

# ISABELLA THOBURN COLLEGE, LUCKNOW.

## Principal's Report - 2020-21

Before the academic session 2019-20 could end, we were hit by the Global Pandemic COVID-19 and never did we imagine then that even after so many months we would still be grappling with the impact and the after effects of the corona virus. We had just begun the first examination of the final year students of the undergraduate courses on 16th March 2020, when it was suddenly announced that the rest of the examination schedule stood postponed. Shortly after, the Government announced a complete lockdown in the entire country from 25th March onwards with uncertainty looming large over the entire globe. However we had been able to organize 'AURA' our 3 cultural literary & Sports festival on 4th, 5th, & 6th February 2020 in which 20 teams from various colleges participated in various events. The festival was inaugurated by Justice V.K. Dixit. Isabella Thoburn College won the Champion of Champions trophy but being the host institution passed it on to the runners up team from Lucknow University. A new introduction during this festival was the 'Mock Parliament' which was a huge success with the participation of 69 delegates from various college. We were also able to have our Annual Baccalaureate Service and Awards Ceremony on 10th February with our honourable Chairman Bishop Phillip Masih who presided over the Service and presented an exhortation to the outgoing students. Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lucknow was the Chief Guest for the Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony. In his address he emphasized the need of the University and colleges to work together and aim for excellence. He also gave away the prizes to the meritorious students. Dr. S. Callender who superannuated this year was felicitated for her long and dedicated service to the college.



As uncertainty loomed large over us regarding the unfinished courses of the II<sup>nd</sup> & IV<sup>th</sup> Semester of U.G. and P.G. programmes, the Faculty geared up to take online classes for teaching and learning. There was a lot of unlearning and relearning to do but we were able to reach out to the student community and reassure them. It was then, that the University Grants Commission and the Higher Education Department announced that no exams will be held for the Semester students of both U.G. & P.G. and exams will be held only for the final year students, which were finally held from 7th September to 22nd September 2020 by following the COVID-19 protocol.

Arbour Day was celebrated jointly with Isabella Thoburn Intermediate College and Isabella Thoburn College of Professional Studies on 24th July 2020 beginning with a service in the Chapel, followed by tree plantation in various parts of the college by the Faculty.

As per the order of the Department of Higher Education academic documents of all permanent faculty members were verified by a committee instituted by the Zonal Higher Education Office on 27th July 2020 and all documents were found to be in order. All academic documents and service details of permanent Faculty, Class III & Class IV employees were also required to be uploaded on the Manav Sampada portal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

B.Ed. entrance test for Christian candidates was held on 3rd September 2020 and thereafter admission formalities were completed for the selected candidates.

This year the admission procedure for 1st year undergraduate courses was done online and began from 29th August 2020. The admissions were done on merit instead of the entrance test, due to the COVID-19 situation. Most of the U.G. and P.G. admissions were completed by 31st October 2020 and the 1st Semester classes of both U.G. and P.G. were begun online.

This year most activities were held online and even though it was new experience, the participation of students was very encouraging. All the departments, besides taking online classes organized webinars and various activities online in which the students participated enthusiastically.

Most Faculty members enrolled for Faculty Development Programmes (FDP), Workshops and training for re-skilling themselves for the new teaching-learning methodologies.

The department of Chemistry organized a web series of 5 lectures in the month of October to mark the 151<sup>st</sup> birth Anniversary of Mahatama Gandhi in which they invited Alumnae working as Scientist in various Academic Institutions across the world. The Department also released 'Expressions' – a book of poems and articles on the COVID-19 situation as well as their Annual Newsletter. The department is also held their Annual Science Festival 'Nirantar' online from 9th to 12th

December 2020. The department of Biotechnology also released its Newsletter. The department of Economics released 2 vols of their online newsletter 'Arthniti.'

The department of Nutrition observed the World Breast Feeding Week, the World Food Day, Global Hand washing Day, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, marking these events with Webinars, Interactive Sessions, activities and competitions.

The World Environment Day on 5th June was observed by the Departments of Chemistry, Botany & Biotechnology with International Webinars. The Department of Hindi celebrated Hindi Diwas. All the departments organized online National & International Webinars, workshops and training programs.

The Faculty has also developed e-content for the students and posted it on the College Website for students to access. We also have our own You Tube channel in which academic content for students is being uploaded. Training workshop for reskilling of Faculty was also conducted to equip the Faculty for online teaching.

### **Faculty Achievements:**

Ms. Anupama Anthony successfully completed an Orientation Programme while Dr. Caroline Beck completed a Refresher Programme from the Academic Staff College, University of Lucknow.

The following Faculty published Chapters in books

1. Dr. (Maj.) Neerja Masih (Home Science)
2. Dr. Paul Mathew (Education)
3. Dr. A. Srivastava (Economics)
4. Dr. A.E. David (History)
5. Dr. N. Sharma (Hindi)
6. Dr. A. Kapoor (B.Ed.)
7. Dr. S. Rajan (B.Ed.)
8. Dr. R. Joseph (B.Ed.)
9. Dr. Umang Tandon (Commerce) published a book on 'Labour Welfare Laws'

The following Faculty published papers in UGC recognized journals

1. Dr. Stuti Khare (English)
2. Dr. A. Jamwal (Home Science)
3. Dr. H. Siddiqui (Education)
4. Mrs. A. Joseph (Physics)
5. Dr. Smita Verma (Sociology)
6. Dr. Chitra Singh (Zoology)
7. Ms. Karishma Bisht (English)
8. Dr. A. Gulati (B.L.I.Sc.)

The following Faculty were accorded awards for their academic contribution.

1. Dr. A. Srivastava (Economics) : Golden souls of Awadh City Award.
2. Dr. N. Sharma (Hindi) : Srajan Samman Award by Sahityik Mitra Mandal and Subhadra Kumari Chauhan Rashtriya Samman.

Faculty members were also invited as Resource persons, Speakers and Judges by various Institutions.

The Faculty also contributed generously to the Community Kitchen of the University of Lucknow to provide meal packets to the underprivileged during the Pandemic by contributing an amount of Rs.52,000/-.

### **Students Achievements:**

The following students qualified NET:

1. Zoya Sheikh (Home Science) NET-JRF
2. Devhooiti Upadhyay (Home Science) NET
3. Sahar Parvez (Home Science) NET



4. Rajshri Balani (Economics) NET
5. Vandana Priyadarshi (Geography) NET-JRF
6. Roma Siddiqui (Geography) NET
7. Richa Yadav (Geography) NET
8. Pragya Pandey (Geography) NET
9. Rashmi Yadav (Geography) NET
10. Ritu Yadav (Geography) NET
11. Elma Maqsood (English) NET
12. Mansi Wilkinson (English) NET
13. Twinkle Agarwal (Zoology) NET-JRF
14. Swati Sarkar (Zoology) NET-JRF

The following students qualified the UPPCS examination of 2018

1. Akanksha Singh
2. Priya Patel (Research Scholar – Sociology)
3. Neha Mishra
4. Jyoti Sharma secured 3rd rank in the UPPCS examination.
5. Smriti Singh, B.Sc. (2016-17)

Shraddha Bajpai of B.Sc.III secured the 1st rank in UP State in the National Physics Graduate Examination.

Era Moore of B.Com. won the 1<sup>st</sup> position in 'Women's Fitness Model' of Uttar Pradesh Body Building Championship 2020 and 4<sup>th</sup> position in the Federation Cup Senior Women's Model Physique National Championship 2020.

Satakshi Dubey and Devanshi Singh participated in the Aditya Chaturvedi Memorial debate at Awadh Girls Degree College on 3rd October 2020 and won the 3rd prize as a team while Satakshi Dubey was adjudged the Best Speaker against the motion. 7 students were offered internship through the Career Counselling and Economics completed their internship.

NSS and NCC cadets involved in social service during the Pandemic and distributed face masks and soap bars in slum areas. NCC cadets participated in various camps and 4 cadets were selected for the Inter-group camp while Khushi Srivastava was selected for the Republic Day Camp 2021.

The college also participated in the 'Mission Shakti' movement from 16th – 25th October 2020 of the Government of Uttar Pradesh and conducted online programmes like Marshal Arts, Self Defence, Women's Safety, Nutrition and Psychological counselling in which parents and guardians also participated and took the oath of safeguarding the interest and safety of the girl child.

In the midst of uncertainty we were able to hold on to many of our age old traditions and celebrate them. One such tradition was the Karamchari Christmas celebrated on 9th December in which all the Karamcharis participated with their families. It was an afternoon of fun, frolic, games, gifts and refreshments.

In a first of sorts, this year we had our Christmas Candlelight Service streaming online on Youtube and Facebook on 19th December. This was a completely new experience for us, but one that opened new vistas for us. The journey of the first Christmas was like the journey of the migrants in the present times, but out of this journey, hope was born. The Candlelight Service 2020 brought out this message beautifully through narratives and songs.

As soon as we come back after the short winter break, the Faculty got together for their Annual Winter Retreat on 5th January which began with a service led by Rev. Avinash Masih, Associate Pastor, Ganeshganj Methodist Church. Little did we know that we would lose him to the Corona virus in April. Our heart goes out to his young wife, Mrs. Karuna Masih, Intermediate Faculty and their 2 small children. During this retreat we watched an inspiring film 'Courageous' and later had an enervating group discussion on the same of the issues raised in the film.

On 8th March, we celebrated the International Women's Day by felicitating our Alumnae who achieved success in National Competitive examination.

On 18th March, the much awaited SGA Installation Service was held when the Student Government Association Cabinet took their oath of allegiance with Priyansha Singh as President in a solemn ceremony.

The Student Christian Movement cabinet with Preeti Beck, as President, pledged their oath of office on 19th March. Both SGA and SCM office bearers are two strong pillars of the college and with their unstinted support, we are able to provide a good academic and spiritual environment to nurture values in our students.

However before the Academic session could end, we were hit by the 2nd wave of the corona virus, which took a heavy toll on us. We were shocked and heart broken to lose those we loved and held dear. Our Chairman Bishop Phillip Masih, who had led our College through 2 successive quadrenniums lost his brave battle to Covid-19 on 14th April, 2021. We miss his able leadership and cheerful demeanor as we do his powerful exhortations on college events. Soon after, we lost Mr. Arun Saxena, our Accountant, Mr. Anjani Srivastava our computer maintenance person, Mr. Levin Peter, Office staff, Mr. Anwar, our gardener in close succession. Some of our Faculty and staff lost their spouses, parents, siblings. Some of our students lost parents and grandparents. It was a cruel and tough season. The aching dullness remains, their memories live on and we move on. In the midst of this we have stories of heroism, of courage, of sacrifice and of hope. Life must be lived. It was a test of endurance, but God carried us in His arms. "The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are His everlasting arms (Exodus 33:27).

I would like to conclude my report by gratefully acknowledging the support, guidance and encouragement of our Committee of Management, Board of Governors and Society under the able leadership of our Chairman Bishop Phillip S. Masih. I am specially grateful to our President Dr. (Mrs.) E.S. Charles for her constant involvement and encouragement at every step and her dynamic leadership in steering the college to meet the challenges of administration.

We also welcome our new Bishop, Bishop Subodh Mondal, Presiding Bishop of Delhi Episcopal Area, who has been given additional charges of the Lucknow Episcopal Area.

I acknowledge my appreciation for our Faculty, especially in these trying times, when they quickly rose to the occasion to gear and reskill themselves and adapt to the new paradigm shift in teaching methodologies.

I am grateful to our Office staff and support staff who were present throughout most of the lockdown to carry out their duties efficiently.

This year we did not have much face to face interaction with our students, nevertheless we were connected to them through on-line classes, webinars, activities. The enthusiastic participation of the students in all activities was very encouraging.

I am most grateful to the Lord our God for His grace and mercy in our time of need and for His protection and provision in these difficult times. Our hearts are filled with praise and thanksgiving as we give all glory and honour to Him.

**Thank you,**

**Respectfully submitted**

**Dr. (Mrs.) Vinita Prakash  
Principal  
Isabella Thoburn College  
Lucknow.**