

SURENDRANATH LAW COLLEGE

24/2, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata-700009

Phone No. 23503896

Email: snlcollege@gmail.com

Website: snlawcollege.ac.in

BEST PRACTICE: SUPPORT FOR SC/ST/OBC/EWS AND MINORITY STUDENTS

The Context: The aim of education is meant not only to nurture the excellence already in an intellectually talented person but also to uplift the under-privileged, so that he / she becomes capable to safeguard his / her interests. As per the recommendation and mandate of the UGC, the SC/ST/OBC/EWS and Minority Cell, has been formed in the college. With a high percentage of over 40% students belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS and Minority category, the cell acquires profound importance in playing a key role to ensure equitable and accessible space for learning to all students.

The Practice: The Cell strives to fulfil the objectives of providing multi-pronged support and continuous assistance to students belonging to SC / ST / OBC (non-creamy layer) / minority communities.

- a) **Special Remedial Classes** covering all law and non-law subjects are organised for students belonging to SC / ST / OBC (non-creamy layer) / minority communities of all semesters, to help them cope with academic pressure, to reduce their failure and drop-out rate and to provide an additional opportunity to interact closely with teachers for academic attention.
- b) **Guidance and assistance to avail Scholarship.** Continuous support and guidance are provided to students from SC, ST, OBC, EWS and other minority categories in order to help them avail and benefit from all kinds of scholarship schemes that they are eligible to receive.

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Outcome and Success:

The remedial classes have been appreciated by students as an effective programme to provide an extra opportunity to academically weaker students of backward classes to clarify doubts in the subjects and help them to improve and gain confidence. The student attendance has been improving and the students have found the extra tutoring to be effective in getting individual attention to discuss doubts and queries.

The guidance provided to SC/ST/OBC/Minority students has been effective in assisting students to avail scholarships. Although the college has a separate Scholarship committee managed by the Nodal Officer and office staff; the SC/ST/OBC/EWS and Minority students' cell has helped in sharing information among students about their scholarship entitlements, eligibility and documentation formalities.

Challenges Faced, and Future Plans: The SC/ST/OBC/EWS and Minority cell has been functioning well in the college. The remedial classes have received good response as an extra measure to make education inclusive and sensitive towards the needs of students. The challenge that was identified in some case was irregularity in attendance of students. Irregular attendance in most cases was due to time constraints caused by students' overlapping academic schedules especially in case of students engaged in internships who were particularly unable to adjust their work-hours with the remedial schedule.

Towards this, there has been continued effort in scheduling remedial classes in sync with the class routine and programme schedule and also through online mode. Whilst, this may be possible, online classes also carry with itself the disadvantage of not adequately guaranteeing personal and face-to-face interactions to build stronger teacher-student relationship. Therefore, there are deliberations taking place among the faculty to work out the best possible manner in which the academic and related needs of students concerned can be best addressed in the most inclusive manner.