



Institutional Distinctiveness

Value- based education with emphasis on academics, discipline and social responsibility:

In today's fast-paced and changing world it is very important to know what makes one's institution distinctive and exceptional.

Tempting, an academician points out that "it is only within the broader context of a college's organizational development, its missions and goals and strategic planning processes that institutional distinctiveness takes on its full meaning". Although several factors and unique programs adopted and executed by the college contribute to its distinctiveness it is indeed a very challenging task to establish its unique Identity and institutional perceptions as they are not always supported by data. It is generally the perception of the public and a belief and trust that the education imparted in this college is unique in terms of the care and attention that students receive from a caring faculty and administration; this perception and trust have been built and sustained over the decades.

The college, in the last six decades of its existence, has earned its distinctiveness mainly due to its focus on:

1. Excellence in academics.
2. Inculcating a (value-based) quest for knowledge.
3. Developing a healthy respect for our cultural heritage.
4. Instilling a strong sense of social responsibility and civic duties and fostering a global vision.
5. Developing a sense of discipline.

1. Excellence in academics:

The pursuit of excellence in academics is one of the cherished goals of the founders of this college and continues to occupy pride of place in the goals and mission of the college. Within the framework of the syllabus determined by the university, the well-trained faculty, an enlightened management and committed Principal and Vice Principal strive hard to maintain high standards in academics and sustain it. The academic programs, the conduct of tests, exams, PPTs, project work and remedial classes are in sync with the requirements of

the students and prepare them adequately for the university exams. Absolute transparency is observed in awarding and uploading of marks in the university website. The competitive spirit of the students is encouraged by the faculty and ignites the spark of academic excellence in them.

2. Inculcating a (value-based) quest for knowledge:

Even as the faculty guided by the head of the institution strives for academic excellence, equally important is the goal to inculcate a deep quest or desire for knowledge; knowledge that goes beyond mere academic pursuits. This factor is the guiding force or principle behind the programs organised in the college that are not purely academic in nature. Guest lectures, seminars, workshops, and symposia organised by the college are a way of bringing the best minds, scholars, philosophers and thinkers within the reach of the students. The Nobel Insight Lecture Series is one such attempt.

3. Developing a healthy respect for our cultural heritage:

Programmes and activities are organised for students with the aim of developing more sensitivity towards our country's rich cultural heritage. National days and festivals of historic significance are observed with the active participation of the students. Heritage walks to places of historical and national significance are organised by the Department of History. Programmes like Aryotsava (a programme that encourages students to respect all religions and ethnic groups), Ethnic Day, Gita Jayanthi, Hindi Diwas, World Drama Day, Inchara (a cultural celebration of Kannada language and literature), Dasara and Ganesha festivals are some of the regularly scheduled ones. All these programmes are designed and executed with inclusivity and secularism as their twin objectives.

4. Instilling a strong sense of social responsibility and civic duties and fostering a global vision:

In addition to the subjects that are intrinsically value based, special efforts are made to draw the attention of the students regarding their larger roles and commitments to society through the co- curricular programmes and activities that are organised throughout the year. These are some of the initiatives undertaken in the college:


- As an annual feature talks on fundamental rights and duties are arranged.
- Street plays with the themes of prevention of drug addiction, harassment of women, corruption in public life, traffic rules, election awareness, festival of democracy are performed in the college Quadrangle.
- Sanitation and plastic ban awareness programmes are conducted in the adopted villages.

- Demonstration of the working of EVMs for first time voters(students in the college) and generation of voter ID cards for the students and staff of the college are organized.
- Awareness and guidance programs in villages close to Bangalore for the villagers regarding redressal of legal problems like the registration of birth and death certificates, litigation in civil matters and information about fundamental rights for the school children are organized.
- Panel discussions on the Indian Polity have been organised for the last three years.

5. Developing a sense of discipline:

There has always been a significant thrust given to instilling a strong sense of discipline in the students who are an integral part of the ecosystem of the college. Starting with the morning assembly right up to the last period of the day students are monitored and mentored in such a way that they make optimum use the time they spend in the college. A staggered time table has become inevitable due to the increased number of students and combinations of courses and the space constraints as the campus is shared with the Pre-University College. But this has not come in the way of maintaining and sustaining the discipline factor in the college. The students too feel secure in the knowledge that they are cared for and are generally willing participants of the rules, regulations and norms of the college. Public opinion too has contributed a great deal to the reputation that the college has earned over the decades that discipline is of paramount significance.

Yet another element that helps in maintaining the discipline in the college is the strict adherence and monitoring of the attendance of the students. This is done on a monthly basis and at the end of the semester a cumulative record is arrived at. Parents and guardians are informed through SMS messages and parent-teacher meetings are arranged regularly.


K. M. RAGHAVENDRAN
 Associate Professor
 IQAC Co-ordinator
 M.E.S. Degree College of Arts,
 Commerce and Science
 Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003


Principal
 M.E.S. College of Arts, Commerce & Science
 Malleswaram, Bangalore-560 003.