

7.3 Key Indicator-

Institutional Distinctiveness

Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Karad, an affiliate to Shivaji University, Kolhapur, established on 7th August 1986 is the first women's college in Satara district. Karad, being one of the educationally active talukas, has a large population keen on giving higher education to their wards. Considering that women must be self-reliant and empowered in every aspect of life, the visionary leadership of Shikshan Mandal, Karad established Mahila Mahavidyalaya in Karad city. Within eight years of establishment, the college progressed and earned permanent affiliation in 1994 and the UGC listing in 1998. Since then the college has maintained its scholastic approach with a promise to provide value-based and skill based education as well as best possible facilities to fulfill girls' academic needs. Since its inception the college continuously strives for women empowerment. Every attempt is made for their holistic development to fulfill its vision statement: "Empowerment of girl students in pursuit of knowledge, values and self-reliance." In accordance with its vision and mission, Mahila Mahavidyalaya is committed to nurturing and creating women well equipped to be world citizens; women who are proud of their culture and heritage as well as possess a broad sensibility that vibrantly celebrates diversity in all aspects.

The multi-faculty college offers undergraduate courses in three programmes – Arts, Commerce and Science. The department of Geography efficiently runs a Research Centre affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur wherein the research scholars of M.Phil. and Ph.D. can avail of the laboratory facilities. The college also runs post-graduation courses of YCMOU.

The Centre for Skill Development in the college runs with an objective to boost innate skills, offer scope for entrepreneurship development and create job opportunities for girl students. The distinctiveness of the centre is students learn by doing and engage themselves in hands on training that leads to prepare themselves for entrepreneurship. Students are exposed to good number of Skill Development Courses like Fashion Designing, Beauty Care, Kindergarten Teacher Course affiliated to Centre for Lifelong Learning, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, CCIT, Counseling, Spoken English, Income Tax, Tally with GST, GIS, Police Training, E- Banking, Travel and Tourism, etc. that make them financially independent. The courses are complemented with Entrepreneurship Development programmes that aim to develop entrepreneurial behaviour, promote self-employment and better business practices in students. On the completion of the courses, many students have started their own businesses. Many are supporting their families financially.

Being a girls' college, the NSS unit comprises 100% girl volunteers. In line with the vision of the college, it aims at empowering girl students by imbibing a spirit of national

integration, dedication for social service and responsibility, dignity of labour, and leadership. Also it attempts to inculcate the spirit of voluntary work among students and teachers through sustained community interactions. The NSS volunteers engage in community development activities, cleaning drives, and awareness activities through the year. The college boasts of remarkable record of NSS activities in the Shivaji University, Kolhapur. The NSS volunteers participate in various activities and programmes conducted by the University, Karad Municipality, Venutai Chavan Sub-Divisional Hospital, Karad and NGOs in and around Karad. The college has been successfully conducting Special Residential Camp in adopted villages since its inception i.e. 1986.

The effectively run Mentor-Mentee programme help the students in many ways. Many married women prefer to pursue their higher education while shouldering family responsibilities. The wholehearted cooperation from the faculty helps not only the academically sound students complete their degree course, but also the slow learners, married women, working girls/ women, and students coming from financially weaker background.

Students' Health Check-up and follow up has been a sustained activity of the college since 1994. Since most of the students come from rural area, majority of them are unaware about health issues like - reproductive health, hygiene, communicable diseases, oral health, healthy food and dietary habits. Hence throughout the year to ensure physical, mental, psychological and social wellbeing of students, various activities are organized with the cooperation of the Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad, and Lions Club of Karad(Nakshatra) with whom the college has done MOU. The college has also formed Red Ribbon Club for AIDs awareness programme in association with KIMS, Karad. Along with health checkup, lectures on the aforementioned issues are conducted all the year round.

Food Festival is the unique activity of the college organized by Department of Home Science every year since 1993-94 with an innovative approach to develop informally the traditional culinary art of cookery. Various food specialties prepared by the students are exhibited, sold and enjoyed. It is an exercise in food catering, marketing skills, entrepreneurship and art in students. Food festival is a platform to ignite innovative skills of students. Participating in various competitions like mehendi, rangoli, hair-style, handicrafts, flower arrangement, etc. organized during the festival, they not only exhibit their artistic approach and creative ideas but learn to further their innovative skills as well.

Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Karad is the only college in the jurisdiction of Shivaji University, Kolhapur that begins with a National Anthem and prayer which is dedicated to mother land. The singing of prayer intends to bring everyone together on a common platform forgetting their socio-economic status, religious beliefs, opinions, etc. It also intends to begin the

day with a positive note. The prayer is followed by a morning assembly for which students and faculty gather in the corridor for a talk delivered either by a faculty or by student/s. Being a girls' college, the college strongly believes in developing holistic health of the students. The organization of Morning Assemblies aims at promoting social awareness, developing critical thinking abilities, motivating them to reach the society with a 'message' and preparing them for a confident public speech. It also aims at motivating the students to read books for additional information.

The college strives hard to accomplish its vision and mission through varied programmes and activities. The outcome is evident in the academic and career achievements of students.