



MAHESHTALA COLLEGE

BUDGE BUDGE TRUNK ROAD

KOLKATA-700139

Affiliated to University of Calcutta, Kolkata

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Key Indicator – 7.3

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness



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7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 – Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 200 words

The institutional distinctiveness of the college is empowerment and enlightenment of girl-students. The sustained efforts of the college to embrace plurality and disseminate education, respecting the unique individuality of each student, has proved to be extremely beneficial for students, particularly girls from underprivileged and marginalised background. In an age where young girls are being forced to drop-out from educational institutions, and particularly in an area where there is a sizeable minority population, the number of girl-students in the college outnumbers boys. Girl-students have also been performing better than boys in many courses, both in university examinations and internal examinations. Progression to higher studies is also more than that of boys. Notable women-alumni of the college are engaged as Assistant Professors and State Aided College Teachers, school-teachers, lawyers, administrative employees in schools, colleges, banks, independent entrepreneurs, artistes and the like. This has positively impacted the present students and parents, and created an aura of trust, safety and ease of learning.

The college has been empowering girl-students and supporting them to aspire for employability and economic independence since its inception. The teachers and staff of the college have been tirelessly mentoring and guiding girls in both curricular and extra-curricular activities. Boy-students also have helped in developing a healthy, mutually - respectable space where local girls from minority communities, many of whom wear hijab, can freely interact and engage in academic and extra-academic activities. In NSS, IIC and skill-intensive activities, girl-students participate enthusiastically. The weeklong celebration on the occasion of International Women's Day, named SAMPURNAA celebrate equal opportunity for all genders and pursuit of excellence. The Gender Cell of the college regularly organises various events and competitions both within the college and in the neighbourhood to raise awareness about *Beti Bachao, Beti Parao*, reproductive and general health of girls, trafficking of women, empowerment of women and personality development for girl-students. Women-achievers from diverse fields are felicitated and share their experiences to motivate them and embolden them to face obstacles than shying away.

In the successive Gender Audits conducted since 2011, it has been revealed that the number of girl students in the college is more than the state and the national average. More than fifty per cent of the girls belong to minority, economically disadvantaged and reserved categories. Some girls travel more than 40 kilometres daily to reach the college, in spite of the presence of neighbouring colleges near to their residences. All these



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indicate that the college has been able to win the trust of the girl-students and their families. In this age where newspapers and channels keep sharing news about atrocities on women, Maheshtala College has provided an academic environment that is safe, inclusive and empowering for women.

7.3.2 – Plan of action for the next academic year:

- Institution to be made ready for NEP: organising seminars, awareness sessions
- More skill development programmes to be organised
- Students and teachers to be sensitized about academic quality enhancement
- More students to be encouraged to use LMS
- Excursions, field visits to be arranged by all departments
- Programmes and projects on Indian Knowledge System to be encouraged
- Collaboration with neighbouring industries to be initiated
- Library-centric activities should be increased.



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