

Institutional Distinctiveness 2018-19

Vision and Priorities

Swami Vivekananda in his letter to Singaravelu Mudaliar, dated 3rd March 1894 proposed that:

“Education is the manifestation of perfection already in man. Religion is the manifestation of the Divinity already in man. Therefore, the only duty of the teacher in both cases is to remove all obstructions from the way.”

Each of us, as teachers of Gokhale Memorial Girls' College aims to inculcate the motto of Brihadaranyak Upanishad as stated by the great Advaita philosopher Maitreyi. It was her pertinent question on immortality towards her husband, Rishi Yajnavalka, on his decision to renounce worldly pleasures and take up *sanyas* (monk hood):

येनाहं नामृता स्यां किमहं तेन कुर्याम ।

—“What shall I do with that which does not give me immortality?”

With this motto in view, we believe that values are the integral part and parcel of the philosophy of the nation and its educational system. Value-based education is an approach to teach universal values like patience, honesty and sincerity to the students. It creates a strong learning environment that enhances academic attainment, and helps students' graduate from simple social backgrounds to more elaborate surroundings throughout their lives. The fulcrum of value education is in the attainment of a balanced development of the personality of the female students who are the pillars of society. Value-based education aims at training the students to face the outer world with the right attitude, while developing an open mind to inculcate the best values of the East and the West.

Gokhale Memorial girls' College is an 80-year institution established in pre-independent India Mrs. Sarala Ray, great disciple of freedom fighter and educationist Gopal Krishna Gokhale with the ardent support of Dr. S.E. Rani Ghosh, the First Principal of the college, with a vision of educating and empowering women from every walk of life. Following the great vision of its founders, the college has over the years, earned for itself a position of state and national repute in the field of women's education, encouraging self-expression, helping young women to identify their latent talents and adapt with dignity to the fast-changing technology, lifestyle and social order in the country. The College has adopted and implemented various measures to cater to the changing needs of the modern young women.

- It has organized career counselling workshops. Besides providing the opportunity of enrolment in technical courses of Swayam-NPTEL, the college also offers value-added certificate courses such as Computer Course, HR Associate Course and Business English. These are courses outside the university curriculum and are aimed at equipping the students with informational resources that have the capability to their employability skills. Students at higher difficulty levels opt for these courses and get benefitted.
- A teaching institution is defined by its quality. The three qualities are: (a) quality as value for money which leads to concerns about accountability, (b) quality as fit for the purpose which leads concerns about assessment and (c) quality as transforming that leads to concerns about the institution's ability to transform students' perceptions of the world around them and teachers' perceptions of their noble role as teachers. The guiding principle of Gokhale Memorial Girls' College for accountability, assessment and teacher-student exchange relations lies in learning about what the students have gained at the end of their stay in the College. This is accomplished through a thorough student feedback obtained through a well-structured all-encompassing questionnaire. This feedback is then analysed by an external agency which ensures unbiased assessment of student satisfaction. Inference drawn guide the teachers in developing more effective delivery techniques, better teacher-student exchanges and better work ethics. In this way the institution places immense importance on education as a transformative experience for both learners and instructors.
- The College Administration is truly guided by the definition of transformative quality of education and constantly endeavours to provide adequate support with a broader insight of academic excellence. As in other years, it has formulated several separate committees to provide a supportive teaching culture along with co-curricular activities. These committees work hand in hand with the administration to ensure proper maintenance of academic rigour. All such committees are responsible for encouraging an intellectually stimulating environment by supporting the administration in the smooth functioning of classes, examinations, class routines, academic calendar, counselling and placement, parent-teacher interface, social outreach activities, sports, blood donation, student welfare, competitions, exhibition, cultural programmes, special observances, seminars and workshops, anti-ragging and others. Apart from the keen focus on academic success, the committees are also responsible for ensuring the personal development of students.
- "Actions speak louder than words" and diligent mentoring is continued with a consistent approach to stimulate a favourable student-friendly

academic atmosphere. CIE through tutorials and class tests has been made to upgrade the quality of students' grasp of their disciplines. Mock tests, doubt-clearing sessions, revisions and group discussions are the methods used for ensuring preparedness of the students. Slow learners are facilitated through remedial classes, doubt-clearing sessions, peer tutoring and personal counselling.

- Women's education is not for women alone. It should aim at educating and empowering women to help other women, men and children, placing them in the frontier of social change. Tireless striving for excellence in all spheres, self-respect, self-sufficiency, discipline and social responsibility are the principal values the college wishes to inculcate in its students. It aspires to prepare strong, capable women who would be assets to the society and the nation, and who would further transmit these values to the future generations. To that end the institution has introduced various novel initiatives to increase social awareness among its students. The students learn the importance of individual development and community and collective progress too. The college has a very active NSS Unit, a Social Awareness Club which has student members and teacher members to guide them. There is a Social Outreach Committee consisting of teacher members who encourage the students and get them involved in essential social outreach activities. Every year, students visit a home or school of under-privileged children under the guidance of the Committee members to distribute food and other essentials and spend a day of fun and laughter to bring some joy in the hearts of these children. Blood Donation Camp is organized as in other years in association with the Association of Voluntary Blood Donors.
- The institution ensures student welfare through the institutional fee-waiver system. It helps needy and deserving students to avail State and National Scholarships through regular and timely notifications. Committee members diligently deal with these matters for providing maximum facilitation. Prizes are awarded for best academic performances.

Achievements

- Maintaining the academic standard and excellence together with value inculcation has been one of the strongest qualities of the institution. The 80-year College has been an institute of remarkably high-repute when it comes to academic performance of the pupils and the overall academic excellence of the institution. Although there is no system of carrying out an admission test while accepting the new students for the 3-year-undergraduation program, the college maintains very high standards for

the selection of students strictly according to merit during admission and with complete adherence to the government policy of reservation. After admission, classes are held in strict adherence to the time-table and syllabus completion remains a target of pivotal significance. The students are examined and assessed to gauge their level of comprehension of the work done in class, and remedial classes are arranged for detecting gaps or flaws in their grasp of the subject-matter. Continuous mentoring and internal evaluation through class tests, group discussions, class presentations, doubt-clearing sessions, revision classes, supplementary classes, peer mentoring and mock tests ensure the preparedness of students prior to their appearance in the final University examinations. Selections and pre-selections along with mid-term evaluations are summative assessment tools used by the institution. Undergoing such meticulous scrutiny, the students' performances are bound to be very close to being excellent. The results of the college students are invariably reflections of such excellence. Students perform meritoriously by achieving first-class marks (above 60 percent) and by securing University ranks in their respective subject areas. The Swayam-NPTEL courses are conducted by the faculty of IIT, Kharagpur and students have enrolled in a number of different disciplines. In both sessions taken together, one from July 2018 to December 2018 and the other from January 2019 to June 2019, the total number of enrolments (with one student taking multiple courses) was one hundred and eleven (111). Four of the students scored above 70 per cent and obtained completion certificates in varied subjects such as Dairy and Food Process and Products Technology, Biochemistry, Psychiatry and Basic Cognitive Processes.