

REPORT ON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Survey Research: Perceptions of Democracy

The Department of Political Science, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, successfully completed its first internship programme in collaboration with **Haringhata Saphalya Development Society–Lok Darshan (HSDS)**. The 25-day programme, titled “*Survey Research: Perceptions of Democracy*,” was undertaken by the **Semester III (Batch 2023-2027) Major students** of the Department. The internship was designed to provide students with practical exposure to empirical research and to strengthen the connection between classroom learning and field-based investigation.

The programme followed a structured research-oriented approach. It commenced with **classroom teaching and orientation sessions**, through which students were introduced to the basic concepts and practices of survey research. This was followed by **methodological training and the preparation of survey tools**, enabling students to understand the process of designing an appropriate instrument for collecting primary data.

A significant component of the internship was the **fieldwork training conducted at the HSDS Head Office at Kalyani**. Students were familiarised with the practical aspects of conducting a survey before proceeding to field exposure in **Panchayat-based rural areas**. The field visits provided students with first-hand experience of interacting with respondents and understanding the practical challenges associated with primary data collection. Students actively participated in administering the survey, recording responses, and maintaining the required field data.

Following the completion of fieldwork, students undertook **data entry and analysis** as part of the research process. They were subsequently engaged in organising and interpreting the collected information and preparing research reports. The internship concluded with **report presentations**, through which students communicated their findings and reflected on their field-based research experience.

The hands-on training received through the collaboration with HSDS enriched the students' academic and practical understanding of survey research. The programme helped them develop competencies in **survey design, fieldwork, primary data collection, data management, basic analysis, report writing, and academic presentation**. It also contributed to the development of communication, teamwork, observation, and analytical skills. These competencies are particularly valuable for students intending to pursue **higher education, research, and research-oriented professional careers**.

The internship programme was conducted during the **February–March 2025 period** and was formally concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony held on **11 March 2026** at the Seminar Hall of the College. **Mr. Suprio Basu, Director, HSDC–Lok Darshan**, presented certificates to the participating students and conveyed his best wishes to them for their forthcoming University examinations.

Overall, the internship represented a significant academic initiative of the Department of Political Science. By integrating classroom instruction with methodological training and field-based research, the programme provided students with meaningful experiential learning and strengthened their preparedness for future academic and professional engagements.

