

## **Institutional Distinctiveness**

The unique characteristic that differentiates Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College among others that it still serves as the centre of academics for the down trodden community which it was established for as the first Higher Education Institution run by refugees. Thousands of displaced people from erstwhile East Bengal flocked across the border and made the outskirts of Kolkata, especially Jadavpur their new home for survival. The early settlers realised that the true way to find a stronghold here, is through education that can give them hope and aspirations for the future and this College was established to fulfil that dream. This institution is proud to have a long history of alumni association from the neighbourhood involved in our goodwill.

Still continuing that legacy, this college mainly caters to the students of South 24 Parghanas, one the most under privileged areas in the State. Girl students from that area are mostly benefitted continues their study, and also dropout rate is considerably lower than other such institutions. This institution is committed to serve the various sections and strata of society specially the underprivileged. The institution constantly provides for the needy section of the society by organizing health camps, relief distribution among poor and in times of natural calamities. Apart from Govt. schemes, the college also reduces/abolishes fees for the BPL students whenever it is necessary.

This institution also represents a centre to instil adaptability. The location of the college has become highly cosmopolitan over time, and its student body represents BPL to high income families in perfect harmony. With a good blend of students from very poor economic and educational background to very affluent students both economically and educationally; the college is able to run three self-financed courses, namely UG, PG courses in Microbiology and UG in Journalism. With diverse group of students, with no-bias policy towards any class, creed or community, students get equal opportunity to intermingle in every sphere of society, that give them firsthand experience and confidence in life skills necessary to succeed in future life. The college also organizes regular orientation, skill development and grooming programmes for the students. This inclusive approach has created an atmosphere that extends to the large number of students from religious minority background to pursue their higher education.

College authorities always support adaptation capabilities of the stake holders and help to utilize various potentials. For this, different training courses are organized apart from regular teaching to enhance skills, different certificate courses are introduced to alleviate employability, different training and introductory programmes for faculty and staff, and also mobilization of funds from faculty and alumnus to giving awards and prizes to successful students.

The college administration is very active, encouraging and sensitive as reflected in the journey of the college since its inception. It always tries to develop from a mere place of study to a centre of holistic development. Adequate number of diverse subjects were introduced with time to meet the demand of the society, development of diverse research activities for self-development both professionally and personally, introduction of contemporary subjects like Microbiology, Environmental Science and Journalism and mass communication, provides stages and opportunities to collaborate with other organizations to give first-hand skill that are recognized by National Media (e.g. TOI), teaching methods have emerged from mere chalk n talk to ICT-based teaching, e-classroom, digital library with the help from RUSA grant. The Principal also has taken initiative to participate in review, discuss, emphasize in National media on various socio-economic debates/discussions regularly representing the overall moral value and philosophy of the Institution.