



CRITERION VII INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

2023-2024

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

7.13. Highlight the performance of the institution in an area distinct to its priority and thrust (within a maximum of 200 words)

The College of Social Work- Nirmala Niketan since its inception in 1955 has been dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in social work education. At various junctures, the College has made efforts to update its knowledge base and make its educational initiatives relevant to the existing national and global socio-economic realities. The College of Social Work has significantly contributed to social work through its academic, fieldwork and extension programmes since its inception. The College has a well-stated motto, vision, mission, and objective reflected in all aspects of the College. The College has made rapid strides in the field of Social Work education and is adjudged as one of the best colleges of Social Work in the country. The college has completed 68 years, of training young men and women to help the underprivileged fight for their rights. By the end of the training, these young persons are full-fledged professionals making a mark in the society.

The College ensures that it provides safe spaces and opportunities for learning to students from the most marginalised backgrounds. The vision and mission of the College is:

- To contribute to building a new social order based on human dignity and social justice.
- To work with a preferential option for the vulnerable and exploited, both locally and globally.
- To build a cadre of young, competent professionals having a global perspective and a strong value base of compassion, personal integrity, moderation, tolerance and self-respect.

The college undertakes several student-centred measures to enhance learning opportunities, some of which are enumerated below:

Student Induction Programme: The one-week-long intense Student Induction Programme/Orientation Programme gives the new entrants an insight into the institute's values and mission and the field of Social Work. The Student Induction Programme/Orientation Programme is an important component of the Field Work Practicum. The College of Social Work,

Nirmala Niketan has formulated the Student Induction Programme for new entrants, Bachelor and Master of Social Work, based on the four components outlined by the University Grants Commission SIP Policy, 2019

- Socializing (meeting other new students, senior students, student's union, lectures by eminent speakers);
- Associating (visits to University/College, visits to Department/Branch/Programme of study and important places on campus, local area, city)
- Governing (rules and regulations, student support)
- Experiencing (subject lectures, study skills, small-group activities, physical activity, creative and performing arts, literary activities, universal human values).

The programme engages with the new students as soon as they come into the institution; regular classes start only after that. At the start of the induction, the incumbents learn about the institutional policies, processes, practices, culture and values. The programme commences with the Inaugural followed by a seven-day schedule comprising inputs/visits/workshops. Students are engaged in various activities which include components of creative arts, universal ethics and human values, constitutional literacy, mental health, and lectures and workshops by eminent individuals, mostly alumni of the College on issues of social relevance. Field Visits are organized to social work organizations to enable students to understand the role of social workers across various settings. An orientation on the Syllabus, Fieldwork Practicum and report writing is also conducted. The programme culminates with students' presentations on their learning content and important insights gained through the Induction.

Fieldwork: Fieldwork is the signature pedagogy of social work education. Through Fieldwork, students are provided lifelong lessons on social work practice. The academic training is reflected and imbibed through *learning by doing* in the field. The vision and mission of the College provide a framework for the Selection of Fieldwork Organizations and Placement for Block Placements. The College places students in around 70 organizations working on social issues affecting marginalised groups [children in conflict with law, persons with disability, survivors of gender-based violence, malnutrition, youth empowerment, marginalised elderly and so on] across Mumbai, Thane and Raigad. For Block Placement students explored organizations all over India.

Supportive Services For Students: The College has taken proactive measures to ensure that students from marginalised communities are represented in the academic programme. Supportive measures such as a Laptop Bank, scholarships, a Mid-Day meal scheme, input and remedial

coaching sessions conducted through the Equal Opportunity Cell and policies for Fieldwork and Examinations strive to promote the overall well-being of students and provide an opportunity for them to be integrated into the course expectations. The college also undertakes several initiatives to sensitize students to social inclusion and issues of marginalisation through the courses offered and the co-curricular programmes organized by the Students Committee on Wednesday afternoon. The Goregaon campus acts as a center for lifelong learning through its courses and programmes providing scope for learning for individuals from all walks of life. Safety Policies, Child Protection Policy, and Policy against sexual harassment are some of the important measures to ensure the creation of safe spaces in the college for the well-being of students.

Recognising the changing trends of welfare taking place in the current scenario of globalisation, the College of Social Work Nirmala Niketan has come up with Nirmiti Kaushalya Kendra (Social Entrepreneurship Cell). • The cell provides training and mentorship for the students interested in developing entrepreneurship ideas.

The Field Action Projects in tune with the vision and mission of the College strive towards the empowerment of socially excluded groups.

