

INSTITUTIONAL DISTICTIVENESS

Women Empowerment

Siddhinath Mahavidyalaya was established in 2013 in a remote rural village Shyamsundarpur Patna under Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal with the aim at educating the rural community. Majority of the students are first generation learners and coming from socio-economically disadvantaged families. From the very beginning, the enrolment of the female students was remarkably better than the male counterparts. After passing Higher Secondary Exam, most of the female candidates couldn't avail their graduation due to non-availability of any degree college before 2013. Besides most of the female students were irregular in classes due to household workload and poor communication in the locality.

The IQAC of the institution observed the situation and planned to develop strategies for empowering female students.

Objectives:

- To provide quality higher education for knowledge enrichment.
- To assist financially by providing various scholarship schemes of the Government.
- To sensitize students about gender equity.
- To develop an environment within the campus female students and staff feel free to express themselves.
- To empower female students physically.
- To encourage the female students to participate in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities for their holistic development.
- To set up a Mentor-Mentee system in order to address any issue.
- To introduce job-oriented courses for making them self-dependent and employable
- To include female staff in the college management as Siddhinath Mahavidyalaya strongly believes that "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate an entire family".

Therefore, the institute has taken a number of initiatives to promote women empowerment to achieve its mission for spreading higher education among the remote, rural villages of Purba Medinipur District, West Bengal.

Initiatives:

1. Scholarship Scheme: The management of the college ensures that all the female students get the appropriate fellowship provided by the Government of West Bengal and the college office provide prompt assistance in case of any issues starting from application assistance to disbursal of the fellowship.

2. Gender Sensitization: From the very beginning, the college inculcated the concept of male and female equality and no discrimination based on gender. The process starts from the Induction Programme at the entry level; thereafter the gender issues are regularly discussed in the classes. The college has introduced an Add on Course on Gender Issues. Moreover, the IQAC periodically organizes seminar/ special lectures on gender issues and

conduct gender audit to sensitize the students of the college. In addition, the college organizes “International Women’s Day” to respect women and promote the confidence of the female students.

3. Safety within the Campus: The college management adopts zero tolerance policy against ragging and sexual harassment and has well-established Grievance redressal Cell, Women Harassment Prevention Cell, Anti-Ragging Cell & Internal Compliance Cell. The college strictly follows UGC and West Bengal Government guidelines to provide safe environment for the female students and staff.

4. Physical Empowerment: The College has introduced a self-defence programme to enhance the physical fitness and compatibility to boost up the confidence of the female students. The College regularly arranges Bratachari Course, Jeet Kune Do Martial Art for the holistic development of the students on behalf of Dept. of Physical Education.

5. Equal Opportunity: The College also thrives to provide equal opportunities to each and every student irrespective of their sex and encourage the female students to participate in NSS, activities and various sports and cultural programmes for their holistic development.

6. Mentor-Mentee System: An extensive mentor-mentee system ensures any counselling help of the students to overcome their mental barriers and to stay motivated.

7. Job oriented courses: The institute has introduced various skill development programmes including soft skill, computing and ICT skill and language skill. The Anudip Foundation conducted Three months online career counselling programme for all the college students. ABP in collaboration with Gillet organized One-Day career counselling workshop for the students. The programmes enhance employability as well as promote economic freedom of the female students.

8. Female Staff in College Management: All the female staff are members of different sub committees and they are also included in the Governing Body of the college.

9. Facilities for the female students: Girls’ common room facilities, Sanitary napkin vending machine Clean toilets and drinking water facility Sexual harassment cell to ensure safety.

Outcomes:

1. Enrolment: Female student enrolment percentage has increased in last five years in spite of the transport problem and other issues like – early marriage, economical hindrance and unwillingness.

2. Result: In the last five years, the pass percentage of the female students has improved remarkably. In 2018-19 academic year, the pass percentage was about 93.5%, which is increased in the last three academic years. Moreover, the number of female students appearing in the final examination has increased from 93.5% in 2018-19 session to 100% in 2022- 23 session. Moreover, Soma Manna, a student Department of Sanskrit has stood second in the final University Examination, 2020.

3. Participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities: Participation of female students in NSS has increased from in last two consecutive years. Most of the students participating in the cultural programme are females.

4. Scholarship Availed: More than 90% of the female students availed scholarship in the last five years.

5. Placement to Higher Education: After graduate students from our college are engaged in Higher Education in different Universities in West Bengal.

6. Campus Safety: Due to the strict adherence to institutional Grievance redressal, women harassment prevention and Anti-Ragging Policy- there has been no incident of sexual harassment or ragging in the last 5 years. The IQAC regularly monitors and rectifies the women empowerment initiatives of the institution for providing an inclusive environment to flourish the potential of female students of the college.