

FATIMA MATA NATIONAL COLLEGE

AUTONOMOUS

(Reaccredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)

Affiliated to University of Kerala



7.1.9 Electoral Literacy Club Report

IQAC INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

ESTABLISHMENT OF FMNC ELECTORAL LITERACY CLUB

PROPOSAL AND CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

India is a democratic republic with a federal structure of governance. The officials at federal, state and local levels are elected by way of a systematic, free and fair election process. The Election Commission of India is the nodal authority, established under the Constitution of India, responsible for conducting elections in India. The voter strength in India accounts to almost a glaring 900 million voters, which is way more than the other democracies around the world. Every year the voter strength increases in India, by a significant number of youth crossing the age limit of 18 years and becoming eligible to vote.

As per the Census 2011, there are 14.2 Crore young people in the age group 14-19 in India. Given the registration and voting age of 18, there is a sizeable voter age population at 18-19 years besides an equally large population of the future voters in the age group 14-17 who would become voters every year next. As per the Census Data 2011, there are 9.68 Crore children in the age-group 14-17 years with 6.84 Crore in rural and 2.83 Crore in urban areas. Of these 6.97 Crore were enrolled in schools, with 4.76 Crore in rural and 2.21 Crore in urban. Also Census Data 2011, reveals that there are 30.52 Crore children in the age-group 6-17 years with 22.17 Crore in rural and 8.34 Crore in urban areas, of which 24.01 Crore were enrolled in schools, with 17.14 Crore in rural and 6.86 Crore in urban schools. The young and future voters, demonstrated, constitute a sizeable part of India's democratic polity and its future.

In light of the above figures, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has realized the importance of electoral participation and literacy to these young prospective voters of our country. With this vision in mind, the ECI initiated a national programme in 2010 titled Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP). The programme mainly focused on voter awareness and information and motivation of voters for enhancing electoral participation of the voters in India. In view of the sustained efforts under SVEEP (Phase I and II), the voter turnout increased to 66.44% during General Elections 2014 from 58.19% during 2009 Lok Sabha Elections with substantial increase in voter turnout in assembly elections as well.

ELECTORAL LITERACY CLUBS

The ECI has decided to carry forward the efforts of both phases of SVEEP by moving into SVEEP Phase III. One of the strategic pillars of SVEEP III is 'Continuous Electoral Literacy and Democracy Education'. This phase is being build up with an aim of mainstreaming of electoral literacy among the young and future voters through the curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular interventions at the school, college and the university level including well designed coverage to the voter populations of that age group not covered under the formal educational system.

In pursuance of this, ECI has decided to establish Electoral Literacy Clubs (ELC) in educational institutions for strengthening the culture of electoral participation among young and future voters. The idea behind establishing such clubs is that they shall be the seat of learning through hands on experience and envisaged to serve as a vibrant hub of Electoral Literacy direct interaction in education and other institutions in the country. As a first step in this process, St. Xavier's College, Ranchi has established an Electoral Literacy Club and is working towards making young and future voters electorally literate.

ELC AT FMN COLLEGE KOLLAM

It is proposed to establish an Electoral Literacy Club, as envisaged under the ECI in education institutions and communities not covered under the formal education system to engage future and new voters through extracurricular interventions. ELCs shall be the seat of learning through hands on experience and shall serve as a vibrant hub of Electoral Literacy for developing and strengthening the culture of electoral participation among young and future voters. The Club will work under the aegis of State Election Commission and at the Institutional level, will be headed by Dr. Vincent B Netto, Principal, FMN College Kollam. It is proposed that the Electoral Literacy Club shall comprise of one or two teachers, preferably from the political science department. One Nodal Officer and three students from various departments as campus ambassadors.

MEMBERS OF FMNC ELC

1. STELLA S (Assistant Professor Department of Economics FMNC Kollam)
2. Jyothy L Krishna (Guest Faculty Department of Political science FMNC Kollam)
3. Emmanuel Bobby Gomez (Campus Ambassador Final year BA Economic)

4. Soya (Campus Ambassador Second year BSc Psychology)
5. Thasneema R (Campus Ambassador Final year BA History)

VISION

To make its utmost contribution to have an active democratic citizenry originating in integrated civic and voter education and electoral participation right from a young age.

OBJECTIVES

The Electoral Literacy Club shall be established at FMN COLLEGE with the following objectives:

- To educate the targeted populations about voter registration, entire electoral process and related matters through well designed attractive resources in hands on experience
- To familiarize the targeted populations with EVM and VVPAT and to educate them about robustness of EVM and integrity of the electoral process using EVMs
- To help the target audience understand the value of their vote to ensure that Every Vote is Precious
- To facilitate voter registration for its eligible members who are not yet registered
- To develop a culture of electoral participation right from the young age.
- ACTION PLAN 2018-2019

08-08-2018: Inauguration of the Electoral Literacy Club and selection of Campus ambassadors.

A series of Lectures on ‘Electoral Literacy in India’

12-09-2018: Ms. Jyoti L Krishna.

03-10-2018: Debate

07-12-2018: Essay competition.

Meeting of the electoral club as a part of it launching held on 06/08/2018

Agenda:

1. Inauguration of FELC
2. Selection of Campus Ambassadors
3. Preparation of an action plan

Members present:

1. Mrs. Stella (Nodal officer)

2. Ms. Jyothi. L. Krishna

The first meeting of the Electoral club as a part of its formation was held in the III D C Economics A classroom on 6 August, 2018 at 3.45 pm. The meeting was started with a silent prayer. Mrs. Stella and Ms. Jyothi. L. Krishna were attended the meeting. The main agenda of the meeting was the formation of an Electoral club. We decided to conduct its first meeting on 8 August, 2018. In this meeting we selected campus ambassadors. They were Emmanuel Bobby Gomez (III D C Economics), Soya S A (II D C Psychology), Thaseenma R (III DC History). In addition to these we also discussed an action plan of this club. At the end of this discussion we decided to conduct a debate competition on the topic 'Role of mass media in democracy' on 8 August, 2018 and planned to arrange an invited talk on 'Role of youth in democracy' on 12 September, 2018. The meeting was concluded at 5 pm.

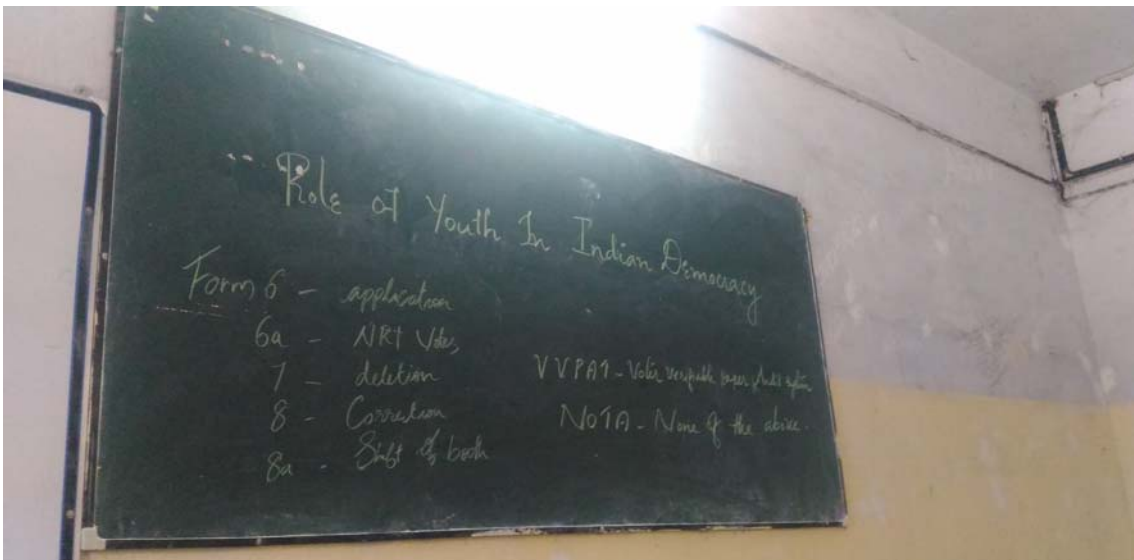
Activity Report of Electoral Club.

The activities of Electoral club for the academic year 2018-2019:

Under the auspices of the Electoral club we planned to conduct a debate on 'Role of mass media in democracy' on 8 August, 2018. It was attended by 70 students. Out of the 8 students were actively involved in it. The mediators of the talk were two guest faculties, Mr. Manu and Ms. Jyothi. L. Krishna. It was a great experience for the students. In the first few hours of the debate students deviated from the topic but later they come to the point due to timely intervention of the mediators. The debate was concluded on the consensus that media play an important role to make democracy more successive. Media is a watchdog of democracy that keeps government active. Even though it has some drawbacks there is still a lot of scope for improvement and can raise up the aspiration of the people. This debate created an understanding among students that we cannot think of a democracy without active neutral media.



On 12 September, 2018 the club arranged a talk regarding 'The Role of Youth in Indian Democracy' was conducted for I D C History students. It was presented by one of the faculty member, Dr. C. Francis. It was highly inspirational talk. We hope this talk created political consciousness among students. It inculcate the feelings that they are the future king makers and develop a culture of electoral participation. At the end of the talk they promised that they will take a role to transform our country.



**SYSTEMATIC VOTERS EDUCATION AND ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION
DISTRICT LEVEL PROGRAMME FOR NODAL OFFICERS**

The district level ELC has organised a training programme for nodal officers on 11-10-2018 at District Headquarters Kollam in connection with SUEEP Programme. It was participated by nodal officers from different colleges and schools. It was a full day programme inaugurated by district collector Dr.S Karthikeyan IAS. The nodal officer of FELC Mrs Stella S Participated the programme. Different activities done on that day including group discussion, poster making etc.



STRONG DEMOCRACY NEEDS HUGE PARTICIPATION

The Electoral literacy club has organised a seminar on 25th January 2019 at the conference hall of the collectorate in connection with National Voters day. The theme of the seminar was “ strong democracy needs huge participation”. It was participate by students from different colleges and other dignitaries. It was inaugurated by Dr. S Karthikeyan I P S (District collector) Kollam. The presidential address was delivered by Dr A Mohan Kumar (Principal, Kerala University Institute of Technology, Kollam). Two students from FMNC participated in this seminar. Emmanuel Bobby Gomez and Sangeeth Alex represented FELC.



MEDIA AND INDIAN POLITICS

On 17 January, 2018 the club arranged a talk on **Media and Indian Politics** was conducted for first year Economic students. It was presented by Mrs Jyothi L Krishna faculty of political science .It was highly inspirational talk.

