit of the college. As per university allotment we enrolled 200 volunteers in our NSS unit. An orientation session was conducted for them by the Area Coordinator, Dr. Satish Kolte on 23rd August 2019. A synopsis of the main activities completed by our NSS unit is given below:

➤ Swachh Bharat Activities: (Screening, Swachh Bharat area project, Talk.):

- Swachh Bharat Project (13th August 2019 – 14th December, 2019): 1) Campus Cleaning 2) Solid waste talk 3) Poster making + display on cleanliness 4) Skit on cleanliness 5) Essay writing on Swachh Bharat policy – implications, campaigns and effects 6) Poetry competition on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 7) Paper bag making and distribution 8) Tee-shirt painting. 9) Survey on waste segregation and management
- An online pledge on Rashtriya Ekta Diwas as well as an orientation and collection of E- waste materials such as mobile phone, laptops, old headphones, pendrives, hard drive, power bank, etc. which were then safely disposed of.
- Other activities like campus cops (the volunteers cleaned various parts of the college campus such as the canteen extension and marble stairs); Independence Day peace rally; Gandhi seminar was held on ‘The Relevance of Gandhi in the 21st century’; Session on ‘India in 2030’; National Girl child day (poster making and exhibition) were held in the college campus.

2) Awareness Programs (Red Ribbon club, Road Safety, Communal Harmony, Bisleri Project, Organ Donation, Pehchaan Orientation, Voter registration Drive):

- Red Ribbon Club Project: The project was organized to spread awareness about HIV/AIDS from 13th December, 2019 to 17th February, 2020. These were the following activities conducted for the same: 1) Poster display and ribbons 2) Session on cancer and awareness 3) RRC Screening 4) story writing 5) poetry writing 6) blood donation 7) street play performance at the college and at Grant Road station.
- Road Safety Project: It was organized to spread awareness on road safety and its importance from 10th to 17th February, 2020. These were the following activities conducted: 1) Interview and report (survey) 2) Safety and Road Symbols 3) Road safety poem\ Jingle\ Slogan 4) Oath on road safety 5) Spreading awareness about laws

- Bisleri Project: The 'Bottles for change' is an initiative by the Bisleri International Limited to create awareness on plastic recycling. This project entailed plastic collection of every 4 months, for safe disposal. All the staff and students submitted the plastics that they collected throughout the months.
- Organ Donation: A program on Organ donation awareness was conducted to create awareness by displaying the video that emphasized on the significance of donating organs.
- Pehchaan Orientation: A session was held in the college to create awareness where young change-makers work for the well-being of the needy and their education. It focuses on equal opportunities for education for one and all.
- Voter Registration Drive: The college students and staff members were enrolled as voters through this drive. Posters had been put up across the college for creating awareness on the importance of voting.

3) **Empowerment and Programs for Women and Weaker Sections in society (Mahiti Doot, Posters, Self-Defence Project, talks, health checkups, Orientations.):**

- Mahiti Doot: The Mahiti Doot booklets were distributed to the underprivileged women. These booklets detailed every government scheme for their well being and social development.
- Posters: On the occasion of National Girl Child Day, posters were made by the volunteers at home and were exhibited in the college campus.
- Self –Defence Project: The workshop was conducted in the MPH, Sophia College, in collaboration with the Sports Department, on five consecutive days from 19th August to 23rd August, 2019. The volunteers later taught self-defence to the school children at Haloli during their special camp.
- RTI Talk: The session was organized by Mr. Arvind Natrajan and Mr. Shilesh Gandhi and included a talk on Fundamental duties and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The audience was made aware about RTI, one of the most important laws for a democratic government.
- Youth Speak Forum (AISEC): The event entailed speeches and a panel discussion on a whole array of issues ranging from poverty in India to the future of IT and climate change. The volunteers were enlightened by participating in these discussions, and also received the opportunity to interact with millennial entrepreneurs who have achieved success in their respective fields.

- Free health Check-ups: These were conducted in the college and proved beneficial, since several beneficiaries learned about actual or potential diseases and health disorders affecting them.
- Youth against slavery talk: The Harmony International Conference made it possible for our students to learn about contemporary slavery from the leading international experts and to discover how youth can make a difference.

4) Environment: (Tree Plantation, Paper bag collection, Save Water, Save Electricity.):

- Tree Plantation Project: The drive was held by the volunteers in districts of Tardeo, Lower Parel, Mira Road, Bandra, Goregaon, Worli, RC church, Naalasopara, Santacruz, Mahim, Byculla, Pedder road and Breach Candy on 23rd and 24th November, 2019. The volunteers also participated in the University event which entailed a seminar on ‘Rally save environment, save trees” on 23\9\19
- Paper bags: These bags were made from old newspapers.
- Save Electricity Project: The activities of this project began from 23rd November to 25th November, 2019 to spread awareness about usage of alternative energies. The activities conducted are: 1) Spreading awareness among children 2) Formulating a Questionnaire on electricity consumption and conservation 3) Poster making 4) Tee shirt painting: to promote the importance of saving electricity. 5) Electricity bill comparison.
- Save Water Project: The project began from 5th January to 18th February, 2020. In order to spread awareness on the significance of saving water, activities such as : 1) Essay writing on saving water 2) Photography contest 3) Spreading awareness through a video 4) Questionnaire 5) Movie Screening and Discussion 6) Peace walk with posters 7) Oath to save water 8) Talk on Rainwater Harvesting. The volunteers also participated in the university session on water literacy on 9\12\19.
- World Environment Day : This event was held at the BMC office, Grant Road Station. A session on tree plantation and an informative session on conserving the environment were held simultaneously.

5) Health and Hygiene programmes(Blood donation drive, Health and Hygiene, AIDS street play, Fit India Campaign, University events.):

- Blood donation drives: Two camps were held by Nair Hospital and Tata Memorial Hospital at Sophia College on 28th August, 2019 and 7th February, 2020.

- Health and Hygiene Project: This was held from 30th January to 17th February, 2020. The following activities were undertaken:- 1) Survey on menstrual health. 2) Report based on survey 3) Video making 4) Cooking competition 5) Poster making : promotion of hygiene 6) Submission of healthy food recipe.
- Fit India Campaign: This project being at the university level had several activities that aimed at raising awareness and increasing the fitness of every volunteer. Activities such as: 1) Fit India Inauguration 2) Run for Unity 3) Art Therapy for mental health workshop 4) Swachhta Rally 5) Yoga sessions in college 6) Volunteers needed for the Maharashtra Police International Marathon.
- University events : Other University events were attended by the NSS volunteers of Sophia college. These included 1) International day against drug abuse 2) No tobacco day 3) Rally for organ donation 4) Online Whatsapp quiz on organ donation 5) Organ donation: Poster making 6) Cleanliness drive 7) Drug Abuse Prevention Program 8) Beach cleaning at Girgaum Beach 9) Sensitization workshop on Reproductive health 10) Poetry competition on malnutrition

6) Educational program (Shiksha)

The Shiksha Project: The project consisted of two batches from 2\12\19– 6\12\19 and 16\12\19 – 20\12\19 at Jagannath Seth Municipal School

7) Miscellaneous Activities (Ek Prithvi orientation, Election duty traffic management, essay writing, Uttung fest, Bisleri Skit, Communal harmony: Sangat (Folk-fusion band)

- Ek Prithvi Orientation: It was held in the Convention Centre at our College on 13\6\19. It emphasized the significance, aims, objectives and functions of the organization ‘Ek Prithvi’.
- Election duty traffic Management: The volunteers helped the traffic police to adjust the inflow of traffic near the election centre. This event was held on 21\10\19 at Tardeo.
- Essay Writing: The volunteers wrote essays on topics like Sardar Vallabhai Patel and Unity in Diversity; these were submitted on 27\1\20.
- Uttung Fest: The fest was held at R.A. Podar college, Matunga on 4th and 5th December, 2019. The volunteers took part in various activities and won prizes in short film and DIY adventure. The winners of the short film were – Mahi Laddhad (FYBA, A19228), Rasika Wankhede (FYBA, A19497) and Srishti Hota (FYBMM,

M19034)The winners of the ‘Do it yourself (DIY) Adventure were -- Mahi Laddhad (FYBA, A19228), Rasika Wankhede (FYBA, A19497)

- Bisleri skit: With the objective of reducing plastic, the volunteers performed skits in FY and SY classes. They also made posters related to the topic to spread awareness.
- Communal harmony: Sangat (Folk-fusion band): This event entailed a folk fusion band and music by Neeraj Arya’s Kabir Café at Land’s End Amphitheatre, Bandra Fort, Bandra West.

Other club events took place with their usual energy and enthusiasm, and provided students with the opportunities to explore their interests and develop their talents in a wide range of activities. Annual events like Ripples, Jalsa, Sanskriti and the SCEDA play marked our calendar as always. Our students participated in eight inter-collegiate festivals - Malhar, Kaleidoscope, Kiran, Kshitij, Shoutt, Mood Indigo, Illenium and Kani – and did our college proud by winning prizes and special mentions.

On 20th January 2020, the SSRI in collaboration with Art and Design club of Sophia College for women held a wall painting event to re-paint the Vivek Singh Lane walls outside the college after six years. The event began on the 20th and went on till 26th with **12** artists volunteering to design the walls and numerous volunteers joining to help every day. The walls were painted predominantly with the theme of woman empowerment. This event culminated into a community event that brought the students together to redo the college walls. The Polytechnic Art Department had asked if they could also participate, and a section of the wall was left available for them, but unfortunately the lockdown intervened before they could undertake the task. This will be completed when the circumstances make it possible.

SOPHIA CENTRE FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES AND DEVELOPMENT:

Some important events:

- The Genderlogue at Sophia College, conducted in collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, on 31 July, 2019, was an activity for the youth to engage in constructive dialogue on Gender for social change using the medium of art in its many forms. The keynote speaker was Ms Nandita Das, actress and film-maker. The participants were students from South Mumbai colleges. The event also included original work in the form of research papers, photographs and poetry from students of all South Mumbai colleges. It offered young people a space and a platform to engage in a dialogue which we hope will lead to effective gender equality for all people from across the gender spectrum, in diverse circumstances and with a wide range of other social characteristics. The Sophia Genderlogue was a programme planned with the students, by the students and for the students.
- SCWSD organised a multicultural celebration of Women's Day in association with the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, on 8th March 2020. Several cultural items like dances and skits from both India and Russia were presented by the students. The programme was followed by a certificate distribution programme of SCWSD.

Publications

31st January: Literature Conference book release *Interrogating Patriarchy*, edited by Dr. Rajshree Trivedi and published by Sophia Centre for Women's Studies and Development.

Planner 2020 was published in December 2019.

Urdhva Mula (our multidisciplinary journal, ISSN 2277-7954) Volume12, December 2019

Instruction and Courses:

As always SCWSD conducted the following courses successfully in the Academic Year (2019-2020). These included add-on, credit based certificate courses in:

1. **Social Research Management**
2. **Social Work**
3. **Women's Empowerment**
4. **Baking**
5. **Basics in Foods and Nutrition**

The participants of the Certificate Course in Social Work as well as Women's Empowerment were given a month long internship in several key NGO's and social work organisations like Apne Aap women's collective, Bapnu Ghar, Stree Mukti Sanghatana and Navjeevan trust among others.

Another annual feature is the collaboration with the Women's Commission of the Archdiocese of Mumbai to conduct the Women's Leadership Training Programme, a programme to empower Catholic women. The course was held between 20th July, 2019 and 1st September, 2019, at Our Lady of Nazareth School, Bhayandar (W), Mumbai, with 62 participants drawn from different dioceses in Mumbai. The aim of the course is to infuse the participants with leadership qualities, and inspire them to take charge of a larger locus of control within their lives as well as within their own parishes. The detailed programme is as follows:

DATE	RESOURCE PERSON	TOPIC
Sat. 20th July	Sr. Philomena D'Souza	Introduction, Women Empowerment
Sun. 21st July	Sr. Philomena D'Souza	Women Leadership
Sat. 27th July	Sr. Ananda Amritmahal	Women's Studies & History of the Women's Movement
Sun. 28th July	Adv Aileen Marques	Women's Legal Rights
Sat. 3rd Aug	Vasundhara Sanghi	Basic Counselling Skills I
Sun. 4th Aug	Vasundhara Sanghi	Basic Counselling Skills II
Sat. 10th Aug	Marcia D'Cunha	Public Speaking
Sun. 11th Aug	Marcia D'Cunha	Gender Sensitisation
Sat. 17th Aug	Sr. Patricia D'Souza	Rational Emotive Behaviour
Sun. 18th Aug	Chrisann Almeida-Creado	Assertiveness Training
Sat. 24th Aug	Sr. Ananda Amritmahal	Jesus's Vision for Women
Sun. 25th Aug	Virginia Saldanha	Gender Policy of the Catholic Church
Sat. 31st Aug	Dr. Angelica D'Souza	Women's Health Matters
Sun 1 st Sep	Valedictory Ceremony (4 – 7 pm)	

Library and Documentation

- Library membership is open to all students.
- The SCWSD collection of fiction and non-fiction books has been greatly enhanced through the generous donation of institutions and individuals. The library has a stock of posters on gender issues collected from national and international NGOs.
- Many students utilised the internet and printout facilities provided by SCWSD.

Research

SCWSD has always been actively involved in research projects focussing mainly on women and issues related to them, since its inception in 2001. In keeping with this ideology, SCWSD in the year 2017-18 secured a research grant from ICSSR (Indian Council of Social Science Research) to study four unique forms of traditional folk art in Maharashtra. The folk art of Maharashtra is multi-faceted and fascinating. For centuries, these folk arts operated with the intention of reaching out to the masses, to the lay population, with the purpose of entertaining, educating and enlightening them. Folk culture exhibits the values, beliefs, behaviour of people in society. With the advent of the phenomenon of the 'Global village,' the forms of folk art of Maharashtra demand special attention and acknowledgement. This project attempts to analyse four folk art forms of Maharashtra - *Kirtana*, *Bharud*, *Lavani* and *Povada*, through the lens of gender and caste. This project is a conscious, systematic effort to unearth the existent but subtle inequalities in multiple folk expressions to comprehend the impact in its totality. In addition, this exercise would scientifically describe the power equations within, thus arriving at a deeper insight and clearer understanding of the politically meaningful hegemonic configurations. The field work has been completed and we are in the process of preparing the final report.

COVID19 PANDEMIC AND THE LOCKDOWN

The COVID19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown has thrown the entire world into a different mode of being. Perhaps the most difficult aspect, particularly for the students, has been the uncertainty, the sense of powerlessness, and the enforced restrictions on mobility and interactions that were hitherto taken for granted. At the time of the imposition of the lockdown, we had fortunately completed the syllabus in all our courses, the HSC Board exams were over, and we were on the verge of conducting our semester-end exams. Those were immediately put on hold.

The next two months were nerve-wracking for our students, as they did not know how, when or whether the exams would be conducted. Finally, the government took the decision to promote students from one class to another on the basis of their performance in the earlier term/semester and in previous years. The decision about whether or not to hold examinations for the final year/semester students continued to be debated for several months. Only in September, after a Supreme Court judgement on the matter, was it determined that examinations would be conducted, but online, and with MCQs.

The three collaborations with US universities which were to be finalised in May 2020, when Sr Ananda was due to visit the US and sign the MOUs, have been kept in abeyance. The provisions of the MOUs may need to be revised in the context of the post COVID19 world. But then, much that we have hitherto taken for granted has need to be restructured!

Early in the Lockdown, the **United Nations** issued a **Global Call Out to Creatives -- to Help Stop the Spread of Covid 19**. The idea behind the endeavour has been to unite the youth across cultures and countries in finding **creative communication solutions to educate people about the spread of the disease**.

Ten of our TYBMM Journalism students took up the initiative and worked in groups to create strategic content and communication, as part of this Call, on various aspects of the novel Corona virus, measures to contain it, and its impact. The students were guided through the process by Dr. Alope Thakore.

Their **Instagram design, video, audio and animation submissions** as part of this project are given below. They have been created with limited access to technological resources, and have been put together by students working from their hometowns in different corners of the country.

VIDEO CREATIVES

• Personal Hygiene

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-75LSNJ3Cp/?igshid=1jladchgds5bf>

- **Physical Distancing**

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-75nZVJI9J/?igshid=8fhwyhqssrju>

- **Myth Busting (Stop Motion Photography)**

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-9-3UTJIOp/?igshid=1ewnzphzckm2f>

AUDIO CREATIVES

- **Corona pe Charcha (Urdu)**

https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-kfF_j5u_/?igshid=lbzqgn1oh52r

- **Corona pe Charcha (Hindi)**

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-738LcD4Hm/?igshid=15kso15h9wo9h>

- **Conversation amidst the Lockdown (Bengali)**

<https://www.instagram.com/tv/B--GiuKBV3K/?igshid=rphdvcia9ag2v>

- **Conversation amidst the Lockdown (English)**

https://www.instagram.com/tv/B-7jR_hnjSo/?igshid=1kboiz8c9ubr

POSTER CREATIVES

- **Physical Distancing**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B-6pi7HgZqL/?igshid=uotxlhoyney4>

ANIMATION

- **Physical Distancing**

<https://www.instagram.com/p/B-6r9WmAp6L/?igshid=gmmrypkq1qms>

Efforts made to keep Students and Staff engaged and motivated during the Lockdown:

Online Educational Activities undertaken	No. of students benefitted	Outcome/ Impact of the online educational activities
I Webinars:		
a. Staying Healthy during Covid 19 times	270	helped participants understand how to stay healthy during the pandemic
b. SARS -CoV -2 Updates: Vaccine and treatment	100	update on recent developments
c. E Mask : Protecting yourself online	600	learning how to create cyber defences

d. Teaching in the Digital Era	184	new methodologies were discussed and challenges addressed
e. Cyber Awareness and Security for Academicians in the New Normal	300	becoming more tech savvy in handling online work and resources
f. Covid-19: an Immunologist's perspective	100	clarification of issues, clearing up of misconceptions
g. Celebrating Women in Science: Rosalind Franklin, the woman behind the discovery of the DNA structure	190	knowledge about the role played by women in science
h. What lies ahead - interactive sessions with industry experts	500	clearer understanding of the possibilities in the future
i. Stress management	68	tips on how to handle stress in this difficult time
j. Machineless mask making	88	skills learnt were put to use in making masks for the underprivileged
k. First Aid to the Rescue	98	skills in CPR and other first aid techniques
l. Secrets of Effective Communications	197	development of communication skills
m. Yoga: finding calm in the chaos	97	yoga techniques
n. The Environment and You: the journey ahead	75	skills in recycling, making fertilizer at home, learning medicinal uses of plants
o. Somewhere over the Rainbow	69	tips on handling emotional breakdowns in this stressful period
p. Laws and Rights of Women	172	legal issues related to women's rights
II Short term online courses for students		
a. Covid Times: Mythic Realities, Changing Frames	166	a practical course (24 hours) in conceptual psychology


III Training Sessions in online teaching for Teachers		
a. Use of Google classroom	102	effective online teaching-learning methodologies and techniques
b. Use of G-suite for education	102	"
c. Use of Zoom for education	102	"

CONCLUSION

The college was ranked 2nd in Mumbai for Arts and 3rd in Mumbai for Science by INDIA TODAY. It is important to us to continue to strive to keep the standards high, so as to ensure that the tradition we have inherited may be kept alive, developed and handed over healthy and shining to the next generation. With autonomy, the possibilities stretch out before us – we need to engage with our future in a planned and focussed way, building upon our strengths, minimising weaknesses, grasping every opportunity and addressing our challenges with vision, courage and faith. We look forward to taking this process forward with confidence and mutual trust.

We hope that someday we will be able to hold face-to-face classes again, but in the meantime, it is full steam ahead with efforts at online classes, practical demonstrations and assessment. ‘Brave New World’ indeed!

September 2020


Dr. (Sr.) Ananda Amritmahal
Principal