

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Shivaji College is one of the leading institutions in the University of Delhi. It was established in 1961 in Matiala village by Hon'ble Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh, an educationist and the then Union Minister for Agriculture. In 1967, the Delhi Government took the trusteeship of Shivaji College and the college was relocated to Karampura. The college was shifted to the present campus in Raja Garden, West Delhi, in 1976.

In 2019-2020, the college had 3756 students pursuing several undergraduate and postgraduate honours programmes. The college currently comprises sixteen Departments, offering twenty undergraduate programmes including B.A. (H) Business Economics (self-financing programme), and three postgraduate programmes. In addition to these, the college also offers add-on/short term courses in French, German, and Awareness on Legal Prospects.

Shivaji College was accredited with Grade "A" by NAAC in 2015. It was adjudged rank 51 by the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), MHRD, Govt of India in 2020. The college has also been awarded with financial grant under the illustrious Star College Scheme, an initiative of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India; it has been accredited with Grade "A" in 2019-20 under this scheme. Recently, the college has been accorded the 30th position by Outlook ICARE Ranking 2020 on India's best professional colleges. These are some of the milestones achieved in the last five years.

In addition to this, the inauguration of the Jijabai Academic Block (with ground coverage of 1448.95 sq. m.) in Shivaji College premises in February 2020 is the latest accomplishment in infrastructural development. This development presents better prospects in fulfilling the teaching-learning requirements and in research activities.

Vision

All activities in the college are driven toward realizing the vision of the college: "Transform One Life, Transform the Nation". Quest for knowledge, freedom of expression and respect for culture is the hallmark of this institution. Our vision is to produce generations of optimistic, resourceful, committed, and passionate future leaders who will continue transforming the society and the nation.

Mission

The motto of Shivaji College *Amritam tu vidya* (knowledge is eternal) highlights our mission. Transcending knowledge beyond books and academics, Shivaji College is committed to providing experiential knowledge that not only heightens the intellectual capacity but also builds the character of students. To this end, the mission of the college is:

- To foster a stimulating academic environment that encourages a spirit of enquiry, innovation and experimentation
- To nurture an ecosystem that promotes democratic values, inclusiveness of diverse peoples and cultures, and freedom of expression and creativity

- To instill a culture of sensitivity to gender issues and identities; to challenges pertinent to differently-abled people and economically-weaker sections; and to experiences of people from marginalised communities
- To promote civic ecology practices on campus and beyond for a sustainable relationship between human community and nature
- To encourage a dynamic engagement between curricular and extra-curricular learning and positive social implications
- To inculcate critical thinking and find new grounds of learning

1.2 Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Challenges(SWOC)

Institutional Strength

- 66% of the faculty hold MPhil/PhD degree
- Student-teacher ratio is 19.56 : 1
- The college faculty:
 - supervises PhD students
 - undertakes projects funded by UGC, DBT, DST & ICSSR
 - publishes internationally acclaimed research papers and books
 - engages in faculty exchange programmes
 - participates in and organises national/international conferences
 - edits and reviews reputed publications
- Proximity of college to public transport facilities
- Sports ground with athletic track and facilities for various indoor and outdoor games
- Herbal garden for research purpose
- New academic block with seminar rooms and laboratories equipped with the latest ICT tools
- Wi-Fi enabled campus
- Laptops for first year students
- College Research Cell for nurturing research
- E-learning cell to meet emerging demands of ICT skills in teaching learning process
- Online access to timetable, attendance, internal assessment, fee payment, and admit cards
- Personal accident policy for students with an insured amount of Rs 2,60,000/- per student
- Access to medical facility for all students at the WUS Health Centre
- Thriving community outreach programmes by various societies
- Inclusive and gender-sensitive campus
- Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in library
- State-of-the art science laboratories
- Placement Cell and Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) for internship, entrepreneurial, and placement opportunities
- Scholarships to meritorious students and fee-concessions to economically weaker students

Institutional Weakness

- Procuring financial resources for upgradation of infrastructure and developmental projects is often a

challenge, which results in either stalling or shelving development works in the college.

- Despite obtaining approval for female-students' hostel, the construction has not started yet due to paucity of funds.
- Funding for organising academic programmes like seminars and conferences is often difficult to procure.
- Increase in student intake as per new government guidelines but capping in teachers' sanctioned strength has resulted in constraints in offering multiple options for discipline papers in the undergraduate (Choice Based Credit Scheme) curriculum.
- The college has achieved tremendous milestones over the last decade and yet public perception of Shivaji College is still largely influenced by the persistent 'invisibility' that is endemic to colleges that are located off the main campus of University of Delhi.
- Owing to the peripheral location of the college (off the main University campus) and due to lack of professional programmes, very few reputed organisations participate in the process of student placement.
- Continuing engagement and commitment to college welfare among the alumni is not yet strong. The Alumni Relations Cell (ARC), despite its enduring hard-work, finds it challenging to form an extensive alumni base and draw support from them in matters related to student progression, financial support, and career prospects (for present students).

Institutional Opportunity

- The COVID-19 pandemic has given an opportunity to re-invent modes and methods of teaching. Students and teachers alike have innovated and adapted to new modes of engagement by training in several online platforms like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Webex, Google Meet, and Google Classroom. Teaching-learning process has been enhanced and supplemented by quality e-resources. This has opened up opportunities for developing MOOC content by the faculty.
- During COVID times, several webinars and online courses conducted by educators and universities outside India have presented lucrative opportunities for students and faculty. E-learning Cell initiated collaboration with IIT Bombay, edX and Coursera to enhance IT skills and provide exposure to various online courses. To provide specialised technology- based education, the college is looking for opportunities for collaboration with international institutions.
- Student participation in community outreach programmes and students' initiatives in placement and entrepreneurial activities have amplified the scope for building linkage with non-government organisations and corporate sectors.
- With continuing efforts to draw support from alumni who are placed in positions of authority in higher institutions and from faculty on deputation in prestigious organisations, there are many opportunities to institute student fellowship and faculty exchange programmes under MoU with educational institutions of repute.
- The College Research Cell has initiated a small grant to encourage student-based research projects under the supervision of faculty members. This grant will facilitate inter- disciplinary research work and innovation projects.

Institutional Challenge

- A strong research interest needs to be promoted among students even as the balance between curricular and extracurricular demands is maintained.

- More PhD research students need to be assigned to faculty at Shivaji College by the affiliating university.
- Due to lack of infrastructure and capping in sanctioned strength of faculty, the purpose of CBCS cannot be fulfilled in true spirit despite best efforts. Students are restricted to limited options for discipline and elective papers.
- Owing to the dependence on approval from external authority, introduction of new programmes of study remains a challenge.
- As many students come from humble backgrounds, great efforts are required on the part of the teachers to make these students par excellence and nurture them to aspire for higher ambitions.
- It is challenging to establish collaborative programmes with institutions at national and international level.

1.3 CRITERIA WISE SUMMARY

Curricular Aspects

Shivaji College is a constituent college of University of Delhi. As per the UGC guidelines, the college runs all programmes based on the Choice Based Credit System, thus providing students with the option of choosing courses as per their interests. The schedule and duration of all programmes are based on the University guidelines. Furthermore, the college meticulously plans its academic sessions, thus ensuring timely preparation of academic calendars, timetables and the distribution of courses. Periodic assessments of students are undertaken through assignments and tests in a time-bound manner. Syllabi taught across all programmes are based on latest trends and study, and several faculty members have been involved in curriculum development.

In addition to the regular programmes, the college offered six add-on courses in the last five years. Learning by experience is the complete education; to this end, numerous opportunities facilitating experiential learning are offered to students. The Star College Scheme, DBT, Govt of India, that aids four departments in the college has also enhanced hands-on training of students. As many as 1557 students benefited from experiential learning through field trips/project work/internships in the latest completed academic session.

The college also plays a crucial role in nurturing civic-minded and just individuals. Committees like by the Women Development Cell, National Service Scheme, Eco Club, and Internal Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment instil a climate of security and equality on campus. Regular feedback from the students, alumni, and faculty also ensure appropriate action towards addressing any gap in student progression and overall college development.

Teaching-learning and Evaluation

Shivaji College admits about 1500 students annually, including admissions as per the reservation policy of the Government of India. Teachers assess the academic proficiency of students based on their performance in classroom discussions and tests/assignments. Needs of slow learners are particularly attended to in tutorial sessions. The college also has an effective mentor-mentee system for counselling. Students are also mandated to participate in co-curricular activities like field trips and industrial visits. These activities heighten experiential learning. National and international conferences organised in the college also provide opportunities for students' developments in academics. To inculcate research interests among students, they are encouraged to be part of research projects supervised by faculty.

To maintain a healthy student-teacher ratio (2019-20 ratio is 19 : 1), well-qualified full-time teachers are appointed against sanctioned posts in accordance with UGC guidelines. Blended teaching-learning methods that employ both ICT and traditional classroom practices make learning more effective. The COVID-19 pandemic threw up new vistas of online teaching-learning, thus ensuring continuity as well as change in learning experiences.

The college maintains a robust internal assessment mechanism to monitor the process and progress of assessment. After thorough assessment, the internal assessment marks are available on the college website. Assessment-related grievances are addressed by the teachers-in-charge. Final exam results are discussed in departmental and Staff Council meetings.

Programmes and courses – whose outcomes are outlined by the university in subject-specific curricula – are designed to equip students with knowledge, life skills, moral values, and self-reliance. Many students even earn placement during campus placements.

Research, Innovations and Extension

The college promotes a thriving research environment in the college; and the College Research Cell takes initiative to support research interests and innovation skills amongst the faculty and students. Several faculty members are engaged in government-funded research projects and have also published widely in reputed journals. Students, too, are motivated to undertake interdisciplinary research work, thus allowing them opportunities to gain experiential learning and to build a strong academic foundation. Programmes like DST INSPIRE Science Camps, seminars/webinars and workshops on intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship, and research methodology are organised under the aegis of IQAC and DBT Star College Scheme (Govt of India) to enhance research quality and professional ethics.

Apart from the academic aspect, opportunities are created to support holistic development of students through several community outreach programmes organised by NSS, NCC, Enactus, Eco Club, and other societies. Special focus is given to outreach programmes that contribute to environmental sustainability, awareness of gender (in)equalities, and promotion of well-being of students and staff. The college has been recognised and awarded for its commitment to social responsibility.

In the last five years, the college signed MoUs with NGOs and other institutions. These collaborations provide opportunities for extension and innovation, internships and career goals, and research and development. Every effort is made to establish enriching and meaningful collaborations with academic and non-academic institutions outside the university.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Shivaji College consistently upgrades its physical, academic, and technological infrastructure to keep abreast of changing times and evolving needs of the students. There are a total of 41 classrooms, 19 well-equipped laboratories, and an auditorium. Jijabai Academic Block with state-of-the-art research laboratories, multipurpose seminar halls, smart lecture halls and an auditorium was inaugurated in February 2020 and will be fully functional soon. The college has one of the biggest sports grounds in the University with facilities of indoor and outdoor games. Facilities like gym equipment, changing rooms, lockers, and first aid are also provided. There are two open stages in the college for the cultural rehearsals and performances. The library has

a diverse collection of 80,533 books, 722 CDs of various disciplines, 7 print journals, subscription to 48 newspapers and magazines, access to about 6000 e-journals, and 31,35,309 e-books through INFLIBNET. In addition, the college provides access to high-quality electronic databases subscribed by Delhi University Library System (DULS). The library houses two air-conditioned reading halls, two computer rooms, and a photocopy facility. The college campus is Wi-Fi enabled and has four state-of-the-art computer laboratories. Student-related information is displayed on digital boards. The college infrastructure is maintained by competent agencies hired through an open tendering system. Staff Council committees are involved in taking decisions related to upgradation of infrastructure.

Student Support and Progression

Shivaji College extends maximum support to students in their education and progression. While scholarships and fee-concessions aid meritorious students in completing their study, programmes that enhance soft skills, language and communication, life skills, and ICT/computing skills prepare them in pursuing their professional goals. Various career advancement activities including placement, career counselling and guidance for competitive examinations are organised to give direction to their career prospects. Students' grievances and concerns are also addressed through the Internal Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment, Anti-ragging Committee, Discipline Committee, Grievance Redressal Committee, Student Advisory Committee, SC/ST/OBC Committee, and Northeast Counselling Cell.

Students are the most important stakeholders of any academic institution. College provides many opportunities to ensure their representation and participation in various student bodies and committees under duly established processes and norms. The Student Advisory Committee organises Students' Union elections every year. In each department and student-societies, office bearers are elected amongst students for smooth functioning of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Apart from this, to enable holistic growth of students, the college provides several opportunities to display their talents and skills in the field of sports and cultural activities. Students represent the college in inter-college activities and bring accolades to college.

The college has an active Alumni Club and Alumni Relation Cell that facilitate alumni network and support in the form of scholarship, motivation, and opportunities for the current students. After graduation, while some students opt for placement in professional organisations, most of them pursue higher education.

Governance, Leadership and Management

Leadership and governance at Shivaji College entails participative management by the Governing Body, the Principal, the teaching and non-teaching staff, and the students. These stakeholders collaborate in a democratic manner in carrying out their professional responsibilities and in accomplishing the vision and mission of the college.

Any progressive policy and plan is thereby deployed after due deliberations at the level of the Staff Council Committees, which form the backbone of the organisation. The newly constructed Jijabai Academic Block is an example of such assiduous planning and deployment at various levels. The college believes in democratisation of activities and information. The e-governance tools used by the college facilitate ease of access to information to students and faculty.

Progress is the impetus that drives the college, which at the same time rests on the well-being of the students

and the staff. Several schemes take care of the health and economic welfare of the college fraternity. The college also extends incessant support to the staff in their professional pursuits. To this end, numerous professional development and academic programmes are organised in the college.

Shivaji College could attain excellence only with the shared responsibilities of the stakeholders in every area of operations. In addition to the collective role of the faculty, the IQAC at the college has been instrumental in overall quality assurance in teaching-learning processes. This collaborative effort has taken the college to new heights every year, aspiring for higher competitive goals in leadership, governance, and in its institutional values.

Institutional Values and Best Practices

Shivaji College adopts values and practices that promote women empowerment, ensure green and eco-friendly campus, and instil social responsibility through various outreach programmes.

Initiatives are taken by the college to sensitise the staff and students to promote a gender-just ecosystem. Programmes like self-defence training, conferences, workshops, film screenings, and theatrical productions on gender issues are organised. In addition, health camps to provide physical and mental health support are conducted. Various committees like Internal Complaint Committee against Sexual Harassment ICC, Discipline Committee, and Anti-Ragging Committee ensure discipline and harmonious environment in college.

One of the best practices adopted by the college is promotion of environmental sustainability. Several eco-friendly measures are implemented by the college to reduce overall carbon footprint. Use of renewable resources like solar power panels, vermi-compost unit, paper recycling machines, and rainwater harvesting system in the college contribute to building a sustainable environment. Another best practice followed by the college is community outreach. Several programmes are initiated throughout the year to raise awareness and to assist the socio- economically weaker section of the society.

A distinctive aspect of Shivaji College is the ambience of inclusivity the college nurtures. Special attention is given to differently abled students, students from different regions and economically weaker backgrounds. Institutional measures are in place to assist these students, thereby enabling them to thrive in an environment conducive for personal growth.