



HANDIQUE GIRLS' COLLEGE

Institutional Distinctiveness

AQAR 2023-2024

Empowering Women through Education: Handique Girls' College was founded in 1939. The vision of the College has been shaped by the history of its beginnings in pre-independence India as a pioneering institution of higher education for women in the northeast of the country. This College was born out of the conviction of its founding Principal, Rajabala Das, that in a country striving to achieve independence, women had to be empowered through education to be a part of the nation-building process and take their rightful place in society.

Cherishing the ideals of its founder, the College seeks to empower its students with a holistic education to be creators and members of an ideal society driven by the principles of gender equity and justice. This is distinctive to its vision.

The College approaches gender equity in education by deepening the engagement of students with the curriculum and complementing this with suitable co-curricular activities. In fulfilling the academic requirement of their chosen programme of study, students not only attend classroom lectures but also write assignments, participate in seminars and group discussions, and undertake research project. Opportunity for a student to learn by doing is there in the form of the Teacher-led student projects funded by the College and internships. e- Resources, interaction with invited faculty further enrich the learning experience of students as do field trips and study tours organized by the College.

Along with emphasizing curriculum transaction, the College creates opportunities for students to engage in co-curricular activities. Different activity groups in the College organize debate and extempore speech competitions, musical performances, staging of plays, art and handicraft exhibitions and food exhibitions. Students also participate in yoga and sports activities, including adventure sports, and undertake other outdoor activities like nature walks and bird watching. Activities under NCC and NSS add another dimension to students' experience in the College. In all its curricular and co-curricular endeavours, the College emphasizes basic human values of truth, honesty, loyalty, mutual trust, compassion and respect for others. The certificate course offered by the Women's Studies Cell especially reiterates the core values of the Institution.

The College's focus on curricular and co-curricular activities gives a student the scope to follow her interests and build on her abilities for a rewarding educational experience. Engaging in activities in the classroom and outside of it, students acquire disciplinary learning and hone their talent or discover new talent. They also learn to bridge social gaps, work as a team and value co-operation. Communication skills are improved and organizational skills and decision-making develop. Leadership qualities emerge, supported by the College's conscious decision to retain its single-gender character which makes every leadership role available to women and creates role models.

A measure of the success of the College's women-centric approach to education and its alignment to the College's vision can be found in the attainments of our students. They have performed well in the University's examination and many have proceeded to higher academic achievements. Others have

found their passion to lie elsewhere and have gone on to make their mark in music, theatre, fine arts, literature and sports. Then there are those who have joined civil services, defence services and the corporate sector to make successful careers. Some have ventured into journalism and many have found their niche as entrepreneurs, social service volunteers and NGO leaders. There are also those who are successful homemakers. All are women who have been empowered to contribute to nation-building and creation of an ideal society.

The role of the College's alumni stands proof of the range and diversity of contributions made by our students to the life of the nation through leadership and service.

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