

Performance of the Institution in one area

The college was established in 1985 by some local philanthropists keeping in mind the expansion of higher education in this plateau, semi-arid and backward area of West Bengal. It is a co-educational institution. The number of female students in this institution was very less. Here they could not easily enter higher education due to various social restrictions. Most of them belonged to financially weak families. Majority of them were first generation students. Child marriage was a nightmare for their lives. Child marriage often results in a girl ending her schooling prematurely. As these girls were forced to marry at a young age, they were usually forced to give up their studies. It curtails their education, hinders their personal development and reduces their chances of economic self-reliance. The communication system of the area was very poor. Girls were not allowed to ride bicycles here. Still communication problem prevails in the area and it hampers students a lot. But over the years we have prioritized the development of girl students. Through various discussions and campaigns, we have been able to bring girls to higher education. Currently the number of girl students is more than boys.

This distinctive feature of the college gives us ample opportunity to carry out and promote the Government of India's "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, to create awareness and promote women's empowerment, not only at the academic level, but also at the social and political levels. Faculty members of our college encourage girl students to compete for various state/central Government jobs or to find employment in the private sector. Through counselling, the faculty members try to instil self-confidence in them. The career counselling cell also provides the much-needed impetus in this direction. The College also gives due importance to the health and hygiene of the girl students. Medical experts are invited to give expert advice to the girl students on health issues. The Women Cell of the College organizes International Women's Day, and on that day teachers of various department and invited guest speakers give lectures on women emancipation and empowerment. Through the programs, the female students are made aware of various social evils which can only be eradicated by education. The Women Cell stresses on financial independence of women which also contribute towards decreasing issues pertaining to domestic violence. The Girls Common Room of the college has facilities for the girl students. It has toilet facilities and a sanitary napkin vending machine too. Moreover, there is a Kanyashree Scholarship programme for all female students. The College gives special importance to the girl student on the cultural and

sporting front also. During annual college social special co-curricular activities are conducted for the girl students only, such as flower decoration, mehendi competition, rangoli making, etc. The college authority as well as the disciplinary and anti-ragging committees keeps a strict vigil on the security and well-being of the girl student. Till date there has been no incident of ragging or any kind of misbehaviour against female students of the college. The girl students feel safe and secure within the college campus. Some teachers mostly counsel the girl students about the adverse effects of early marriage and dissuade them from taking such steps. Our teachers also motivate the girl-students to continue their studies even after their marriage (if in case they are married before their graduation). Another important feature in this regard is that over the years the number of girl students enrolling themselves in NSS has increased significantly. The girls of our college participate in all the activities conducted by NSS.

Girl students can place their grievances (if any) in the complaint box outside the principal's chamber titled "Complaint Box". The College also has a grievance redressal cell to safeguard any kind of harassment related to girls in the campus. In this context, the college is distinct in the entire Purulia district, as the number of girl students enrolling in the college has increased significantly. This uniqueness of the college is not only viewed as an institutional achievement but it is a step of the society towards women empowerment.