

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata-700009

Phone No. 23503896

Email: snlcollege@gmail.com

Website: snlawcollege.ac.in

BEST PRACTICE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - Extension and Outreach Activities

The Context: The establishment of the Extension Activities Committee in Surendranath Law College was motivated and inspired out of a sense of responsibility towards nation building and national integration among students through their engagement in social work. The college's ethos is rooted in the principles of social justice and human rights, aligning with its mission to not only educate students in law but also to instil in them a deep sense of responsibility towards society. The committee aims to play an important role in moulding students into socially-responsible citizens with a deep understanding of the economic and social diversity in India. Through various programmes, the committee seeks to sensitise students through actual participation and experiential learning in the day-to-day life of the society. This process of learning is not only a desirable supplement to classroom education, but develops a sense of social responsibility, tolerance, team-work and cooperation amongst students and provides holistic education.

The Practice: The college has conducted various extension and outreach activities such as blood donation camps, eye and health check-up camps, rally against child labour, food and clothes distribution programmes and visits to old age homes. Such programmes have important implications in upholding the Human and Professional Ethics of the college, in espousing responsible behaviour and in building a team of socially conscious and dutiful students and teachers with a sense of moral responsibility. The college provides them opportunities to work with people at the grassroots level in order to develop an awareness about social realities and concern for the well-being of the community by engaging in creative and constructive social action. Surendranath Law College has also signed a MoU with Narasinghapur Sree Ramakrishna Sevashram, and with NGO- A Hand. The MoU with Narasinghapur Sree Ramakrishna Sevashram seeks to develop friendship and cooperation, promote

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata-700009

Phone No. 23503896

Email: snlcollege@gmail.com

Website: snlawcollege.ac.in

mutual learning for social and cultural development and provide an opportunity for faculty members to join hands and actively participate in social welfare activities of the organization and train students in social work and social extension activities. The MoU with 'A HAND' is an NGO (society) and a dynamic philanthropic social welfare organization and the college has partnered with this organization to provide an opportunity to teachers and students for active participation in social extension activities to facilitate the possibility of experiential learning and training for students of the college in the sphere of social work.

Some of the programmes organised by the college are as follows-

- i. Food distribution programme- (2024, 2024, 2025), - at Gate No.2 of Chittaranjan National Medical College at 7:30 P.M., in collaboration with the NGO, 'The Hand', as part of the college's community engagement initiative.
- ii. Health & Eye Check-up Camp- (2025), organised in collaboration with British Biologicals, a British Global Healthcare Pharmaceutical Company and Iris Hospital.
- iii. Food and Clothes Distribution – (2022) at Gitanjali Old Age Home, Keshtopur, Kolkata, to observe World Senior Citizen's Day.
- iv. Rally – Against Child Labour- (2022).
- v. Awareness Programme for Senior Citizens- (2022) with a view to create awareness among the inmates of the Old Age Home Aware of their legal and social rights.
- vi. Blood Donation amp (2022) in collaboration with Rotary Club of East Kolkata.

Outcome & Success

The programmes organized by the Extension Activities Committee have resulted in active student involvement in all community-oriented activities. This has contributed to bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world social issues. Students gained first-hand exposure to societal challenges, which nurtured empathy, compassion, and fostered a sense of civic duty in young minds. It also enhanced

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata-700009

Phone No. 23503896

Email: snlcollege@gmail.com

Website: snlawcollege.ac.in

students' leadership qualities, team spirit, and effective communication and fostered values of national integration, social harmony, inclusiveness, and respect for diversity, thereby contributing to the holistic development of students. Additionally, these activities strengthened the institution's relationship with the local community and stakeholders thereby reinforcing the college's legacy of commitment to nation-building and social transformation.

Challenges & Way Forward

The Extension Activities Committee has successfully implemented a wide range of programmes despite several challenges that were encountered in the process. The main limitation was financial resources that often restricted the scale and frequency of outreach activities. Apart from funds that were sanctioned by the college, voluntary contributions were collected from faculty members, However, certain programmes such as food and clothes distribution involved higher expenditure that had to be scaled down to make it financially viable. This apart, the academic class schedules and examination also posed time constraints, affecting sustained student participation. The college has been deliberating on increasing MoU partnership with corporate bodies so that collaborative programmes can be organised as part of corporate social responsibility to ease the financial and logistical burden. To a great extent, the involvement of more MoU partners can help ease financial and logistical bottlenecks and enable the programmes to be launched on a wider scale. Attendance of students has been improved by increasing incentives to participate in all programmes by integrating extension activities into the academic framework. The college has already started awarding certificates of participation to students as an added merit in recognition of students' contribution in the programme.