

7.3.1 Institutional Distinctiveness

Area of Distinctiveness in tune with Vision, Priority and Thrust

VISION: "Bahujan Hitaay, BhaujanSukhaay" (Welfare of every one and happiness to all)

Priority: To sensitize the social responsibility and environmental consciousness

Thrust: To transfer life skills and impart Higher Education to the economic and social weaker sections of the society.

Performance of the Institution in the Distinctive Area

PDEA stands out as a socially conscious educational institution dedicated to the welfare and happiness of all, as encapsulated in its vision "Bahujan Hitaay, BhaujanSukhaay." With a priority on fostering social responsibility and environmental consciousness, the institution has excelled in imparting higher education to the economically and socially weaker sections of society.

The College focusing on the following points to impart education to all the masses from diverse backgrounds as follows:

1. Locality/ Geographical background

The College located in rural part of Purandar. The students Haveli, Baramati, Indapur and Velhe are neighbouring talukas of Purandar and all comes in Pune District. Most of them are known for drought areas, one of them is Purandar. The Students of this college are mainly from the agricultural background. Purandar is also famous for forts and hills. This is the only senior college in the Purandar Tehsil, having legacy of 47 years.

2. Economical background of the students

The survey was conducted to know the socio-economic background based on occupation of the parents of the students. The survey of last five years is conducted by the college. The survey reveals that, occupation of the 78% of students is farming. It's evident that, the college

imparts higher education to the farmers' children from the draught prone area of Purandar tehsil.

3. Students from diverse strata

It is found that, the parents' occupation ranges in diverse fields like, Blank, Service, Businessmen, Defence Service, Farmer, Government Sector, Others, and Private Sector.

PDEA's distinctiveness lies in bringing higher education to the rural masses, particularly those from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. Established in 1972, the institution has been instrumental in shaping career-oriented minds, instilling sensitivity, and nurturing high-value citizenship among students. Notably, the college caters to a predominantly agricultural community in the drought-prone region of Purandar Tehsil, Pune District.

The institution has effectively implemented various programs and initiatives to fulfill its commitment. This includes organizing guest lectures, hands-on workshops, online faculty development programs, and skill development initiatives. The introduction of skill-based programs and incremental growth in MoUs and linkages further enhance the institution's distinctiveness. The college's emphasis on social responsibility is evident through the active involvement of NCC, NSS, and the Student Development Board in community service, gender equity programs, and outreach initiatives.

4. Thrust areas identified by the college from time to time:

A. DBT STAR COLLEGE SCHEME Implementation with keeping following points in consideration:

- 1. Organization of offline Workshops:** With regards to provision of practical knowledge for better understanding of the respective subjects, Botany department has organised one day hands on training on aerobiology techniques and use of air sampler which we bought under DBT star scheme. The interdisciplinary hands-on training workshop on nanoparticle synthesis was organised by department of chemistry, Microbiology and Botany under DBT STAR scheme of the college during the academic year 2022-2023 on 13/02/2023 at 11:00 am to 2::30 pm on very important topic “**Nanoparticle Synthesis**”. The students prepared the gold nanoparticle using extract of *Phyllanthus emblica* and Pomegranate. The students have learned the synthesis of nanoparticles and

enjoyed both the sessions on nanoparticle synthesis. Guest lecture -eminent guest speakers like Dr. Gulab D. Khedkar, Dr. Laxmikant V. Shinde, Dr. Narsingrao N. Bandela, Dr. S. L. Laware, Dr. Aruna Bhambare and Ms. Chaitali Kshirsagar spoke on various topics related to Life science. Topics covered were Techniques in Biodiversity conservation; Environmental Awareness; Ecosystem and its role; Research Ethics; New Trends in Environmental Science; Billion Dollar Biological Threat- Mosquito.

2. Faculty Development Programme organized:

The department of Microbiology had organised One day Workshop on 'Mind Power and Stress Management' under the guidance of Principal Sir, Dr. Pandit Shelake for teachers, administration staff and students to cope up with day-to-day stress and how to deal with all these situations in life. "Two-day Seminar on IPR and Scientific writing." Students and faculty got motivated and came up with some patent ideas and problems related to this area. We are thanking DBT for giving us opportunity to arrange such motivational talks, seminar, workshops and hands on training programs.

3. Utilisation of Grant to enhance Research activities: Although this year we tried to utilise the grant 100% by the benefitted departments plan to utilize it for students and teaching pragmatics to enhance the quality of teaching and learning. We have assigned a project already to students where they can do referencing and basic work at home when pandemic restrictions were there and college is closed for them only online teaching was going on. Some second year B.Sc. students are doing small project of composting all kitchen waste at home under guidance of Microbiology department. Some of the students have started production of Biofertilizer, Jeevamrut etc. from Botany Department. One innovative project of FY BSc Botany students is collecting seeds of local varieties which are conserved generation to generation and they are displaying in the Exhibition organised by Community Seed Bank Project -Gram Gourav Pratishtan, Pani Panchayat Khalad. Zoology department involved in birds, moth biodiversity small survey projects of their localities. Department of Chemistry involved in soil and water testing projects. We have also organised Science Exhibition in month of December to motivate the innovative ideas of students.

4. Skill development program: As we mentioned in earlier reports, this year we focused on organization of more skill-based development programs. We

organised Flower arrangement programs, Science exhibition, Soap and detergent making workshop, Interactive panel training, PTC hands-on workshop, Mushroom cultivation, Chromatographic techniques workshop, Molecular techniques workshop etc. Also, Through the hands-on training on Beekeeping by Zoology Department, which serves as a skill development program for students, the students fear regarding the honeybee stinging and handling was reduced. all these skill-based training programs and workshops were organised by funded departments to enrich entrepreneurship and professional skills in students. Students are highly motivated and started thinking of opportunities in life sciences and Biotechnology which is possible because of funding and guidelines provided by DBT to motivate and create awareness in students. Our teachers skills enhanced by organizing the faculty development program in coordination with UGC-HRDC SPPU Pune.

B. Sensitizing Social Responsibility:

- The NCC, NSS, Student Development Board play significant role in sensitizing the social responsibility among the students.
- The NCC units (36 Maharashtra Battalions, 3 Maharashtra Naval, 2 Maharashtra Girls) imbibe patriotism, Fairness, Discipline and Honesty towards society and the nation.
- The NSS department contributes in the outreach programmes, community services, gender equity programmes and scientific surveys like soil testing, water testing, and cleanliness in the respective villages are implemented continuously.
- Student Development Board (SDB) arranges the programs viz. Women empowerment programs, Student literature conferences, cycle rally, Mountaineering camps to cope up with social and environmental issues.
- The 'Earn while Learn scheme' for economically weaker students imbue a sense of Self-help education.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, PDEA exemplifies institutional distinctiveness by providing higher education to rural masses, focusing on skill development, and instilling a sense of social responsibility among students. The institution's commitment to its vision is reflected in its proactive efforts to make higher education accessible and impactful for the economically weaker sections of society.