

Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith

Birati, Kolkata – 51

Annual Report (01.06.2021 - 30.05.2022)

Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith began its journey as a higher education institute from 5th March 1964 to address the educational needs of the growing multitudes of Birati and the adjoining rural and semi-urban neighbourhoods of North 24 Parganas followed by the population boom of post-partition Bengal. The institute was primarily funded by the local people along with patriotic social workers under the aegis of Birati Shiksha Samsad and aimed to make higher education inclusive, accessible and affordable to partition-inflicted masses facing economic crisis. The college gained its name from Srimati Mrinalini Dutta whose son Santosh Chandra Dutta donated graciously for the cause.

The college initially offered general degree courses. In a span of fifty years, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith evolved as a multi-faculty Degree co-educational College with Postgraduation Course in three subjects. Accredited “B++” in 2005 and “B+” in 2016 by the NAAC Peer Team, the College has tried to maintain and further escalate the heights of academic excellence and community welfare.

The voyage of this Institute started with affiliation from the University of Calcutta till the academic session 2007-08. From the session 2008-09 we were brought under the umbrella of the West Bengal State University, Barasat, through the Govt order No.300-Edn(U)/EH/1U-38/08, dated 26 May 2008. The second phase of our journey is also packed with its own charm and adventures. In the new era, we introduced Undergraduate Honours course in 6 Science subjects (Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology and Chemistry) and the Postgraduate courses in Bengali (2014-15), Education (2018-19) and Commerce (2019-20). With such expansion, the College now runs Honours Courses in 20 subjects and General Courses in 23 subjects in the streams of Arts, Science, Commerce and Management. Three new subjects, Microbiology, Psychology and Food and Nutrition, have been introduced from the current session.

It is also a matter of great inspiration for the stakeholders of the College that with the catalytic intervention of the Hon’ble President of our Governing Body, the Government of West Bengal has awarded us in the year 2014 a LTS (Long Term Settlement) of 1.87 acres (112 cottahs) of land in two plots at Fatullapur, Nimta for the establishment of the Second Campus of our Institution and the Governing Body of the College has decided to introduce professional courses in the new campus.

Covid 19 and It’s Aftermath

As a new era of terror ushered with Covid-19 evolving into its second and third waves, the world saw unprecedented misery and sadness. Despite the raging pandemic, the College continued with online teaching-learning, examination and evaluation. The Online Class Assistance Committee (OCAC) was formed by the college to tackle the needs of the hour and it continued to provide technical support to faculties and students regarding novel challenges related to organizing online classes, online examinations and extra-curricular programs. Online

programs of the college continued to be organized through the college's paid Google G-Suite account.

Faculties continued to use tools like PPT, video clips, online resources from NPTEL, Coursera, simulation tools, virtual labs, tools like Mentimeter, Quizz.com, and Cloud portals. Zoom/Google Meet/Team link platforms were used for online classes. Video and audio study materials were provided to the students via different platforms. Online tutorial and remedial classes were regularly held and study materials/E-contents were made available on the College website.

A Vaccination Camp was conducted in the campus premises to combat the Covid 19 infection among for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Semester students of the college guided by the Government Order issued by the Departments of Health & Family Welfare and Higher Education, Government of West Bengal on 05.10.2021. 121 students received vaccine under this initiative. A part of the institute was used by North Dum Dum Municipality as Kabiguru Safe Home to house and treat the accelerating ailing masses of the locality.

A seminar was conducted by the West Bengal Student Credit Card Sub-Committee in association with IQAC of the college on 06.01.2022 for the students. The initiative aimed to facilitate student participation during the pandemic and raised student morale regarding conducting educational activities in digital/blended mode.

Classes in blended mode began initially from 16.11.2021. From the 3rd of February, all academic activities including classes have shifted to offline mode as per government notification.

“CHOLO SIKHI ONLINE” (LET’S LEARN ONLINE)

In order to facilitate online learning drive among school students, the college in association with Vidyatan Sammilani, Birati, arranged for a free three-month curriculum-based education programme entitled, “Cholo Sikhi Online”. The planning of the programme was done by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of the college and it was successfully executed by the Science Forum and NSS Units 1 and 2 of the institution. This undertaken project, conceived during the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, was directed to provide an exposure to the school students between Classes IX and XII through an expert rendering of the college teachers, on important subjects like, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography etc.

The programme was inaugurated on 26.06.2021 through online deliberations of Swami Shastragyanananda, Principal, Ramkrishna Mission Abashik Mahavidyalaya, Narendrapur, and Dr. Partha Karmakar, WBES, Deputy Secretary (Academic), WB Secondary Education Council. Individual Whatsapp groups were created with students from several schools coming from Birati and covered areas beyond North 24 Parganas district. Along with one-hour online class about their curricula, the students were also offered exposure to trends in higher education, discussion on technologies that are need of the hour (like Artificial Intelligence), plus doubt clearing sessions. There was also an extended session on the Career Options that the students might avail in the upcoming future.

Students' Progression, Participation and Other Dynamics

In teaching-learning methodology, evaluation plays vital role in determining the future of the students. Our institution is no exception. The pass percentage of final year students in the session 2021-22 is **99.33%**.

- Total number of Final Year Students who appeared in the University (WBSU) Examinations: **747**.
- Total number of Final Year Students who passed the University Examinations: **742**.
- The Pass Percentage of students during the year in **Undergraduate Courses (UG)**:
 - In **Arts Stream**, total number of students appeared: **593** & total number of students passed: **589**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **99.32%**
 - In **Commerce Stream**, total number of students appeared: **35** & total number of students passed: **35**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **100%**.
 - In **Science Stream**, total number of students appeared: **68** & total number of students passed: **67**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **98.52%**.
- The Pass Percentage of students during the year in **Postgraduate Courses (PG)**:
 - In **Bengali**, total number of students appeared: **19** & total number of students passed: **19**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **100%**.
 - In **Commerce**, total number of students appeared: **02** & total number of students passed: **02**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **100%**.
 - In **Education**, total number of students appeared: **30** & total number of students passed: **30**. So, the total ratio of pass percentage remains: **100%**.

Despite the economic and infrastructural hurdles boosted by the spread of Covid 19, the college made every possible effort to benefit the students. Apart from regular classes, Examinations of UG and PG, Annual & CBCS students were conducted online, including paper setting, evaluation and marks uploading. Several cultural events like Annual Prize Day and Fest were conducted online. Government welfare schemes for the students like Kanyashree, Swami Vivekananda Merit Cum Means and Student Credit Card were processed despite the pandemic. As a result, 264 applicants benefited by scholarships offered by the Government during the session 2021-2022: 207 students bagged SVMCM scholarship and 57 got Kanyashree.

Sanitization of the college was done on several occasions and it is still an ongoing process. It was accomplished on 05.05.2021 by the college authorities. All departments and buildings including the Science and Arts Libraries were sanitized. Later with the Government notification regarding resuming of on-campus classes with effect from 16th November 2021 and 3rd February, 2022, the college was sanitized thoroughly. Sanitizer machines have been installed at strategic points in the college premises for the benefit of students and staff arranged by the faculties, staffs and students from the Chemistry department of the college.

The faculties of the college also remained highly alert, dynamic and research-oriented during the pandemic session. **20 UGC care-listed journal publications** were made by them across all disciplines alongwith **17 books chapters** in edited/published volumes during the 2021-2022 session. The faculties participated in different **Orientation/Induction Programmes, Refresher Courses, Short Term Courses** during the year 2021-22. The number amounts to 16 in this session.

The NCC and NSS units of the college collaborated with the Nimta Sub-Traffic Guard unit under the Barrackpore Police Commissionerate (North 24 Paraganas, W.B.) for a road safety

awareness campaign titled “Safe Drive Save Life” on 20/12/2021 and 22/12/2021. The program was held at the 201 Bus Stand on the Kalyani Expressway which is an accident-prone area of the neighbourhood. The aim of the program was to promote safe driving and riding habits like wearing helmets, especially by the pillion rider, obeying speed limits, discouraging rash motorcycle driving prevalent amongst young drivers and harsh pro-accident overtaking by buses, etc. 42 NCC cadets and NSS volunteers marched down the stretch making announcements accompanied by road safety songs and slogans over their megaphones. They also patiently interacted with the drivers and local residents and distributed awareness leaflets among the general crowd. The Youth Red Cross Unit of the college also arranged an awareness creation programme in 2022 as the months of April and May saw a heat wave in the state. In order to sensitize both the students and the general public towards heat-related illnesses, especially heat stroke, the YRC unit of the college conducted an “Awareness Programme on Heat Wave” within and outside the campus on 30.04.2022. The YRC volunteers of the college interacted with local people explaining how to identify the common symptoms of heat stroke and discussed the preventive measures among the commoners.

The students and alumni of the college are also very active and dynamic. They actively participate in intra- and inter-college sports, creative, career-oriented, and cultural activities spanning across local, regional, zonal, state, national and international levels. Their active participation in cultural and sports activities have always added new feathers to the excellence of the institution:

- The football team of the college secured 1st position in the State Level Football League (ANANDADHARA, 2K22) Competition on 22.05.2022 organised by Brainware University, Barasat, West Bengal in the session 2021-2022.
- Suman Sarkar, 2nd Semester, Department of Geography, became the Second runner up in State Level Online Poster Making Competition celebrating “World Earth Day” organized jointly by the Department of Geography, Hiralal Mazumdar College for Women and Government Girls General Degree College, Ekbalpur.
- Sanjitava Biswas, 6th Semester, Department of Geography, earned the Perfect score of 100/100 in Quiz competition entitled “How well do you know Cartography?” on organized by Proprof Software Tool Development Company, Kolkata.
- Many students spanning across the streams of Humanities, Science and Commerce background progressed to higher education after obtaining their Honours degree to institutes like CU, PU, KU, WBSU, RBU, SNU, IGNOU, NSOU, Central University of Odisha, etc.
- Archisman Sarkar (PG Pass Out 2020, Alumnus, Department of Education; appeared for NET in December 2020 and June 2021 merged session) successfully qualified UGC NET as LS/Assistant Professor in the subject Education on 12.03.2022.
- Arpan Malik (PG Pass Out 2021, Alumnus, Department of Education; appeared for West Bengal SET for Assistant Professor on 09.01.2022) successfully qualified WBCSC SET as Assistant Professor in the subject Education on 29.04.2022.
- Labanya Roy (UG Pass Out 2021, Alumnus, Department of English) successfully qualified GATE in 2022.
- 8 alumni pass outs of the college have secured employment in reputed state-government (Cultural Research Institute, West Bengal), national (Air India Airport Services Limited, BYJU’S, etc.), and international (TCS, Capgemini, etc.) institutes and are enriching the nation with their industrial, managerial and research skills.

- The college also undertook several Capacity Building and Skills Enhancement initiatives to hone and upskill the students' skills, like, career, entrepreneurship and psychological counselling programs, movie screening program, eye check-up camps and yoga practicing skills. These measures offered students new ways and means to understand and uplift their career scope. They also enhanced their holistic development by extending their skillsets across different skill subsets like Soft skills, Language and communication skills, Life skills and ICT/Computing skills.
- ❖ Today we live in world of global warming, Corporate Capitalism, Globalization, Industrialization, and rapid Urbanization. We are progressive, motivated, and enthusiastic about everything. We invented machines, robot, satellites and what not! But we hardly think about the other side of these technological inventions and the repercussions it created. For example, the waste created by mutilated satellites in a space, the condition of an entangled turtle in sea etc. It is high time to think over the other side of light as these both sides combine to produce the whole. Besides, invention, it is the recycling, renovation, waste management are of utmost importance. Our institution has acclimatized the students with this practical necessity in different forms as **Waste Management Initiatives**:
 - **Department of Botany** has initiated the management of departmental biodegradable wastes recycled for making **biofertilizer** in miniature scale. Students of the department of Botany often use different plants/plant parts in their practical classes. After these classes, the leftover of plants is collected and deposited in a waste collection box. Besides these, residual parts of fruits used by faculties and students and residual part of tea are collected and stored in waste box. A handful amount of soil and 500 ml water are added to it. After 6 to 8 months these will be decomposed completely into brown to grey coloured biofertilizer. We generally use two separate waste boxes annually. This biofertilizer is used to fortify our garden plants of college. This will reduce the use of inorganic fertilizer. It also restores the health of soil. It is very low-cost manure.
 - Another unique initiative of Botany: "**Preparation of distilled water from harvested Rainwater.**" The department requires approximately 100-liter distilled water annually. Glass made water distillation plant is used to prepare distilled water. Previously the students used tap water for making distilled water. Tap water generally contains different dissolved solids like- sulphates, phosphate and carbonate in it. These impurities may cause several long-term hazards inside glass containers. To overcome this problem, Department of Botany has used Rainwater. Rain is a natural precipitation phenomenon. Rainwater is typically devoid of all dissolved solids but contains dissolved gases (oxides of carbon, nitrogen and sulphur) which result in pH values of about 5.5 or lower. Importantly, it is a free source and can be collected in a considerable quantity from roof top in rainy season. The students collected approximately 200 litres rain water annually by placing a 25 litres capacity tough on a tripod stand. As a result of this, they can get almost doubled distilled water. Other than their own department, Department of Zoology, Microbiology and Chemistry also use this distilled water occasionally. They also reuse the water coming from Liebig condenser.
 - These initiatives can help them to procure proper knowledge about their subject and their practical applicability. It also enhances their capabilities to stand on their feet. Most importantly, it is an approach towards sustainable development which will protect the environment.

❖ The institution is not restricted to the scheduled teaching-learning procedure. It is continuously in search of innovative and productive methodologies that provide future possibilities and opportunities for the students. The Add-on/ Certificate programmes are amongst them. These Add-on/ Certificate programmes enlighten students to both newer avenues and to create cosmopolitan attitude to experience the changing world. With this vision in mind, two Add-on/Certificate Programmes were introduced in the session 2021-22. The details are given below:

- “*Applied Plant Pathology*” offered by the Departments of Botany and Microbiology, having Course Code- APP (Botany & Microbiology) during the year 2022. The course was offered *online, once in a year*. It spans over **30 hours** duration. Total **23 students** enrolled and **21 students** completed the course successfully. So, the success ratio was: **91.30%**. The salient objectives of the course were: (i) the students will learn basic concepts of causation of disease in plant, (ii) it will enable the students to analyze the diseased plant samples in the laboratory (iii) students will gain knowledge of important plant diseases, their etiology, salient characteristics and control measures (iv) the course will help to identify the features of disease-causing microbes and lesions produced on the plant parts. (v) Most importantly, students will have experiences for getting jobs in research laboratories.

- We are born in this world with biological identities. But our behaviours are not always biologically determined, rather socially, culturally, and psychologically motivated. This problematizes the complexities of behaviour in human being. Sometimes, we are perplexed between duties & obligations, rights and expectations, do’s and don’ts, social taboos and freedom, desire and restrictions etc.

Gender equality is the essence of human rights, jurisprudence. It is the key factor in the recent agenda of development all over the world. Gender norms, patriarchal ideology, customs and practices deprive women of their rights across social, economic and public life. In all aspects of social practice, women are denied human rights and basic freedom. Absence of women in decision making process, lack of education, poor health, sexual abuse, domestic violence etc. continuously violate their rights. There are several provisions in the Constitution in India to provide equal protection before the law. Many legislations are also there to protect the rights of women. However, in practice, violation of the rights of women is so widespread that only constitutional and legal protection is not sufficient & therefore conceptual change from the grassroot level is required. As a result of prolonged women’s movements and the sensitivity of non-governmental organizations toward women issues, The National Human Rights Commission & National Women’s Commission have been striving to promote and preserve women’s rights and human rights in India. Keeping this in mind the Departments of English, Political Science & Sociology had offered the Add-on/ Certificate Programme, “*Human Rights and Gender Studies*”, having Course Code- HRGS during the year 2022. The course was offered *online, once in a year*. It spans over **35 hours** duration. Total **50 students** enrolled and **49 students** completed the course successfully. So, the success ratio was: **98%**.

Teaching-learning is not certainly one way communication; it includes pluralistic or multiple orientations. Sometimes, it is teacher-centric, sometimes, it is student-centric, sometimes, it is both, sometimes, it grapples other dimensions as well. It is the combination of all components that complete the overall learning of students. These interconnected nexuses of different components which ignite the minds and souls of the students, are of paramount importance in shaping and moulding the students' psyche. For, example, only theoretical knowledge about concept "Poverty" cannot do justice to the condition of the downtrodden people. It is through neutral interaction, research, accompaniment, mutual dependency, sympathy, help, can we only understand them and make them felt. It can also illuminate their practical knowledge, mythologies, belief systems, experience, survival strategies, mutual dependencies, ethics etc. it is this magical combination of Theory and Practical knowledge that clarifies and redefines the field of knowledge. Consequently, Field Work, Field Tour, Educational Excursion, Documentary Film Screening and Group Discussion, Workshop and Training Programme, Learn and Earn Project are of sublime importance in imparting practical and realistic methods of learning. Our Institution employs student centric methods, such as experiential learning, participative learning, and problem-solving methodologies in day-to-day teaching-learning in the following manner:

1. Field work:

- The department of Anthropology conducted a fieldwork at Atulia, Habra-I block in North 24 Paraganas district of West Bengal (31.03.2022 – 03.04.2022). There the students gained first-hand experience of data collection, analysis and interpretation of data for societal welfare. They also learned from their teachers how to establish connection with local people and authorities so as to smoothen the data collection process.

2. Educational Excursion:

- In order to build observational and research skills amongst the students, the department of Sociology undertook a one-day educational excursion to *Mayapur* of Nadia district in West Bengal (24.03.2022) wherein they got to explore the religion and culture amongst the Iskcon devotees. They also visited and studied the Vedic education system as practised in "Gurukul" in Mayapur Ashram.
- Educational excursion was arranged by the department of Botany to *Bibhuti Bhusan Wild Life Sanctuary* (Parmadan Forest) in Bongaon, North 24 Parganas (08.04.2022) where students gained first-hand knowledge on forest plants growing there naturally. They studied several weed flora available there. The academic skills of the students become fortified by such excursions.
- An exposure visit was organized by department of Anthropology for its students (20.05.2022) to the *Indian Museum* in Kolkata on the eve of International Museum Day.

3. Documentary film screening followed by Group Discussion:

- The Department of History screened the documentary film “*First Man*” directed by Damien Chazelle (10.12.2021) which was followed by an interactive session with the students to acquaint them with the concept of human evolution. It is hoped that the screening will improve their conceptual understanding of human civilization.
- The Department of English screened the movie “*Murder on the Orient Express*” for its third semester students (18.12.2021) followed by a Group-discussion on the film with the target to improve communication skills and analytical acumen. Students become oriented with audio-visual learning aids and develop a newer understanding of their texts.

4. Workshop and training programme:

- The department of Sociology in collaboration with LIVER foundation and PRATHAM Educational foundation organized a workshop and training programme for the third and fifth semester students of the department of Sociology (08.12.2021 to 10.12.2021) in connection with ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) survey which is the largest citizen led house-hold based survey in our country on the educational status of children aged 5 to 14 years. First a preparatory workshop was conducted by the college for two days during which the students conducted a pilot survey in nearby Panchayat area. This was followed by the actual survey work in 30 villages of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal in a span of two weeks.

5. Learn and Earn project:

- The students of the departments of Botany and Microbiology jointly engaged in an “*Learn and Earn Project*” (17.03.2022) where they prepared organic and safe colours for Holi under the guidance of the teachers. These chemical free colours were then sold for revenue generation.

6. Project work:

Several courses include project work by the students. For example, subjects like Geography, Education, Computer Science etc. require students to work either in groups or individually to make projects in topics of their choice under the guidance of some faculty members and defend the same in front of external examiners during their term-end exams.

Outreach and Extension Activities of the College

Despite facing many unprecedented hardships that arose in the aftermath of Covid-19 outbreak the college very successfully initiated two important MOUs with two prestigious institutes.

- The Department of Anthropology, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith had signed a MOU with the prestigious Department of Anthropology, Dera Natung Government College, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh during the previous session (12.04.2021) for a duration of 2 years. The session 21-22 witnessed several collaborative activities sprouting from the joint efforts of both the robust departments:
 - An Online International Lecture Series was Jointly organized by Departments of Anthropology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith, Kolkata, India, and Dera Natung Govt. College, Itanagar, India comprising twelve lectures on “Historical Development of Anthropology

as a Discipline in Asia” during the duration 11 August 2021 to 17 February 2022 where 812 participants participated from all over the globe.

- A Two-Day Online National Seminar on “Recent Trends in Anthropological Research” was jointly organized by the Departments of Anthropology of Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith, Kolkata and Dera Natung Govt. College, Itanagar on 1st and 2nd July, 2021 where 342 participants comprising of eminent anthropologists, faculty members, research scholars, and students from different parts of the country and abroad participated.
- A Faculty Exchange Program was also initiated by the departments as Dr. Ratna Tayeng faculty of the Department of Anthropology, Dera Natung Govt. College was invited to take weekly classes at Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith. He acted as an eminent resource person and delivered online lectures between February-June 2022.
- The college continued its MOU with WEBEL Informatics Limited (A Government of West Bengal Undertaking) to offer “Diploma in PC Application” Course for the benefit of the students of the college.
- Dr. Suman Chakrabarty, Faculty and HOD, Department of Anthropology, and Coordinator, Department of Food and Nutrition, and RBU Study Centre, Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith, was invited as a visiting scholar by Northern Institute for Environmental and Minority Law, Arctic Centre, University of Lapland (under Chair of Legal Research and Education, University of the Arctic, Rovaniemi), Finland to deliver guest lectures on his research conducted on tribal and indigenous people of India from 22 to 31 May 2022. Dr. Chakrabarty also conducted Expert Interviews at Arctic Centre during his short international visit and we are hopeful that his knowledge and expertise gained during the program would greatly enrich the students of the institute.