

Report of the Student Exchange Programme

Since inception, Salesian College had the foreign students and professors who studied and taught Philosophy and religious subjects. The College took a fresh turn when it signed the memorandum of understanding with Universidad Catolica Raúl Silva Henríquez (UCSH), Salesian University of Santiago de Chile to exchange students and professors on short term basis. Four students of the said University came to Salesian College on 29 August 2011 after a ten day orientation and exposure at New Delhi, namely, Leyla Katherine Alfaro Olivia, Daniela Beatriz Chacon Cifuentes, Jose Antonio Rivera Montoya and Natalia Andrea Valdes Cardenas. They attended lectures on English Literature, Education, Communicative English, Indian Philosophy, Logic and other activities of the College in both the campuses of Sonada and Siliguri. They also took classes on English language, Sports and Chilean Culture in neighbouring schools of Siliguri such as Alphonsa School, St. Joseph's School Matigara and Don Bosco School Siliguri as a part of their training programme. They took active part in the campus life of the College.

In the evaluation conducted by the College, the visiting students responded that they were 'academically satisfied' and culturally and as persons 'enriched beyond expectations' with the way the programme was organized. They had some expectations of learning English language more rigorously but felt challenged by the College syllabus that had greater emphasis on literature studies. The exposure to the actual linguistic, cultural and geographic diversity encountered in the campus and through the travels to other Don Bosco college campuses in the North East helped not only in improving communication skills but also their resilience and adaptability.

The exchange programme officially came to a close on 30 December 2011 at Siliguri Salesian College Campus and was followed by a few days stint at Kolkata before their departure back to Santiago on 5

January 2012 with bags full of experiences and mementoes. Fr (Dr) George Thadathil, Principal, Salesian College expressed a sense of satisfaction and thanked the various departments that collaborated to make it a successful maiden venture. The students of the College extended their accommodative hearts to their foreign counterparts and most of them gelled together. This exchange programme at Salesian College was yet another indication that human beings across the globe are similar in many cases though the skin colours can be different.

Peter Lepcha, Coordinator, Student Exchange Programme, Siliguri Campus.



