

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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St. Joseph's College was established in 1927 and the Department of Economics started the journey at St. Joseph's college from 1970. The present student strength in the department is above 90 (Hons + Progr + Minor). After Covid, the student strength has witnessed a downward trend. Presently, we have three permanent and one part-time faculty in our department. Department of Economics has been running an innovative activity 'ECO-WATCH' from last seven years. The students have done this activity smoothly in this session also. Students also participated in various other co-curricular activities like sports, NSSO, NCC etc. On the whole, the Department of Economics has been progressing with the objective to produce human capital for the society.

Here, it is crucial to address that the education system has been going through a transition period from last few years. The change started with (1+1+1) system followed by the semester system and of lately with the introduction of NEP in 2023. With the introduction of new syllabus, various new courses have been introduced. The institution has been facing different types of challenges and Department of Economics is no exception. Scarcity books related to newly introduced courses is really an urgent issue. In addition, the research activities have been increasing with the introduction of NEP. In this context, the statistical packages, e.g. SPSS, STATA, R etc. are necessary. However, the department has been trying to resolve the challenges with the cooperation from faculty, students, and administrative staffs.

Departmental Activities

The academic session 2023-24 started from (Tuesday) 1st August, 2023. The department organized the orientation program for the first semester students. The students also celebrated the 'Teacher's Day' in our department. Furthermore, the students of the department actively volunteered the first ever 'Inter-College District Sports and Games Championship', 2023-24, Education Directorate, Government of West Bengal, hosted by the College on 3-5th March, 2024.

The department faculty members also participated in the One-Day Seminar on ‘Quality Research Publication and IPR’, organized by IQAC on 11th august, 2023 (Friday).

6th Semester Honours students conducted a Survey on “Socio-Economic Survey Schedule of Shopping Mall Employees in Darjeeling” for their Dissertation Paper.

N.B.U. Results

Overall result of University Examination was mixed in this session. In 5th semester, total 10 students appeared in the examination, out of which 9 students qualified. 6 students scored 8.0 SGPA and above. In 3rd semester, total 18 students appeared in the examination. Out of which 10 students passed. In 1st semester total 15 students appeared in the examination. Out of which 5 students passed. Some former students of the department also qualified NET exam 2023. They are Gaynendra Bhandari (2020), Vipassana Yonzon (2020), Priyata Tamang and Pooja Agarwal (2019). Sawan Rai (2022), Muskan Chhetri (2022), Pooja Agarwal (2019) and Vipassana Yonzon (2020) qualified SET exam 2023. Figures in the parenthesis represents corresponding batch year that the students passed.

Departmental Research Activities

During this session, Dr. Sujoy Kanti Ghoshal published a research paper ‘Foreign Trade and Environment Resilience in Bhutan’ in the journal ‘*Annals of Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute*’, Vol. CI, Issue, 2024.

Mr. Bishal Rai has also written a chapter ‘A Critique of Gender Inequality: Study of Education and Health in the North Bengal Region’ in the book titled ‘Gender Inequality and its implications on Education and Health’, *Emerald Publishing Limited*, August 2023.

Mr. Bishal Rai presented a paper ‘Impact of Education on Human Capital: District Level Analysis of west Bengal’ in the seminar ‘44th National Annual Conference 2024 of Bangiya Arthaniti Parishad’ (Bengal Economic Association) organized by Bangiya Arthaniti Parishad in Collaboration with Department of Economics and Commerce, Kalimpong College, from May 3-4 2024.

Mr. Bishal Rai completed a Refresher Course on ‘Feminism to Gender Neutrality: Discourse and Reality’ from 27.07.2023 to 10.08.2023, HRDC, University of North Bengal.

Mr. Bishal Rai was a part of the team invited by Mirik College for a special lecture on SSR Compilation and NAAC on 14th March, 2024.

Department Infrastructural Facilities

In addition to the existing computers, the Department of Economics installed four new computers in the academic session 2023-24. Overall, a through introspection was made jointly by the department as well as college administration and remedial measures were also subsequently initiated. The department was also provided with the broadband facilities. The department has been provided with staff study room, departmental library, computer with printer and other necessary infrastructure. These proved to be beneficial both for the students as well as faculty members.

In the end, the department is committed to providing the best to the students which in turn may help the society directly or indirectly in the near future.

