

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Chandidas Mahavidyalaya was established in 1972 in a remote rural environment of Birbhum District, West Bengal with the aim to educate the rural community. Majority of the students are first generation learners and coming from socio-economically disadvantageous families. In the beginning, the enrolment of the female students were remarkably lower compared to the male counterparts. This may be attributed to the fact that women mostly face negligible future prospects because of their individual identities in most of the rural belts of India. Moreover, most of the female students were irregular in classes due to household workload and were less confident as evidenced by their hesitancy to take part in various co-curricular and extracurricular activities of the college.

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 so that 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
- Extensive Mentor-Mentee system to address any issue
- To introduce job-oriented courses for making them self-dependent and employable
- To include female staff in the college management

Chandidas 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 Birbhum 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 disbursement of the fellowship.

2. Gender Sensitization: From the very beginning, the college inculcates the concept that male and female equality and no discrimination based on gender. The process starts from the “ice-breaking” orientation session 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, Sexual Harassment Prevention Cell, Anti-Ragging Cell & Squad. 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. Moreover, the college has a well-established Gymnasium facility and there is dedicated time slot exclusively for the female students and staff so that they can work out without any hesitation.

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, NCC 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 programmes enhance employability as well as promote economic freedom of the

female students. The hand-embroidery course deserve special mentioning as it has created lots of jobs for the female students.

8. College Hostel: The College has received a grant for Girls' Hostel and the work is in full swing. The female students will soon have accommodation so that students from distant rural areas can pursue higher education.

9. 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.

10. Facilities for the female students:

- Girls' common room with Indoor game facilities
- Sanitary napkin vending machine
- Clean toilets and drinking water facility
- Sexual harassment cell to ensure safety
- CCTV monitoring throughout the campus

Outcome

1. Enrolment:Female student enrolment percentage has increased from 56.72%to 64.39 % in last five years.

2. Result: In the last five years, the pass percentage of the female students has improved remarkably. In 2017-18 academic year, the pass percentage was about 56.25%, which is increased to 100% in the last three academic years. Moreover, the number of female students appearing in the final examination has increased from 224 in 2017-18 session to 338 in 2021-22 session, which is a jump of about 150%. Moreover, AfsonaKhatun, a student Department of Philosophy has stood first in the final University Examination.

3. Participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities:Participation of female students in NSS has increased from 42 (2017-18) to 62 (2021-22) in last five years. In addition, more than 85% of the students participating in the cultural programme in 2021-22 session were females.

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

5. Placement to Higher Education: Progression to higher studies among the female students has increased more than 10 fold in the last five years.

6. Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurship has increased from nil in 2017-18 session to nine in 2021-22 session.

7. Campus Safety: Due to the strict adherence to institutional Grievance redressal, Sexual 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.

Items	Link
Institutional Distinctiveness	https://www.chandidasmahavidyalaya.ac.in/criteria_7.3.1.php
Any other relevant information	https://www.chandidasmahavidyalaya.ac.in/ssr/criteria-7.3.1/additional/Women%20Empowerment%20Additional%20Documents.pdf