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DUMKAL COLLEGE

P.O- Basantapur, P.S- Dumkal, Dist.- Murshidabad, West Bengal, PIN- 742406

(Govt. Aided, Affiliated to the: University of Kalyani Included under section 2(f) & 12 (B) of UGC Act.)

Institutional Distinctiveness (2019-2020)

“The primary vision of the founders of the college was to reach the unreached corners of this minority dominated and agriculture-based backward border area of Murshidabad to cater to the higher needs of aspiring students, most of whom are first generation learners with the promise of education for one and all to enkindle the flame of wisdom and knowledge among the masses. The college envisioned to shape the learners of the institution into well-meaning citizens of the society through a socially committed, intellectually inclined and culturally motivated paradigm of learning.”

Keeping in mind the vision stated above, the college authority has prioritized women's education in this minority-dominated backward areas of Dumkal subdivision in Murshidabad district. But we had to face unique challenges due to cultural norms, socioeconomic disparities, and access to resources, though, the college played a crucial role in empowering women and promoting gender equality, as practiced here in this institution.

Some potential indicators of success can be noted below:

- a) Ours is the only institution in the sub-division to offer to study in science streams along with the opportunity to study Honours in the science subjects. Our college, from its very inception, has been offering to study honours in subjects like Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, Geography and Computer Science. So, it has been a unique opportunity, especially for the women, to realize their dream to go for higher studies in science. The male-female ratio in the science stream (approximately 70:30) is a testimony of our success in attracting the girls for higher study in science. The rate of retention and completion of studies by the women students is encouraging and satisfactory. Though there are some factors like distance from the college and scarcity of adequate transportation facilities are hindrance to our mission, the spontaneous response from the women overcoming these difficulties is noteworthy.
- b) The women students, along with other minority students can access the resources provided by the government and the same being facilitated by the college to support women's education, such as scholarships, mentoring programs, and counselling services.
- c) The success of female graduates in finding employment or pursuing further education after completing their studies, are considerably high.
- d) Moreover, ours is the only institution in the sub-division to have the study centres of both Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU). They aim to provide quality higher education opportunities to all segments of society. It also aims to encourage and strengthen the human resources of unprivileged areas through education. Its motto is to impart accessible and inclusive education to a diverse range of learners, regardless of their age, background or location. Therefore, these study centres have enabled the women of the locality in particular to pursue higher education and achieve their academic and professional goals.

Debasis Bandyopadhyay

Teacher-in-Charge
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Dumkal, Murshidabad