

KRISHNAGAR WOMEN'S COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Dissemination of Knowledge to Progression towards Empowerment and Self-reliance

The distinctiveness of Krishnagar Women's College as an educational institution is embedded in its Motto "Be Your Own Light of Knowledge" (आत्मज्ञानदीपो भव), the sacrosanct principle that motivates the students, the most important of stakeholders, for attaining the height of academic excellence and translating the mission and vision of the institution into reality. Promotion of women's education, their enrichment and empowerment in a rapidly changing world are the main focus of this learner-centric institution. Its distinctiveness lies in its past history that dates back to the post-partition period which witnessed a huge influx of the displaced from erstwhile East Pakistan, particularly women who needed institutional education, a pressing demand from the society that necessitated the foundation of Krishnagar Women's College, the one and only college for women in the district. Sprawled over a lush green, eco-friendly campus with Hostel accommodation, the College offers a safe and secure environment for girl students over the years. Since its days of inception, the college has come a long way in fulfilling its mission to impart quality education to the girls most of whom come from the displaced, marginalized section of the society. But once admitted, they feel quite at home, and never feel discriminated against because of their caste, creed and religion. Socio-economic backwardness never poses a threat to their feeling of being a part of the institution. An atmosphere of mutual co-existence and harmony binds the young minds together which fosters a sense of rootedness in them with a long-term impact. Challenges are many and resources are limited but the institution never stops providing the facilities to the learners to overcome the challenges. As most of the students come from economically backward section of the society and rural parts of the district, they do not have any exposure to smart classroom teaching, use of computers, fully automated library facility or well-equipped laboratory. Since the main thrust is imparting education, all efforts have been taken to equip them with books, journals and other resources through a fully automated library with facilities like INFLIBNET, OPAC, and a reprographic centre. In a bid to nurture academic excellence of the students of science department and ensure enrollment of more students in the science courses, Science Laboratories and Computer Laboratory have been upgraded. The students quickly adapt themselves to the new curriculum and face the challenges through regular participation in classroom lectures, seminars, quiz competitions, debates that help building self-confidence and communication skill. Continuous assessment and orientation of the different courses are organized by the departments to identify the slow learners and additional classes are organized as remedial measures for their benefit. This system of identifying slow learners and encouraging them to make progression towards higher education decreases the rate of college drop-outs. Besides, the various cultural programmes in which the Alumni takes an important role, the sensitization programmes on gender equity, self-defense, value-based education, all organized and conducted by the students under the guidance of teachers help build a sense of team spirit, their managerial skill and expertise in leadership. Various awards at the end of each semester to the achievers acts as an incentive to the learners. Parents and guardians are constantly in touch with the institution and their suggestions for

teaching-learning-infrastructural improvement is heeded and actions taken for imparting holistic education to their wards. At the time of admission, the students are apprehensive of their academic journey in the College, but at the time of graduation most of them find the journey immensely satisfying and fulfilling as they make a progress to higher education or job-oriented courses.

The College that started with a handful of students now thrives with more than 1500 students, young, aspiring minds all set to receive the quality education through their exposure to classroom teaching by a group of teachers genuinely dedicated to their noble profession. Each department takes all efforts to make the new-comers feel at home and create a student-friendly environment that induces in them a thirst for learning. The sole aim of the teaching-learning process is to identify and nurture the latent qualities in them through delivering an outcome based learning, by supplementing the conventional 'chalk-and-talk' method of the curriculum with a continuous exposure to extensive use of ICT based tools, project work, field studies, academic and research-oriented paper presentation and interdepartmental teaching exchange programmes. Regular interaction between the students and the faculty helps them overcome their nervousness and they are motivated to take training in soft-skill development programmes and various Add-on Courses on communicative skill and others which enhance their capability to face the job market. Students of final semester are exposed to rigorous coaching and training on ICT skill, aptitude tests, awareness in General Knowledge, mock interviews, group discussion to instill in them self-confidence to find placement in different sectors. Programmes organized by the Career Counselling Cell of the College, and the visits of different employment agencies are an effective means to achieve employability for the young women to make them financially independent. It aims to generate a sense of independence in the young learners and to teach them how to stand on their own and find a niche in the society.

The institution takes utmost care in providing facilities and opportunities at its disposal to make the environment conducive to teaching-learning-evaluation system, to encourage them to look beyond their scheduled hours in classrooms and get familiar with the needs of the neighbouring communities through the project 'Know Your Neighbour'. Participation in various extension activities, cultural programmes and other co-curricular activities help build the organizational skill of the students. From designing the programmes to their successful execution, the students take the main lead guided by their teachers. The various outreach initiatives undertaken by NSS Unit, Kanyashree Club and other departments showcase the institutional endeavor to instill in its students an awareness of their surroundings, a sense of commitment to the underprivileged children and treat them with empathy and care. Eventually, they emerge as strong individuals shining by their own light and spreading the light to others.

Nalasa Dargupta

Principal
Krishnagar Women's College