



KASTHURBA COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, VILLIANUR

(Run by Pondicherry Society for Higher Education funded by Government of Puducherry)

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Institutional Distinctiveness

The college is committed to educating women hailing from rural backgrounds and to helping develop themselves in a holistic manner. To this end, the following initiatives have been undertaken.

1. After much duress, the government granted permission to introduce a third course in the college, viz. B.Sc. Psychology which is a need-based course. This course has attracted a lot of takers.
2. The number of sanctioned seats has been increased from its initial 25 seats in 2005 in the Departments of History and Social Work to 60 nos., currently. The number of seats in the Department of Psychology was increased from 40 to 60. Hence, a greater number of rural women students have access to education in the vicinity around where they live and do not have to make long journeys into the town.
3. The interventions of the mentor-mentee system and the Counseling Sessions have helped in retaining students in their courses post marriage and childbirth which was a highly difficult endeavour earlier. This ensures that a greater number of women students complete their courses and have a better chance of employment. Breast feeding mothers are permitted to keep their babies in the ladies retiring room with an attender so that neither the child nor the studies is neglected.
4. In order to encourage women to be self-employed, the college creates opportunities to teach them a skill. Tailoring, Soft-Toy Making and Beautician courses have been made available to the students through tie-ups with NGOs and entrepreneurs.
5. Many of the women students hail from economically weak backgrounds and are unable to pay for their fees and transport back and forth and sometimes even go without meals. Once these students are identified, the staff of the college make provisions personally, so that these obstacles are removed and students can continue to pursue their courses without these deficiencies.
6. Many students face physical abuse in their homes at the hands of fathers and brothers. These students are counseled and provisions are made to accommodate them in government-run hostels and short stay homes.

C. Shivan
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