

## INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

At Carmel College for Women the priority remains **the transformation of the lives of first generation learners**. Pedagogy of every aspect of the curriculum and campus activity is oriented to this goal with commitment to diversity and inclusion in a safe, nurturing and non-judgmental manner. A majority of the college students are first generation learners from remote, rural areas of South Goa, often from orthodox and conservative backgrounds, who, but for a girls' college like ours, would not have been allowed by their patriarchal families to pursue higher education. The fact that they can do so at Carmel College is a sense of pride for us for it meets the National Development Goals of delaying the age of marriage by upto 5 years and ensures that the mothers of the coming generation are all graduates. At Carmel College they find a physically safe and secure as well as emotionally and spiritually nurturing environment to learn, think and grow.

Students from the neighbourhood have always been given admission since the inception of the college regardless of their performance at the class 12 examination. In recent years this measure has been taken away from the college management as the directorate of higher education has mandated a centralized admission policy on a common state portal. Nevertheless, even students with a low percentage at class 12 are welcomed, mentored, tutored and given equal, free and fair opportunities to participate in all activities on campus. Needless to say they have often proven to be our proudest successes when the lessons learnt at college, in class and outside it, has taught them to stand on their own feet financially, emotionally and spiritually. Many who entered college with percentages in the 40s and 50s have graduated with a first class and distinction. When this leads to gainful employment, we have seen entire extended families' circumstances change and improve and these are our greatest success stories. The learning outcome of students is portrayed by the above average numbers of students from each department qualifying at the Goa University Admission Ranking Test conducted by Goa University for admission into the M.A. and B.Ed. courses. In July 2024 our subject wise enrolment in post graduate and vocational courses is as follows:

History – 5, Konkani – 3, Hindi – 4, English – 12, Economics – 5, Political Science – 4, Psychology – 17, Chemistry – 26, Physics – 4; Zoology – 26, Botany – 6; Mathematics – 17; Commerce – 16.

We are proud of graduates from a variety of disciplines pursuing a subject like law. At present there are budding lawyers from among Zoology, Chemistry, Commerce, Psychology and English graduates. This we feel is in keeping with the diversity principle in all professions today bringing value addition of multiple perspectives.

Management and Faculty provide tremendous emotional support to students through woman centered mentoring. At times of personal and family bereavement, faculty and management visit homes and provide unstinted support. Faculty interacts with parents whenever required. Timely intervention is carried out when faculty feel students may be in danger or unstable in any way. The management sponsors a midday snack for students from very poor homes. Needy students, or those with unstable homes are provided hostel facility at reduced rates or even free. From June 2024, 10 students from the disturbed regions of Manipur are enrolled at the FY BA and BSc. They are being accommodated in the hostel by the management and faculty have contributed generously towards not only fees but also towards a few clothes and accessories. From the funds raised by the faculty for the diamond jubilee celebrations, faculty donated Rs. 10,000 to the Nuvem church as goodwill for providing us assistance in holding the diamond jubilee mass and short entertainment program in the church. From this academic year the college has adopted 'Service Learning' and 'Friends of the Soil' as Best Practice initiatives for the next five years. In 2024-25 the management has extended financial support to students and members of the local community of an amount of Rs. 1,11,284.

All of the above is followed and pursued by all stakeholders with faith, hope and trust in God and in keeping with the principles of Truth, Service and Integrity. We are convinced our students imbibe the qualities of selfless altruism and a spirit of service through an immersive experience of good examples set by the management, faculty and campus staff. A secular, democratic and syncretic spirit is inculcated through first-hand examples of diversity and multiculturalism on campus. Watching the sisters of the Apostolic Carmel Congregation uphold dignity and justice for the poor; wearing proudly the

badge of patriotism; witnessing their simple lifestyle, hard work and dedication in running the institution from their salary income without the support of an industry or business is a lesson in itself. Observing the dynamic leadership of an all-woman management and administrative staff and their ability to cope with the rapidly changing demands of a technology enabled workplace are an inspiring example of the breaking of the glass ceiling for our student body. Experiencing every day the respect and cordiality accorded on campus to the support and cleaning staff and to every stakeholder regardless of class, race, qualification or gender is an education in humility, fairness and integrity for our students.

By the time she graduates, a Carmelite is an articulate young lady ready to take on the challenges of the variety of roles she will have to play in the pursuit of a happy and contented life. She does so with deep faith in a higher order and irrevocably entrenched moral values. To quote words from the college anthem, we strive that here at Carmel the youth experience a 'journey well begun' of a lifelong quest of "Truth"; that they shall keep the flame of critical thinking and honest questioning burning bright even 'when the winds of life are stormy' and 'carry forth' with the courage, grit and determination to always make the right choices. The management and faculty of Carmel College believe that their true role is the transformation of raw human resource into educated, skilled and socially responsible citizens, so that they may be the true wealth of the nation.