

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust.

Our college, founded by renowned social worker Padma Shri Shraddhey Baba Amte, was the only higher education institution in the periphery of 30-40 km at the time of inception. The vision and mission is to provide higher education to rural youth. Thus, it is at the top of priority of the institution to provide an opportunity for holistic development to rural students. The performance of the institution in this regard is surely distinctive, and can be summarized through following points:

❖ Quality of Students –

Most of the students who seek admission in our college belong to rural area and poor background. However, they are adequately equipped with talent and knowledge. In line with its vision and mission, the institute provides student centric learning environment at utmost level. The institution gives opportunities to students to participate in every curricular, extracurricular and extension activities. Talents are watered and pruned. These attempts are reflective in the academic achievements of our college. During the span of last 5 years 33 students earned their place in University Merit List. The University exam result of the college is always good. To cater to the needs of rural students, particularly girls, the institution has started PG courses in Humanities and Commerce streams. PG courses in Science were already started during previous cycle of accreditation. Students also participate in various activities like Essay Competition, Debate, etc. and bring laurels to college. Every year nearly 15-20 students of B. Sc. and M.Sc. participate in Seminar competitions and many of them prizes.

❖ Career Counseling and Training –

With a distinct aim of producing good human resources with skill and ability, and of combating employment crisis, our college provides skill enhancement and employability development courses. They are Mushroom Cultivation, Wildlife Tourism, etc. College runs some skill based certificate courses also. They are computer C, C++ language, Herbal Medicine, Honey Collection. The institution provides coaching for UPSC/MPSC and other competitive exams, and coaching for NET/SET exams. The college also provides coaching and Training for entry into Police department and Defense services. Many students got selected. The institute invites eminent personalities for guidance on several issues to students. To name a few of them are Sh. Aditya Jiwane, IAS and Sh. Ayush Nopani, IPS. The ultimate aim is to impart training and knowledge to students so that they earn ability to excel in their career.

❖ Excellence in Sports –

Considering the significance of sports in holistic development of students, the institution has laid utmost emphasis on activities related to sports. The institution has taken initiatives and developed infrastructure to accommodate wide range of games and sports. The hard work put by College and Physical Education Department is visible in victories gained and medals won by our students at university, state and national levels. The graph of achievement of sports department is continuously going higher and higher. After 2017, lots of new games are introduced for student. Outdoor sports facilities available during 2017 were of six games. However, the number in 2021-22 goes to 32 (05 indoor games and 27 outdoor games). Every type of game/sport has adequate infrastructure. During the span of 5 years since 2017 nearly 1500 students participated in 83 events at various levels. 161 medals are won in individual and team events. The number of University colour holder up to 2017 was 04. During last 5 years it reached to 181. We feel very proud to say that 02 activities conducted by sports department are included in various Books of Records. **24 hrs Suryanamaskar has been included in India Book of Records as well as in International Book of Records in 2022 as Longest Suryanamaskar Marathon Relay. 75 km Marathon from Bapukuti (Sewagram) to Anandwan has also been recorded in International Book of Records in 2022.**

As an extension of facilities to community, sports department organizes Summer Coaching Camp every year. This camp provides sports training and coaching to young children and youth from other schools and colleges of the vicinity. We are sure that these practices are the distinctive qualities we proudly possess.

❖ Research Centre

In accordance with the vision and mission of providing quality higher education to students, the institution has insisted on developing congenial atmosphere for research activities too. The institution is recognized as “Institute of Higher Learning, Research and Specialized Studies” (IHLR&SS) by the affiliating University. The institution aims at becoming as advanced research centre. As such it is committed to provide quality learning and infrastructure required for research works. All research laboratories are equipped with necessary equipments. As on today 52 students registered for PhD at our centre. 11 research students are awarded Maha Jyoti Fellowship and 02 students got BARTI Fellowship by Govt. of Maharashtra.

❖ Teacher Quality -

The institution has highly skilled, devoted and knowledgeable teaching staff to cater to the needs of students. Faculty members are very sincere and committed to their goal of working for holistic development of students. They continuously upgrade their skills and knowledge. Many of them have successfully completed Online Courses on SWAYAM platform. To keep with the pace of time, our faculty member uses ICT tools very effectively in teaching-learning process. They actively engage themselves in research activities like projects, research guidance, etc. We have 16 teachers with Ph D as their highest qualification, all of whom are research supervisors. Few teachers have their research papers published in Scopus indexed journals. Nearly 56 articles are published in journals notified by UGC. Culmination of all these teaching-learning and research activities can be seen in the fact that we have 06 teachers who reached to post of Professor (AL 14) through CAS promotion. We feel proud to write that we have 02 patents to our credit.

Thus, the priority of college to provide quality higher education to young minds becomes visible. The affiliating university acknowledged the sincere attempts of the institution in this regard by conferring the **“Best College Award”** on us in 2019-20.