

Best Practice 1: The UNESCO and Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and its related Diploma Courses

The UNESCO and Cardinal Paul Poupard Foundation Chair for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue continued its practice of fostering discussion on important social issues in 2019-2020. With the aim of women's empowerment, Prof Anmol Patankar conducted a guest lecture on 'Women, Law and Religion' on 18 July 2019. Following this, on 08 August, 2019, Mr Vikram Crishna gave a talk titled 'Flow: India Through Water' to raise awareness about community-wide water conservation. The annual activity week began on 25 November, 2019 and had an open stage for diverse dances, poetry, and singing, a quiz on religion and culture, an essay writing competition on 'Diversity in India', a 'make-from-waste' fashion show on cultural diversity, and student-led discussions on key issues such as racism, terrorism, and LGBTQIA+ rights. The Ummeed Child Care Development Group conducted a workshop on 'Narrative Practices and Ideas' (co-hosted by the Equal Opportunity Cell) for 30 students in order to address the intersection of culture, story-making, and mental health. An international conference on 'Celebrating Diversities' was held on 9 January 2020 to discuss how to work towards an inclusive society, with an audience composed of students as well as community members. The attached Diploma course on Interreligious Studies enrolled its sixth batch in 2019-2020, furthering the aim of fostering interreligious harmony and dialogue. The third batch of the co-branded postgraduate diploma in 'Interreligious Dialogue and Water for Sustainable Development' in collaboration with the Institute of Indian Culture; and Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work (Autonomous) was enrolled in 2019-2020.

Best Practice 2: The Social Outreach Programme 2019-20

St. Andrews College is committed to advancing global peace and understanding to combat growing strife and intolerance. By incorporating the concept of service learning, St. Andrews College offers a compulsory Social Outreach Programme to all its second-year degree college students. This allows students to not only assist marginalized populations, gain empathy and understanding, as well as learn from community members within these populations already involved in community efforts. The college has an existing collaboration with the Institute for Community Organization Research (ICOR) for students of the Degree College. The students are sub-divided into smaller groups and placed at various NGOs. Students are also allowed to contribute their services to their local parishes and extend their help for the social service activities conducted by the Parish. It has been observed that students build lasting relationships and bonds with these communities, particularly the children they mentor. Some have been encouraged by this to join NGOs and contribute some time every day to the welfare of the downtrodden. The students have to commit to a minimum of 20 hours of social work. Additionally, the college conducts Value Education Programmes for students of First Year and Third Year in the Degree College. These sessions on various topics are intended to address student concerns and challenges that they should be prepared to face when they join the work force, as well as mould them into kind and well-rounded citizens. The college also conducts

events through Faith On Campus which provides morally and spiritually enriching programmes throughout the year. This is in keeping with the mission and vision statement of the college.