

7.3: Institutional Distinctiveness

Title: ‘Quality Education with Compassion’ for Social Transformation

Dharma of a Public University in a neo-liberal age is the enlightenment of an entire society, **instilling values of compassion, empathy, justice and inclusivity** into the very fabric of education. University’s **Vision and Mission** are crafted in tune with this noble commitment, impelling **knowledge generation, dissemination, research and extension** towards higher goals resulting in a constant thriving for global eminence and social transformation.

- **Conducive ecosystem for Vulnerable Margins**

A deep-seated commitment to socially vulnerable groups with a diverse ecosystem ensuring inclusivity and access, both in admissions and appointments. Alongside a staunch adherence to State reservation policy, a moral and ethical commitment to uplifting social sections marginalized by class/caste/religion/gender/sexuality/creed/region/disability/digital divide drives all academic endeavours.

- **Poverty**
 - Addressing poverty and inequality and thereby attracting the poor/marginalised through 100% fellowships to researchers
 - 50% BPL reservation in hostels
- **Caste/Religion**
 - SC/ST/OEC students receive fellowships
 - SC/ST/Minority/OBC cells for addressing problems of marginalised
 - Hostel accommodation for 100% SC/ST women students and 30% seats for SC/ST men students
 - **Women/Gender**
 - 72% women in campus
 - **Travelling Theatre** for sensitisation on dowry and domestic violence
 - Gender Justice Forums
 - No dowry oath during the induction programme
 - ‘No Dowry’ Declaration is made mandatory alongwith application for degree certificate
 - Effective grievance redressal mechanisms through Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)
 - Night-walk to end women discrimination
 - Efficient and active Centre for Women’s Studies
 - Women Empowerment
 - Self-Defence Training Programme
 - Legal awareness on Women’s rights
 - She-Policing
 - Gender Sensitisation Campaign
 - Women's experimental theatre (Sthree Nadaka Kalari)
 - **Region/ Language**
- Functional Malayalam courses for disaster-hit Pettimudi Tamil minority community

- Mangrove afforestation for coastal protection
- Riverbank protection through afforestation
 - **Barrier-free Divyangjan friendly environment**
- Physically/Visually challenged teachers, administrative staff, students in the campus
- Inclusive Library access
- **Exclusive Library Resource Centre for Print Disabled** (blind/dyslexic/autistic etc). **10 lakhs internationally accessible** audio-books (through World's biggest online Accessible library '**Book Share.org**)
- **Assistive Technologies**
 - Non-visual desktops
 - Talk-back mobile App
 - Digital Braille Reader
 - KIBO-XS (real-time reading/translation)
 - Sign-boards
 - Blind Smart-sticks
 - Wheelchairs
 - Ramps
 - Lifts
- Sensitization programmes
- Workshops (**Use of Audio-books**)for librarians/stakeholders
- **Counselling/sensitization** through the centre for Learning Disabilities
- Success stories:
 - Visually impaired M.A. student, Gokul cleared Civil Service Examinations, 2020 and 2021
 - Physically challenged MTech student (novelist)S.B.Sethu (Mob:9809979873), commendable dissertation with Bhatnagar-Awardee Prof.S.K.Sathish, IISc, Bangalore
 - Wheel-chair bound, V.Sharada Devi (Opinion leader on Divyangjan issues, Mob:9497454552), completed M.A., MPhil., pursuing PhD. (UGC-JRF)
 - Visually impaired M.A student Abdul Munaz (Mob:9895969976), Member, Indian Blind Cricket Team/Vice-Captain, Kerala Team
 - Physically challenged R.Jayakumar (Mob: 9447713320) attained PhD (Kerala State Best College Teacher Awardee)
 - **Digital divide**
- Smartphones and Televisions (31 +) to needy
- Laptop for all SC/ST students
- **Research**
 - **Funding**
- 100% fellowships to researchers (over Rs. 26 crores during the assessment period)
- Support for patenting/projects/seminars
- Publication/Travel grants
- Start-up grant (seed money) to Faculty-recruits
- Research Project funding for teachers

- **Awards/Incentives**
- Academic Excellence Award for teachers
- Research Grant Awards for teachers
- Research Award for Department
 - **Environment**
- Seed-Banks for medicinal plants and vegetables
- Germplasm conservatory for Andaman Nicobar flora
- Medicinal Gardens
- Digitisation of plants and Herbarium
- Centre for Biodiversity Conservation
 - **Infrastructure**
- State-of-Art CLIF
- Mammoth library/digital repositories
- 24x7 free wi-fi campus
 - **Renewable energy**
- High-end research for alternative energy
- Dedicated Centre for Renewable Energy
 - **Start-up Ecosystem**
- Transforming research outcomes into viable application formats (89 start-ups)
- **Social Transformation Interventions**
 - High-end research supporting social transformation
 - Research beyond academia supporting UN SDG
 - **Village/School Adoption**
- Ambalathinkara Hamlet-support for health/education/renovation of well/food-kits
- Amboori: Rain-water harvesting/awareness programmes
 - Water harvesting at Karakulam
 - Tutoring/mentoring/career counselling(GLPS Karyavattom)
- **Community Outreach**
 - Rs.6.62 crores to Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund for floods/pandemic
 - Rs.51.83 lakhs towards Government's Vaccine-Challenge
 - Rs 10.41 crores towards Government's Salary Challenge for flood relief
 - Indoor-gardens for cancer patients at RCC
 - Butterfly-gardens for schools
 - Tutoring/career counselling for school children
 - Massive donation of flood-relief materials
 - Student volunteering during floods/pandemic
 - Popular articles for social awakening
- **Livelihood training through JSS**(~3,000 neo-literates/non-literates per year)
- **Palliative-Care**
- "Kaithang" involves students in action research
- Palliative-care initiatives
 - **Students' Insurance Scheme**(Rs.5 lakh for deceased/Rs.1 lakh for treatment)

- **Geriatric-care through NSS and Centre for Geriatric Studies**
 - **Blood-donation - 3,500 blood units through NSS**
- **Food security through Harithalayam.**
- Paddy
- Vegetable
- Fruits
- Tubers
- Fish
- Coconut
- Honey
- Cashewnuts
 - **KU Padasala educational video-repository for public access (700 videos)**
 - **Tribal medical camps**
- **Lifelong learning through:**
 - Distance Learning
 - Skill Enhancement
 - Behavioural
 - Yoga
 - Career/Employment
 - Women empowerment
- **Unique ORI manuscript Library:** Rare traditional knowledge preservation for posterity
- **Counselling -Public**
 - Psychological
 - Philosophical
 - COVID-counselling clinic
- **Kerala-Specific Studies**
 - **Malayalam Lexicon** for language heritage
 - **International Centre for Sree Narayana Guru Studies-** popularising renaissance values
 - **Mahatma Ayyankali Chair-** caste amelioration
 - Kerala School of Cultural Studies
- **Art and Culture**
 - Raja Ravi Varma Centre of Excellence for Visual Arts
 - Centre for Performing and Visual Arts
- **National Integration**
 - Kargil Vijay-Diwas
 - Additional seats for Defence personnel
 - Dr Ambedkar Chair- Human Rights/Constitutional Values awareness
 - Multi-ethnic/multi-religious/multi-cultural campus
 - Philosophical Study Centres
 - Christian Study Centre
 - Vedanta Centre
 - Islamic Studies
 - Department of Philosophy
 - Marxian Studies
- Blending Indian/foreign languages

- Malayalam
- Hindi
- Tamil
- Sanskrit
- Russian
- German
- Arabic
- English
- **Human Values**
 - Wagon theatre popularising teachings of Great social reformers:
 - Sree Narayana Guru
 - Mahatma Ayyankali.
- Nehru Study Centre
- Centre for Gandhian Studies
- **Inclusive Decentralized Services**
 - University Extension Centres
 - State-wide examination centres including Lakshadweep during COVID
- **Socio-Economic audits** on gender, energy, biodiversity, environment and water
- **Academic Audit**
- **Open House**
 - Shastrayaan/Science-week showcasing research strength/outputs and popularisations
- **Observatory:** A unique astronomical observatory
- Peaceful and harmonious campus life

Thriving and sustainable research ecosystem in a pristine and constantly replenished biodiversity niche, with ethical academia that ensures social justice, inclusivity, and transparency, resulting in one of the most socially-oriented Public Universities in the nation, one that renders stellar services towards seamless transformation into a knowledge economy, a University with a futuristic social vision.