

***“EMPOWERMENT OF RURAL AND TRIBAL STUDENTS BY
INCREASING THEIR RETENTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION”***

The distinctiveness of the college is to understand the educational problems of rural and tribal families, help them and suggest the probable solutions to improve the enrollment of their wards in higher education. In our college, both in Science and Technology as well as Humanities faculty students enrolled are belonging to rural and tribal communities. The IQAC of the college has studied and identified following problems of rural and tribal communities.

1. The tribals are even today under clutches of manifold superstitions, beliefs, wrong dogmas etc.
2. There is a lack of awareness regarding role and importance of higher education.
3. Many tribal families are poor and cannot afford expenses for sending their wards to institutions of higher education. This also leads to non-attendance and dropouts of students in college.
4. There is a lack of transportation and communication facility in many tribal areas.
5. In many tribal communities, parents give minimal importance to girls education due to social and economical limitations.

Therefore, we have decided to change the mental setup of tribal community for looking at higher education through proper counseling and various programmes. The college through its IQAC is resolving the above mentioned problems of the rural and tribal community in following ways.

1. The role and importance of higher education is explained and discussed with the parents of rural and tribal students during admission, counseling and parents meet.
2. The college is motivating and helping the tribal and rural students for submitting their applications for getting educational scholarships through various Government departments and other agencies. The college also allows students to pay the college fee in installments as desired by the students. The concession in paying college fee is also offered to needy students. The problem of student absenteeism and drop outs in higher education is delicately handled through Mentor-Mentee Scheme.
3. The college is making regular correspondence with state transport department located at Ralegaon for providing bus facilities as per college schedule. The college also helping students to get admission in Government hostels located at Ralegaon. The

communication belonging to rural and tribal area is done through class wise whatsapp media groups.

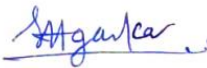
4. The college through its IQAC organizes various programmes focusing on gender equality, gender sensitization, Women Right, World Women's day for students and their parents. The college also gives equal opportunities to girl's students in games and sports, cultural activities, Youth Festivals, student tours, field visits, NSS activities, extension activities, etc. with counseling and consent of their parents.

5. The emphasis is on entrepreneurship in the area of local and traditional business and service sector, rather than pushing students to seek jobs. The college in collaboration with MCED (Maharashtra Center for Entrepreneurship Development) putting efforts in imparting entrepreneurship training and awareness about business opportunities. The college in co-ordination with Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) and Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Maharashtra motivating students to choose agriculture based employment and self-employment.

College has also conducted certificate courses on Organic Farming, Renewable energy resources, add on course in biochemistry & value added course in qualitative aptitude etc. for improving student's employability, entrepreneur and professional skills.


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