

## INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Education is a powerful tool, aiding the metamorphosis of the girl child into a confident, self-sufficient woman with an independent entity yet respecting the value system of the Indian society. Raniganj Girls' College was established in 1980 with an ideology to empower the women of the locality and neighbouring areas with higher education. The motto of our college abides by the first two lines of the Sanskrit sloka "Asatoma Sadgamaya, Tamosa Jyotirgayama".

A profoundly revered sloka in the Indian classical system of education, it means "lead us from untruth to truth and from darkness to light" and this broadly encompasses the mission and vision of the college. Thus the priority and thrust area of our institutional distinctiveness is ascertained through "Empowerment of Women".

Traversing the contours of modern education, we find that global competition expects a graduate to have acquired such skills that increase her employability whereas the society appreciates her high morale and the Indian value system ingrained in her. Thus our institution strives to strike a balance between these two aspects – sharpening the learner's latent potentials and skills while inculcating a strong value system. Speaking in this context, the composition of students enrolled at Raniganj Girls' College hail from diverse social, cultural and economic backgrounds which includes first generation learners as well as financially weak students. Hence our programme in empowering the students constitutes five different ways.

1. • Empowering women through knowledge and education
2. • Empowerment through financial assistance
3. • Empowerment through co-curricular, extra-curricular and extension activities
4. • Empowerment through skill development and rendering the learners employable
5. • Empowerment through Student Counselling, Career counselling, NET coaching and Placement

### ● **Empowering women through knowledge and education**

We strongly believe in the age old dictum that “Knowledge is Power”. Acquisition of knowledge leads to emancipation. This is more pertinent for us as ours is a women’s college. We visualize our students as active agents who work towards eradication of gender inequality in the society as they become empowered by acquisition of higher education. We are always conscious of the quality of education provided to the students. For this purpose apart from the traditional methods of teaching and learning different types of innovative methods in teaching and learning has been adopted by the college like ICT enabled presentations, use of Smart Board, screening films and documentaries, invited lectures, publication of the Departmental Wall Magazines, interdisciplinary seminars and workshops, theme based exhibition by different departments of the college, educational tours and so on. Again, during the lockdown in the pandemic situation due to COVID-19, the college made every effort to conduct online classes on different social networking applications and provide e-study material and different links for the use of Library resources by the students from the safety of their home.

### ● **Empowerment through financial assistance**

As our objective is to enlighten the girl students from diverse socially and economically backward sections of the society and ensure that financial disability is not a constraint for the needy learner to pursue college education. Hence the college strives to provide different types of financial assistance, scholarships and endowments to the students or help in facilitating scholarships and financial assistance provided by the government and different non-governmental organizations. The college during the lockdown also helped several students hailing from financially weak background through partial or complete waiver of different types of fees related to education. The college also facilitated fees payment through the online portal Razor pay as an alternative to physical methods of payment. Currently online payments are facilitated through SBI Collect

### ● **Empowerment through co-curricular, extra-curricular and extension activities**

We believe that education entails comprehensive development of the learners’ personality. The learners are encouraged to participate in co-curricular, extra-curricular and extension activities like participating in seminars and workshops, group discussions, cultural programme, Sports, NSS, NCC, participate in educational tours and the like. These activities play a significant role in developing the personality of the student, increase their self-esteem, built their confidence, make

them socially aware of the current burning issues in the society and practically empower them to handle the larger issues and problems of the society. They also develop a sense of gratitude and indebtedness to the institution and respect for the society.

#### ● **Empowerment through skill development and rendering the learners employable**

The college has offered skill development courses in Beauty and Wellness, Nursing and Banking in collaboration with NSHM Udaan Skills Pvt. Ltd as a part of the Prime Minister's National Skill Development Programme. These courses created off-campus employment opportunities for the beneficiaries or inspired them to become self-employed. The unique outcome is that the learners of our institution and girl students from neighbouring TDB College have immensely benefited from enrolling in these courses. Additionally, capacity building courses like training in Fevicryl, Soft Toy making, Face mask making, Woollen Beanie cap and woollen shoe knitting have been conducted before and during the lockdown. The college initiated Certificate courses in Santali and income tax practice as an initiative towards skill development programme in 2021. MOUs has been signed with Smart Alliance Joint Services Pvt. Ltd (2019) and Next Generation Scientist Private Limited (2021) and renewed with NSHM Udaan Skills Pvt. Ltd (2020) to enhance skills of the students basically aimed at making them financially independent irrespective of their education or social standing.

#### ● **Empowerment through Student Counselling, Career counselling, NET coaching and Placement**

The college creates a platform for student counselling through the mentoring system. The students and their guardians also benefit from informal counselling with the Principal and the teachers on specific problems of early marriage and other social and sensitive issues.

Keeping in mind the stressful environment during the lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, webinars have been organized on mental health of students and parents, stress management and women's health and COVID 19 pandemic.

Coaching in NET has helped one student to succeed in SLET examinations. The students also avail the different opportunities in career counselling that have been arranged in the physical as well as the virtual mode by the college authorities from time to time. Students have been placed through campus recruitment in 2021 and 2022.