

Principal's Annual Report for the Year 2015-16

Vidyasagar College for Women

I take great pleasure in presenting the Annual Report of Vidyasagar College for Women highlighting some of the key accomplishments achieved over the past year. The developments and the success documented is the result of the commitment and team spirit of the staff, faculty members, students and the management.

Vidyasagar College for Women as a full fledged separate college affiliated to the University of Calcutta was founded in 1960 and committed to carry forward the ideals and principles of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, the great educationist and social reformer of the 19th century. At present the college consists of three campuses. The main campus, the original college campus is shared with Vidyasagar College and Vidyasagar Evening College. The 2nd campus of the college which is Pandit Iswar Chandra's own house is a great asset of the college. In 2014, Vidyasagar College for Women acquired a Third Campus at 8A Sibnarayan Das Lane, Kolkata: 700006.

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 College Auditorium, built on the 2nd floor of the 3rd campus, was inaugurated on the 9th of May 2016. Complete with all necessary airconditioning and audio-visual arrangements, it is a multipurpose hall which can be used both as an auditorium and a seminar hall. Audience capacity is 100.

A hostel that could accommodate about 30 students is under construction in the 2nd campus and is expected to be functional by next session.

An ICT-enabled classroom has been built on the second floor of the New Building. This class-room is being equipped with a projection system and a smart-board and will be used for regular classes from the upcoming session.

To facilitate longer working hours, modern Laboratories for the exclusive use of the science departments are under construction in the new building. The Botany laboratory is complete and is being used extensively.

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 Center 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. The Centre will provide support to the newly-established Computer Training Course for the students conducted by Webel Informatics Ltd.

The BSNL broadband connection in the Main Campus has been upgraded to a sufficiently high bandwidth to improve the Internet connectivity.

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 2075 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). Two classes are held per week (barring holidays) in the New Building. Theoretical and practical tests are conducted at the end of the course. Students who pass the tests are 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.
- iii) A yoga course was inaugurated on 16th October, 2015.

At the Second Campus of the College at VSM, a learners' support centre of IGNOU has been established which hosts at present 24 activated programmes. These include some job-oriented programmes in Social Work (BSW/MSW), Tourism Study (BTS/MTM), Rural Development (MARD), 8 certificate courses (CAFÉ, CES, CNCC, CFN, CHR, CIT, CRD, CTS) and 4 Diploma courses and a degree course in BCA (Bachelor in Computer Applications).

College Library

The Central Library activities are operated from the Third Campus at 8A Shibnarayan Das Lane for more convenient services. Bar code printer, scanner, equipments related to digital library services have been purchased from the RUSA fund and the installation process is in progress. A new photo-copy machine has been installed in the Central Library, to assist faculties and students in their studies. The Library has an Open Access Reading Room. Out

of the RUSA funds, 1,416 books, 52 E-books and 1 E-database have been purchased. The Library Sub-Committee plans to introduce printing services, e-library facility and e-resource access facility. The library has a collection of 5840 books, 21000 reference books, 9368 e books, 15 journals, 6247 ejournals, 2 digital database and around 40 CD and videos.

The Seminar Library in the Main Campus consists of the seminar libraries of the Arts Departments having mainly reference books, seven departmental cubicles, computers with Internet connections and reading facilities for both teachers and students. A twenty-terminal digital library, based on an IBM Server, has been planned on the third floor of the Main Campus, utilizing RUSA funds. The digital library will give access to ebooks and journal articles/papers, for the faculties and students, with the required subscription being provided by the College.

Faculty and Staff

We are proud of our Faculty and staff, their dedication and Commitment. At present, the College has 60 permanent faculty members with 30 Assistant Professors, 19 Associate Professors, 6 Part time teachers, 1 Librarian and 4 Graduate Laboratory Instructors. 3 faculty members undertook the refresher course and 4 members participated in the orientation program. The College is also supported by a very dedicated work force of office and laboratory staff which includes 17 technical and 8 administrative staff members.

Research Activities

Teachers are actively engaged in research activities. 39 teaching faculty members are doctorates. Mr. Som Sankar Roy of History Dept. was awarded Ph.D degree this academic year. Three teachers have students working towards Ph.D degree to their credit and one scholar from the college was awarded Ph.D this session. Two teachers have ongoing Minor Research Projects under UGC's XIIth plan (with an outlay of Rs-5 lakhs and Rs-2 Lakhs). Teachers regularly attend seminars, workshops, present and publish research papers. This academic session 39 research papers were published in reputed international and national journals and the teachers have 21 books and articles to their credit.

Dr Deepti Bannerjee, Associate Professor, Department of Physics, has been a recipient of the 'Regular Associate of ICTP' award, ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics), Strada Costiera, Trieste, Italy. The award is valid till date.

A Research Committee, represented both by faculty members of the Science and Humanities Departments, has been formed by the Governing Body of the College to deal with research Projects.

NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Departments of Sanskrit, Sociology and Education jointly organized a UGC-sponsored Two-day National Level Seminar on 'Women's Education in India: Past Predicaments and Future Possibilities' involving around 200 students from different Colleges and Universities on 23rd and 24th September 2015. Eminent personalities from different parts of the country participated in the seminar.

SEMINARS , WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED

The Department of Physics of Vidyasagar College for Women, jointly with the Departments of Physics of Vidyasagar Day College and Vidyasagar Evening College organized a One-Day Conference 'Let There Be Light' on 'Optical Applications, Synergies & Vistas' on 21.12.15 on the occasion of the International Year of Light.

The Department of Hindi organized an Inter College Seminar on 'Social Media mein Hindi' involving 97 students of different Colleges on 8.10.15. Eminent educationists were present as judges and orators.

Hindi Divas was celebrated on 14th September with an institution level seminar.

Vidyasagar Research Centre for Studies in Education and Society.

Named after the founder Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, this centre was set up on the recommendation of the NAAC Peer team and the first meeting of Vidyasagar Research Centre (VRC) was held on August 29, 2015 at Vidyasagar Smriti Mandir. The Centre's main mission will be to provide a congenial atmosphere for academics in the humanities and social sciences to pursue short-term research projects that will enhance the current state of knowledge in the selected area of study. Priority will be accorded to applicants seeking to conduct research centering around the social and cultural history of 19th-century Bengal. Other thrust areas of research will include gender-based social and economic analysis; studies in the fields of education and pedagogy; environmental and development studies; studies on nationalist thought; and reassessments of the nineteenth-century Bengal Renaissance. Alongside these, analytical interest in contemporary economic and political

issues and institutions will be encouraged. Short term fellowships shall be offered emphasizing interdisciplinary scholarship to teachers and students.

College Publication

The 4th volume of the annual academic journal “Akshar” was published.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

Sports

Six students participated in the West Bengal Inter College District Sports Championship 2016 held at SAI, NSEC, Salt Lake, Kolkata on 23.2.16. Poushali Chowdhury of 1st year B.A (Gen) won the first prize in 800m and 1500m Run and second prize in discuss throw. Shikha Singh of 3rd year B.A (Gen) won the third prize in Javelin throw.

College Annual Sports Meet and Prize Distribution Ceremony was conducted on 23rd February, 2016. The meet was declared open by the Principal, Dr. Rupali Choudhuri. 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 29th March, 2017 at the University Centenary Hall.

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 by the College with due respect. On this occasion, inter college Essay-writing / Debate / Extempore Competitions were arranged.

Arts and Science Exhibition

The students participated in Arts and Science Exhibition on 2nd and 3rd February, 2016 organized by themselves. Department wise they exhibited a theme or more with proper demonstration of the exhibited project items. Students showcased their talent with challenging new ideas in the form of working models, demonstrative experiments, charts and informative posters. As an instance one can cite the example of the graphic designing skills of Film Studies department that came up with digital displays. As a whole the graphic designing skills, artistic merit and creativity of all our students found a venue for expression in this spectacular display of works of art..

Extension Activities

The NSS and NCC units of the College show active participation on and off-campus. The students of our College take part in different extension activities led by the NCC and NSS. The NCC In-Charge is Lt Dr Satya Upadhyay and the Unit of this College is under the name “C” Roy 2nd Bengal Girl’s Battalion. 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. During the academic year 2015-16, the NCC has observed Anti-tobacco Day with a rally, World Aids Day, NCC Day, World Yoga Day, World Environment Day and has done volunteer work during the Pulse Polio drive.

The Convener and Programme Officer of NSS is Prof Keka Das. The main object of the NSS is to motivate students for undertaking various social services. Activities undertaken by the NSS in the academic year 2015-16 included an Anti-AIDS Rally on Anti-AIDS Day, garments distribution among the poor and needy, workshop by CINI on female foeticide, serving Glucon-D to traffic sergeants, visit to Amherst Street Women’s Police Station, feeding of stray animals. The NSS also observed World Environment Day, World Youth Day, Raksha Bandhan Utsav, Teachers’ Day, Childrens’ Day and organized a 7-days’ Special Camp on cleanliness and sanitation including a health camp with a focus on preliminary first-aid measures. The NSS also organized a Film Festival for the first time.

The Extension Activity Committee of the College paid a visit to Battala Susangata Shishu Vikash Prakalpa and also visited Onkolink (Centre for terminal cancer patients). The Committee has also undertaken tree plantation and plans to distribute food, medicines and other necessities among street children.

University Result

In B.Sc stream, 278 students appeared for the final B.Sc Part-III examination (together in Hons. And General streams). The success rate in the Hons stream is 78% with 30% securing 1st division and 48% second division. In the general stream, 68% of the students have been successful with 7% securing 1st division.

In the B.A stream, 415 students (together in Hons and General streams) appeared for the final BA Part-III examination. 69% of students of the Hons course have been successful with 4% of the students securing 1st division and 65% securing the 2nd division. In the general stream, the success rate is 33% with 5% of the students securing 2nd division. 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 year 46 students were provided financial assistance by the College. Besides, 90 students availed the Govt. Funded Kanyashree scholarship .

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 of the College held an Obesity Awareness Camp on 1.3.16. A dietician of the Royal Nursing Home was present to advice the students on diet-related issues.

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 also 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 Cell also has a Grievance Redressal Box. Some of the grievances addressed by the students during this

session were proper cleanliness of the washrooms and class rooms, proper disposal of laboratory wastes from Zoology department, need for microphone in the large class rooms, non functioning of fans and lights in some class rooms and non access of gate of New Building in the starting hours of the College. The Cell with the help of the Principal was able to redress the problems.

Nari Samsad: The College has a Nari Samsad that conducts programmes for gender sensitization and awareness about women empowerment etc. The Nari Samsad of the College organised a large-scale Seminar on the occasion of International Womens' Day on 8.3.16. Eminent speakers were invited to deliver lectures to sensitise the students on gender identity and gender discrimination.

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 Cell organized an interactive session on Career Information Literacy on 28.1.16 for all the students of the College highlighting the use of Digital career literacy. Another seminar on GIS-Scope and Opportunities was held on 29.2.16 and started with the new concept being analyzed to the students. About 200 students benefitted from the seminars. The Career Counselling Cell also took the initiative in circulating the forms and informing the Third Year students regarding admission to the Institute of Jute Technology through the respective Science Departments and the Office. The Cell also took proper initiative to make the students aware of the National Science Talent Search by Jagadish Chandra Bose Institute. The posters were displayed in the Notice Boards of the College.

On the initiative of the Placement cell, the Tata Consultancy Service (TCS) conducted a placement programme in our College on 20.2.16. A total of almost 100 students appeared in the first round which involved the written test. Out of these 100 students, 52 qualified for the second round. The second and third rounds involved interview sessions with individual students. Out of the 52 students, 18 qualified for the fourth and the final round which involved telephonic interviews with the higher-level officials of the Company. Finally, 16 students were selected for recruitment by TCS. These 16 students joined the job after completion of graduation.

The Placement Cell is also trying to invite other corporate bodies and banking sectors for conducting placement programmes in the College campus.

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.

Some of the community services extended by them during the current session include: Distribution of food packets and two boxes of medicines for the needy at Sovabazar Medical Bank on 10.7.15, Distributing Cakes, Biscuits, Chocolates and Maaza Drinks to 40 Orphanage Students of 'Refugee' school at Bowbazar area on Independence day. Donating 10 double size Mattress to the children of Sex Workers staying at 'Kanika Ashraya Kendra' of S.B.Devi Charity Home in December, and organizing blood donation camp in our College on 22nd February, 2016.

The Alumni awarded prizes to the winners of Inter College Debate and extempore Competitions held on the occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. Like every year, the Association also extended monetary help to two needy students, one each from Science and Arts Stream, for their education.

I acknowledge the commitment of all concerned, the Management, the Teaching and Non-Teaching staff and the students in the progress of the College. The College administration and the teachers are committed to the global development of the future generation of women achievers of the society. The College strives to live up to the ideals of Pandit Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar—the pioneer of Women's education in India.

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Rupali Chaudhuri