

Principal's Annual Report for the Year 2016-17

Vidyasagar College for Women

I take great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of Vidyasagar College for Women documenting its developments and achievements. The year 2016-17 was marked with many events and successes. This can be attributed to the dedication and team spirit of the members of the management, staff and students.

The history of the Vidyasagar College For Women (VCFW) goes back to the year 1872 when Vidyasagar College was found by Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar in the heart of Calcutta. The college began as a separate women's section of the Vidyasagar College from the year 1931. In the year 1960 Vidyasagar College for Women grew out of its infancy when it received its affiliation from the University of Calcutta and was established as an independent college solely for young women. The iconic figure of Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar continues to inspire generations of women. A great asset of this college is Pandit Iswar Chandra's own house which is designated as the 2nd campus of the college. In 2014, Vidyasagar College for Women acquired a Third Campus at 8A Sibnarayan Das Lane, Kolkata: 700006. The Third Campus houses the Central Library of the College, an air-conditioned staff room, an IQAC Room and ICT-enabled classroom, a modern Computer Lab, an Auditorium and several classrooms.

VISION

The vision of the College is to foster inclusiveness in access to higher education, irrespective of class or caste and to instil students with positive values and a humanistic spirit of service to the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

- To ensure that all students have a personalized learning experience and regular contact with teaching faculty to ensure that students have sufficient academic support
- To improve the quality and range of Student Support Services and conduct special remedial programmes for weaker sections of the students and slow learners
- To introduce vocational, job-oriented courses for skill development amongst students for equipping them to compete in the globalised and diverse employment markets

- To promote inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary research and to explore and widen the range of research funding sources
- To rejuvenate the existing infrastructure and create new facilities and integrate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in its management activities
- To promote training and skill development activities for all teaching and non-teaching staff enabling them to develop their abilities in rendering their duties
- To beautify the campus and provide a clean, healthy learning environment to its constituent members
- To aspire for a friendly environment for persons with different abilities
- To offer academic liberty, allowing our faculty members and students to engage in exchange of ideas on issues of social concern without fear and to motivate students in realizing their potential through creative spaces
- To pursue the goal of social responsibility by contributing through academics, research, extension and collaborations to meet the challenges which mankind is facing in the present.

Infrastructure Development

The construction of the hostel in the second campus of the College with an accommodation for 30 students has been completed. About 25 students of the new batch have already applied for hostel accommodation. Construction of laboratories for the exclusive use of Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Physiology Departments in the 3rd campus has been completed (the laboratories in the main building are shared by the three colleges). The ICT-enabled classroom in the 3rd campus has been started to supplement the ‘chalk- and-talk’ method of teaching. A convenient time-table has been formulated, so that the ICT enabled class-room can be effectively utilized by various Departments throughout the week. A virtual classroom has been installed to facilitate teaching with audio-visual aids. All three campuses of the College are connected by wireless links, with the help of four rooftop Access Points (Transmitter-cum-Receiver). An open-air stage in the space adjacent to the New Building was built from MP LAD funds. The green room next to the open-air stage will be used as a gym. The elevator was installed in the 3rd campus out of RUSA funds. The project proposal for solar panel was submitted to the ministry concerned.

Best Practices Introduced

Biometry was made compulsory for all members of the teaching faculty and non-teaching staff from 19.09.16.

The *Academic Audit* was conducted by two external experts as per the recommendation of the NAAC peer team

The *Administrative Audit* was conducted by an external expert as per the recommendation of the NAAC peer team

The *Green Audit* was conducted by the Green Club of the College.

A *Book Fair* was held by the Central Library at VSM, the Second Campus, on the occasion of Vidyasagar Birth Anniversary Celebrations. For this purpose, the Central Library networked with some major publishers in Kolkata, such as Orient Longman etc. The Book Fair, therefore, gave the faculty and students an opportunity to browse through and purchase books, fiction and non-fiction, from a wide variety of publishers.

The '*Earn while you Learn*' scheme has been implemented fruitfully in the Library.

Courses Offered

At present the college offers B.Sc (Hons) in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, Geography and Economics courses and B.Sc(General) in Electronics. In the humanities stream, the college offers B.A (Hons) in English, Hindi, Bengali, Political Science, History, Philosophy in addition to B.A (General) in Film Studies, Journalism, Sociology, Education and Sanskrit. In the current session there are 1932 students studying in the various courses.

Of the open options, the College offers:

- i) An optional short-term certificate course on '*Improved Communication in English*' conducted by the Institute of English, Calcutta, (Government of West Bengal sponsored). This session 26 students successfully completed the course and were issued certificates from the Institute of English, Calcutta.
- ii) A *computer training* course of 2 years duration imparted by Webel Informatics Ltd., a Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking has been started this session. After completion of the course, each student will be issued a Diploma in Computer Applications by Webel Informatics Ltd. Job assistance is provided by Webel Informatics Ltd. **No. of beneficiaries (2016): 351**
- iii) *Entry-in-Services* course has been started from 23rd September 2016 for the students belonging to the reserved category to prepare them for different

competitive examinations for recruitment in different jobs. The course is sponsored by UGC. **No. of beneficiaries: 32**

iv) *A Beauticians' Course* (a short-term certificate course) was begun at the New Building. **No. of beneficiaries: 50**

iv) As a result of a tie-up between NSS with Pidilite Industries Limited, NSS volunteers will be given free coaching on garment designing for 12 sessions after which they will be given Certificates of Appreciation and the best creations will be up for sale on the Company's portal at prices quoted by the volunteers

At the Second Campus of the College at VSM, a learners' support centre of IGNOU has been established which hosts at present 25 activated programmes. These include some job-oriented programmes in Social Work (BSW/MSW), Tourism Study (BTS/MTM), Rural Development (MARD), 9 certificate courses (CAFÉ, CDM, CES, CNCC, CFN, CHR, CIT, CRD, CTS) and 4 Diploma courses and a degree course in BCA (Bachelor in Computer Applications).

College Library

The college has a well-stocked Central library with 5841 text books, 21, 044 reference books, 15 journals, 6247 e-Journals, 2 Digital Databases and 39 CDs and Videos. The resources of the library also include journals, e-resources, J-Gate Basic Science, ProQuest ebooks, referential sites and a collection of old question papers. A photocopy machine, printer and scanner have been installed in the Central Library and teachers/ students can avail the facilities. Audio-visual material can be accessed in a separate terminal in the library. The library reading area is wi-fi enabled. There are facilities for accessing online resources from the Central Library. In addition to the Central Library, the College has one Seminar Library in the Main Campus. The Library Committee has decided to open the Seminar Library for digital library services from August 2016. Bar code printer, scanner, equipments related to digital library services have been purchased from the RUSA funds and the installation process is in progress. The digital library has been planned with 20 terminals, based on an IBM Server. The digital library will give access to e-books and journals/ articles for the faculties and students, with the required subscription being provided by the College. However, as the required software is not yet ready, it may take some time before it starts functioning. A new Computer Centre having twenty terminals (Thin-clients) connected to an IBM Server has been constructed adjacent to the newly constructed Central Library, utilizing

funds made available by RUSA. The Centre has one Server, one UPS and 20 Monitors. The Computer Centre is meant for faculties and students who want to use Internet for their work. Working Hours of the Central Library are from 8 AM to 2 PM from Monday to Saturday.

In addition to the Central Library, the College has one Seminar Library mainly for the humanities departments having about 1000 reference books, seven departmental cubicles complete with necessary furnishings, computers with Internet connections and printers. For the Science Departments, individual departments have their own seminar libraries maintained by the respective Departments. Students and teachers can borrow reference books for a short period from the Departmental seminar libraries.

Faculty and Staff

The College has a large pool of very competent faculty. We have 66 Faculty Members with 43 Assistant Professors, 14 Associate Professors, 5 Permanent part-time faculty members, 1 Librarian and 3 Graduate Laboratory Instructors. 38 of the faculty members are doctorates. Six faculty members undertook the Refresher/Orientation programs and two members participated in summer schools/workshops.

The College is supported by a very dedicated work force of office and laboratory staff. At present there are 5 administrative and 15 technical permanent staff members. Besides, they are assisted by 10 administrative and 5 technical very efficient staff members who have been hired on temporary basis.

Research Activities

Most of the faculty members are engaged in active research. Smt. Patrali Ghosh of Philosophy Dept. was awarded Ph.D degree this academic year. Three faculty members have students working towards Ph.D degree to their credit . Five teachers have received grants for Minor Research Projects under UGC's XIIth plan (total outlay of Rs-1720000/). Teachers regularly attend seminars, workshops, present and publish research papers. This academic session 37 research papers were published in reputed international and national journals and the teachers have 12 books and articles to their credit.

On the recommendation of the Research Advisory Committee of the College, the Governing Body sanctioned a Faculty Research Fund of Rs 50, 000. Out of this, an amount of Rs 20, 000 has been allotted for inter-disciplinary student research projects of short-term duration. An

amount of Rs 5, 000 has been allotted for certain support services like printing and binding etc. to be extended to the research scholars working under the guidance of particular faculty members. An amount of Rs 5, 000 has been allotted for preliminary expenses involved in the collaborative research project mentioned. An amount of Rs 5, 000 has been allotted for supporting the research activities of PPT teachers, contractual teachers and guest lecturers.

Vidyasagar Research Centre for Studies in Education and Society.

Named after the founder Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, this centre was set up and the first meeting of Vidyasagar Research Centre (VRC) was held on August 29, 2015 at Vidyasagar Smriti Mandir. A grant of ten lacs has already been sanctioned for VRC from BEUP Fund vide Memo No. RC ML 112.161/16666 of 2016-17 dated 21/9/2016.

The inaugural seminar ‘Anubhabe, Anudhyane Vidyasagar’.of Vidyasagar Research Centre for Studies in Education and Society (VRC) was held on 28.7.16 in the new Bhagabati Devi Sabhaghar and the inaugural speech was delivered by Hon’ble MLA Smt. Smita Bakshi. Three eminent speakers: Dr Barun Kumar Chakraborty, Emeritus Professor of Bengali, Rabindra Bharati University; Dr Prashanta Bannerjee, grandson of Pt Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and a distinguished homoeopath practitioner and Dr Jayanta Mitra, Department of English, Harimohan Ghosh College delivered lectures on this occasion.

College Publication

The 5th volume of the annual academic journal “Akshar” was published.

Collaborative Research

From September 2016 onwards, the Economics Department of the College has been engaged in a collaborative research project with Podar College of Commerce and Economics, Mumbai. The title of the study is: “Investing in Ponzi Schemes – A Psychological Perspective” and the faculty members of the Department of Economics are the Principal Investigators collaborating with their counterparts in R.A. Podar College, Mumbai. The project is funded by SEBI, Mumbai

NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Department of Chemistry of the college in collaboration with Vidyasagar Evening College sponsored by the UGC organised a two day National Seminar on “Recent Advances

in Chemical Science and Applications” on 6th and 7th January 2017. Eminent personalities from different parts of the country participated in the seminar.

SEMINARS WORKSHOPS AND GUEST LECTURES CONDUCTED

The IQAC, in collaboration with the Nari Samsad, organized a seminar on ‘Empowerment of Women against Violence: A cry for Social Justice” on 17.03. 17. Eminent lawyer, Shri Gitanath Ganguly, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof Nabanita Chatterjee also spoke on issues pertaining to empowerment of women.

Many Departments have organised invited lectures by distinguished academics for an enriched learning experience for the students.

Green Club

The Green Club Committee was formed with a notion to improve the (greeneries) environmental condition of the college as well as its surroundings and also to spread awareness amongst students and local people. An awareness program on Air pollution was organised by green club on 29.11.16. The Club organised another awareness program on "Dengue-major mosquito mediated disease" on 27.2.17. Green Audit was conducted by the Green Club of the College.

STUDENTS ACTIVITY

Sports

Six students participated in the West Bengal Inter College District Sports Championship 2017 held at SAI, NSEC, Salt Lake, Kolkata . Poushali Chowdhury of 2nd year B.A (Gen) won the first prize in Shot put, discuss throw and second prize in Javelin throw. Tumpa Roy of 1st year B.A (Hons) won the third prize in Shot Put throw.

Annual Sports day of the College was held on 17th February, 2017. The meet was declared open by the Principal, Dr. Rupali Chaudhuri. The torch (Mashal) was lighted by the Principal which was carried by Poushali Chowdhury, the “BEST ATHLETE” of the year and by other outstanding athletes of the college. The events conducted during this meet were 50 m race, 100 m race, Shot put, Cracking the pot, Memory Game, Relay race, Tug of war, Throwing the ball into the jar. Besides, Walking race and Musical chair was held for the staff members. Mr. Debashis Mallick, President, Governing Body, handed over the Prizes to the winners.

Freshers' Welcome & Annual Social of the College

The students union of the College organised Freshers' Welcome for the newly admitted first year students and also the College Social was held on 16th March, 2017 in the University Centenary Hall. On the day of College Social various cultural events were organised and renowned singers, artists from varied fields of art, music and culture were invited.

Observation and commemoration of significant days

The students and staff of the College jointly observed the days such as National Youth Day, National Science Day, Republic Day, Bhasa Dibas, International Women's Day, Rabindra Jayanti, Independence Day, Birthday Celebration of Pt. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar etc. On 26th September just as every year, Birth Anniversary ceremony of Vidyasagar was celebrated ceremoniously by the college with due respect to the founder. On this occasion, inter college Essay-writing / Debate / Extempore Competitions were arranged.

Arts and Science Exhibition

Like previous year, the students participated in Arts and Science Exhibition on 3rd and 4th February, 2017. Department wise they exhibited a theme or more with proper demonstration of the exhibited project items. The exhibitions witnessed widespread participation from the students.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The NSS and NCC units of the College show active participation on and off-campus. The Convener and Programme Officer of NSS is Prof Keka Das. Activities undertaken by the NSS UNIT of VCFW in the academic session 2016-2017 include organizing Anti-AIDS Rally on the eve of Anti-AIDS Day, blood-donation Camp. A Seven-Day Annual Special Camp was held from the 13th to the 19th of February, 2017 which included among other activities regular interaction and teaching of slum-dwelling kids, a session on female physiology-“Know Yourself”. A Theatre Workshop By a Socio-Cultural Group, 'Urotaar', with special emphasis on 'Vidyasagar and Women's Empowerment' was organised. The NSS also participated in a one-day state-level workshop organized by the NSS Cell, University of Calcutta, on 02.03.2017.

The students of our College take part in different extension activities led by the NCC. Lt Dr Satya Upadhyay was the NCC In-Charge till 16.12.2016. Smt. Atri Saha took over as NCC In-Charge from January 2017. The Cadets receive training in the defence and disaster management of the country. Regular parades, drills and camps are organized to make the cadets fit for the commissioned ranks.

A health check-up camp for students was held in the New Building prior to the starting of the yoga course in collaboration with the Medical Cell on 16.12.16. The check-up involved examination of height, body weight and level of haemoglobin. A total of 63 students turned up for the check-up.

The Extension Activities Committee of the College has endeavoured to reach out to the underprivileged sections of society, the needy, sick and poor. They have been also engaged in activities such as planting trees. The year's activity began with a visit to an Adoption Centre in Chingrighata, Kolkata, 'Navajivan' under The Indian Society for Sponsorship and Adoption which members of the Committee visited on 21.04.17. As in the past, they distributed food items, infant care things and stationery items to the children. Funds for buying things were provided by the College.

University Result

In B.Sc. stream, 159 students appeared for the final B.Sc (Hons) Part-III examination . The success rate is ~87.4% with 30% securing Ist division and 48% second division. In the B.A stream, 143 students appeared for the final BA (Hons) Part-III examination. About 94% of students of the Hons course have been successful with 2% of the students securing 1st division and 81% securing the 2nd division. The results for the general stream is yet to be declared. The detailed subject wise result may be read from the SSR uploaded in our college website.

Students Welfare

Concessions in College tuition fees are granted to meritorious and backward students for which applications are invited during the academic session. For full concession, production of BPL card is mandatory. This session 86 students were provided financial support from the college. Besides, 110 students availed scholarships from different Govt. Aided schemes including Kanyasree Prakalpo.

Earn while you Learn scheme has been introduced. Our College has employed quite a few students to facilitate their learning process. They are currently helping the librarian to

digitalize the library stock. They are being paid a fixed sum per entry. The College has plans to employ more students in the office.

The UGC-sponsored **Remedial coaching classes** and **Entry-in-Services** classes are held for weak students belonging to the reserved categories.

Health care facilities are available to students in-campus as well as off-campus. There is a Medical Cell run by the College which conducts health check-ups at regular intervals. The Medical Cell organised a Workshop on 'Stress and Psychological Disorders' on 28.09.2016. The Medical Cell also organised a Thalassemia-Anaemia Detection camp on 4.11.2016 with the assistance of The Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine. About 50 students donated blood for the detection of Thalassemia and Anaemia. A post- test camp was held on 28.03.2017. Four students were detected as Thalassemia carrier and they were called along with their parents who were informed about the importance of Thalassemia detection test before the marriage of their daughters to spread awareness regarding the latent effects of the disease.

Off campus, the Students' Health Service and University Health Centre run by the Board of Health of CU in Goenka Hospital at Muktaram Babu Street, very close to the College, offers specialized medical treatment. The Students' Health Home offers specialized medical treatments to students free of cost on Principal's recommendations at its complex located at 142/2 AJC Bose Road.

The College provides **subsidised canteen facilities** to the students. There is a **Cheap Store** in the college premises where students can buy books and note books at subsidised rates.

The Grievance Redressal Cell holds bi-annual Meetings with students representatives of each year and each department to listen to the grievance of the students. The girls had voiced a grievance about cleanliness of student washrooms and classrooms and the space surrounding the drinking water area and they had also complained about the lack of dustbins. This grievance has been redressed and closed dustbins have been placed mainly in the New Building. A pay-and-use sanitary napkin vending machine has been donated by the Alumni Association which has been placed inside the girls' washroom in the New Building.

The Anti-Ragging Cell was formed by the College. The Anti-Ragging Cell has arranged to put up Posters on anti-ragging awareness on the College Notice Board. Banners are also displayed in the Library, Canteen and Students' Common Room to spread awareness among students. The cell organised an Anti-Ragging Awareness Programme, sponsored by the IQAC of Vidyasagar College for Women, on 23.03.2017.

Nari Samsad: The College has a Nari Samsad that conducts programmes for gender sensitization and awareness about women empowerment etc. The IQAC, in collaboration with the Nari Samsad, organized a seminar on ‘Empowerment of Women against Violence: A cry for Social Justice’ on 17.03.17. Eminent lawyer, Shri Gitanath Ganguly, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Prof Nabanita Chatterjee also spoke on issues pertaining to empowerment of women.

Career Guidance and Placement

The College has a Career Counselling Cell and offers necessary counselling to the students according to their capabilities, orientations and aptitude. The Cell functions in tandem with the Placement Cell. The Career Counselling Cell arranged for a seminar and an interactive session on Travel And Tourism Management with the representatives of GTX Academy on 30.08.2016 for the Third Year students of the College. Another seminar was conducted by the Career Counselling Cell on 07.02.2017. The topic was “Resume Building and Orientation to Group Discussion and Interview”. The speaker was Mr Samrat Roy of Endeavour Institute. The students participated actively in the discussion.

Mr. Partha Sarathi Sinha of Pidilite Industries Limited held a workshop on ‘Artist In Me’ on 13.02.2017. Pidilite Industries have made a commendable contribution in introducing new and innovative craft materials to cater to the needs of aspiring artists through Fevicryl. They have given an opportunity to earn. The creative products can be sold through them by a programme called Art On Sale. The students will be provided with a certificate

The Placement Cell organised an On Campus Placement in 2017 also. Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) conducted a campus recruitment programme in the month of January. There were four rounds. 150 students appeared in the first round MCQ test, out of which 17 students qualified for the final round and seven have been selected till date. The selected students will receive their appointment letters after completion of their final year examination.

A campus Interview and recruitment programme was conducted by Technoscope, in the College campus in January, 2017. A total of 60 students appeared for the MCQ test held out of whom Technoscope declared the names of the top 10 candidates. These candidates appeared for a personal interview later. The final results are yet to be announced.

Placement Cell also organized a seminar in the month of February, 2017. The speaker was Dr. Abhijit Bhattacharyay, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Univ. of Arkansas Little Rock, USA. The topic was: Opportunities for studying abroad for Indian students.

No bounds Tech, an IT sector company, also held a campus interview of students. A total of 30 students appeared for the interview out of whom 4 were selected and 4 have been empanelled for the next round of appointments.

Alumni Activity

The College has a very rich and distinguished Alumni Association which was established in February 1987. At present the Alumni Association comprises of total 250 Life Members and more than 300 Ordinary Members. The Alumni undertakes various Community Projects, extends educational help to needy students and organizes various events on important dates.

The Association organises an academic award by Smt. Basanti Chatterjee and Smt. Manjushree Ghosh to the best student of Physics Honours in the B.Sc. Examination of Calcutta University every year in memory of late Abani Kumar Banerjee and arranges for academic awards to two students of the college, one for the best student in the B.A. exam and the other for the best student in the B.Sc. exam of C.U. every year. The Alumni Association has also, as a continuing project, extended financial help to meritorious but needy students.

The Alumni Association also engages in social service with the donation of medicines etc. to a Charitable Dispensary at Sovabazar which is run for the underprivileged and also donates garments to Niharika Rehabilitation Centre for the children of footpath dwellers. The Alumni also observes Independence Day with donations to orphanage students of a Refugee School in Bowbazar. The Alumni observed Childrens' Day by distributing water bottles, exercise books etc. to the children of sex workers at Kanika Ashraya Kendra of S.B. Devi Charity Home. Woollen shawls were distributed to inmates of an Old Age Home at Elliott Road. Future projects of the Alumni include organising anti-pollution campaigns and tree-planting in the College campus.

A pay-and-use sanitary napkin vending machine has been donated by the Alumni Association which has been placed inside the girls' washroom in the New Building.

I acknowledge the commitment of all concerned, the Management, the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff and the students in the development of the College. We shall continue with our efforts to our commitment in a dedicated manner to promote our learners and make them empowered with qualities like honesty, punctuality, hard work, decision making and many

more besides achieving academic progress. The college shall strive to live up to the ideals of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar- the pioneer of Women's education in India.

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Rupali Chaudhuri