

REPORT ON INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Survey Research: Women's Participation in Politics

The Department of Political Science, St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, conducted its **second 25-day internship programme** in collaboration with **Haringhata Saphalya Development Society–Lok Darshan (HSDS)**. The programme, titled “*Survey Research: Women's Participation in Politics*,” was undertaken by the **Semester III Major students** during **May–June 2026**. The internship was designed to provide students with an opportunity to apply concepts and methods of Political Science through a structured, field-based research exercise.

The programme began with classroom-based orientation and methodological sessions. Students were introduced to the fundamental stages of survey research and were guided in the preparation of a survey instrument. Through this process, they learned how to formulate research questions, frame appropriate questions, organise a questionnaire, and consider the relationship between research objectives and data collection.

The methodological training was followed by fieldwork preparation at the **Head Office of Haringhata Saphalya Development Society–Lok Darshan (HSDS), Kalyani**. Students were introduced to the practical procedures of conducting a field survey and subsequently undertook field visits to **Panchayat-based rural areas**. Through direct interaction with respondents, students learned how to administer survey instruments, record responses systematically, communicate research questions clearly, and respond to the practical situations that arise during fieldwork.

The subsequent stages focused on **data entry, organisation, and analysis**. Students worked with the information collected during fieldwork and learned how primary data are systematically organised for analysis. They were introduced to the process of examining survey responses and relating empirical findings to the research theme. The preparation of research reports further enabled them to organise evidence, interpret findings, and present their observations in an academically structured manner.

Students' Learning Outcomes

The internship contributed to the development of several **research and transferable competencies** among the participating students. On completion of the programme, students demonstrated greater familiarity with:

- the stages and procedures of **empirical survey research**;
- formulation of research questions and preparation of **survey instruments**;
- techniques of **primary data collection and respondent interaction**;
- systematic recording and organisation of field data;
- basic procedures of **data entry and analysis**;
- interpretation of empirical information in relation to a research theme;
- preparation and presentation of **research reports**;
- oral communication through **research presentations and viva-voce**; and

- teamwork, observation, time management, and problem-solving in field situations.

The theme of **women's participation in politics** provided students with an opportunity to explore a substantive issue in Political Science through primary empirical evidence. More importantly, the research process enabled them to recognise how theoretical concepts and methodological tools can be translated into questions that can be examined through field-based investigation.

The internship was formally concluded through a **viva-voce and certificate distribution programme**. **Mr. Suprio Basu, Director, Haringhata Saphalya Development Society–Lok Darshan (HSDS)**, presented certificates to the participating students and extended his best wishes to them for their forthcoming University examinations.

Overall, the internship provided students with a structured learning experience extending from **research design and fieldwork to data analysis and academic presentation**. The practical competencies developed through the programme are expected to support their subsequent academic assignments, research projects, and preparation for higher studies and research-oriented professional opportunities.

