

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

Vivekananda college is an all women's college that prioritizes women's empowerment and a gender-sensitive pedagogy (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/vision-and-mission/>). The college has a long history of fostering women's empowerment, in which women are nurtured to realise their full potential and develop leadership skills. The pedagogy encourages students to question gender-biased attitudes, change behaviours impeding academic performance (e.g., lack of confidence and fear of speaking up in class). To provide choices, the college offers distinctive courses including not offered by many colleges in DU including courses such as Food technology, BSc Home Science, Music and Applied psychology (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/departments/>). The sprawling campus spread over an area of over 10 Acres having 5.2 acres of open space for garden and sports facilities provides spaces for intellectual stimulation very central to women students who are able to go out of the confined spaces of their home and develop their potential (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/infrastructure-and-facilities/>).

The current pandemic has affected women's education the most, especially those from poor backgrounds. The college provides counselling, financial assistance, and ensures that all acts of sexual harassment are punished. To develop gender sensitivity (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Annual-Gender-Sensitization-Action-Plan-2020-21.pdf>) and develop civic responsibility, the college has an expansive community outreach program (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/extension-activities.pdf>) that includes committees such as Social Outreach Committee (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Project-HUM.pdf>), NSS (<https://vivekanandacollege.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NSS-REPORT-JULY-2020-TO-JUNE-2021.pdf>), and COVID -19 taskforce that encourage women students to spearhead initiatives focussing on diverse issues ranging from education, legal rights, to health.

7.3.2 Future Plans of action for next academic year (200 words)

1. The current pandemic is transforming our world and changing the skills requirements. In today's environment, varied skills such as those related to IT, entrepreneurship, coping, and research have become increasingly vital. IQAC intends to conduct activities that will help students and staff develop these skills.
2. It is vital to help one another throughout the pandemic and post pandemic, especially the most vulnerable sections of society. The IQAC plans to increase the college's outreach efforts.
3. NEP has reformed education in a way that has never been done before. IQAC aspires that the college is better prepared for NEP. The NEP committee has already been formed at the college, and the focus in the future will be on stepping up these efforts.
4. The question of when and how to securely reopen the college without jeopardising public health is on everyone's mind. The IQAC would like to prepare for a safe college reopening while also ensuring that resources are used wisely in areas where they are most needed. Infrastructure expansion will be critical, and IQAC will pursue this goal as well.
5. Developing more formal linkages with other universities and colleges through MoUs will improve knowledge transfer, and the IQAC will focus its efforts in this direction.