

## **Institutional Distinctiveness**

### **Distinctiveness - Diversity of Students**

Promoting diversity in the Institutions is a big challenge. We have highlighted diversity practiced in our institution and illustrate the ways to incorporate an understanding of diversity in the classroom and beyond. The Institution has admitted students from various states in India and nearby countries such as Yemen, Gana, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Srilanka, Bangadesh, Nepal, Bhutan etc. Much discussion about diversity focuses on the forms of marginalization: Race, Gender and physical orientation

#### **1. Diversity in the classroom**

Having a diverse group of students simply means recognizing that all the people are unique in their own way. Their differences consist of their reading level, athletic ability, cultural background, personality, religious beliefs, etc., There has always been diversity in the classroom, but it is important to embrace it and make positive use of it. Teachers value the diversity and model this attitude to their students. Teachers recognize and respect the fact that students are different and these differences are generally good things. For example, when attempting to solve a problem, teacher assembles a diverse team with many skills and many different ways of approaching the problem than a team that has all their strength concentrated in one area. Teachers playing number of roles in the classroom; yet, valuing diversity is one of the most important ones.

Here is a list of environments created where each student feels valued and respected.

Take the time to learn students' background, interest and learning style. Create an environment that is conducive to each individual student to learn about each other and gain an appreciation for the diversity they bring to the classroom.

Teach students that everyone has strength and weakness. When working in teams, students are encouraged to take advantage of their strengths of the team members to produce the best possible results.

Invite guest speaker from different places may share certain qualities with students.

Implement a "zero tolerance" for anything that is disrespectful, hurtful, or intolerant of diversity

#### **2. Learning Culture, Location and Ambiance**

The atmosphere in the classroom reflects the importance of the work undertaken by both students and faculty members. Anna University and AICTE are recommending English as the medium

instruction. This avoids the language problem. A classroom with a strong culture for learning is characterized by high cognitive energy. There are high expectations from all students and the classroom is a place where the teacher and students value learning and hard work. For the weak students from other countries, the institute arranges special coaching classes to improve the performance.

Separate hostels for Tamilnadu, Kerala, North India and other country students are in place. Food menus are prepared according to their willingness. Significant festivals of their states are celebrated in the campus on request. Example; Kerala students celebrate Onam festival, Tamilnadu students celebrate Pongal festival and North Indian students celebrate Durga pooja as like their native. In festival day, respective students are allowed to wear traditional dresses.

Mentors are allocated to the students to give counseling in their academic, personal problems and create fearless environment.

### **3.Diversity in Group Institutions:**

Diversity contributes to expanding the knowledge base and promotes creative thinking. The course curriculum is not the only source of knowledge in college. Group institutions have different courses inside the campus and interacting with a diverse group of people provides many opportunities to learn from others, who bring a different perspective, such as Paramedical, Physiotherapy, Architecture, Polytechnic, Yoga, Naturopathy, Siddha, Homeopathy, Arts and Science, Health Sciences etc. This exposure augments the possibilities for novel ideas and solutions on different perspectives or vantage points. This results a single-focus perspective is transformed into multi-focus, and become capable of viewing issues and problems from different angles. This engenders creativity and enhances problem solving abilities of the students. The opportunity to interact with diverse peers, both in and out of the classroom, leads to greater active thinking, intellectual engagement and motivation. These students report confidence in creative problem solving, a greater understanding of their field of study and increased comprehension in science and technology. Campus life is an eye-opener for many students.

### **4. Ethical Values and Integrity**

College celebrate national days like Republic day, Independence Day, International Women's Day, Engineers day, Teachers Day, etc to inculcate the importance of moral values and significances. During every program, the national anthem is being played to feel the integrity and patriotism. The institution encourages diversified students to participate and lead the activities

and programmes such as conference, symposium, workshop, cultural festival, sports and college days, etc inside and outside the campus. During annual functions and alumni day, students are encouraged to showcase their native and regional talents.