



*Internal Quality Assurance Cell*

**Report on 'Performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust'.**

**'Empowering Women through Transformative Education'**

'Empowering Women through Transformative Education' is an area sensitively resonating with the Vision and Mission of Raj Narain College. In fact, it is in this area that the College has endeavoured to achieve distinct identity. Since 1952, the year when the college formally came into existence, it has been tirelessly pursuing its objective of providing quality and inclusive education to thousands of female students who could not have afforded to travel to a far-off city for that purpose on account of social and financial constraints.

As data of the enrolled students indicate, female students comprise about 44.43% (UG- 1052+ PG- 321= 1373) of total enrolled strength of 2430 students in the year 2020-21. It further increased to 48.32% (UG-1281+PG- 308) of total 3288 enrolled students. Though a coeducational institution, the enrolled female students in this College, in absolute terms, even outnumber the students in a local Women's College. This is an evidence of faith and trust of the society in general and of female students in particular in the honest and meaningful efforts of this Institution for ensuring all-round development of their (female students') personality.

The College over the years has emerged as a beacon of hope in the field of higher education and as a centre for empowering women from the disadvantaged sections of the society in a semi-urban district of Bihar. This further gains credence from the fact that the majority of them belong to the first-generation learners to have secured admission in higher education programmes. Their economic condition, as evidenced from the nature of employment of their parents, is another important aspect of their social profile, which points to the fact that 'higher education' for such female students is the only ladder to rise up in terms of social security and respectability.

In its journey of over seven decades, Raj Narain College has been making honest efforts to address the changing needs of its female students in the most innovative, engaged and compassionate way while providing competitive education.

Being a co-educational Institution, the College is sensitive to its responsibility of creating a safe space for our students to gain a gender sensitive and empowering education. All Postgraduate Programmes on offer have Courses that are gender oriented, though the pedagogy of gender sensitization extends beyond the classroom. The College creates a vibrant environment on the Campus that allows students to think critically, to question, act and to resist creatively. The vast and open playground, lush green lawn, the Common Room, and the reading room in the Central Library and in e-library provide space to female students to utilize their time creatively in discussions and interactive sessions.



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Each Department organises events that reinforce the institution's larger Vision and Mission of providing empowering education to young women. In all Cultural and academic events, participation of female students in great number is an evidence of the enabling support they get from the faculties. Invariably, female students are co-host or the sole anchors in Cultural activities. Every year on Shikshak Parv (Teacher's Day), the programmes in all Departments are hosted/ managed by them. No wonder, the Cultural Committee of the College continues to depend largely on female students for achieving excellence. In Sports and games, too, female students rub shoulders with their male counterparts to win medals in individual sports events, and to bring trophies to their Institution in team events. In the year 2021, the female kabaddi team of the College became University Champion.

In NCC and NSS, the active participation of female students has always been praiseworthy. These aspects of institutional activities indicate creation and maintenance of an enabling environment which nullifies the negative consequences of inhibitions evidenced in female students in a semi-urban co-educational institution.

Celebration of International Women's Day every year has generated positive vibes on the Campus. It gives a platform to faculties and students ( both male and female) to critique the patriarchal clichés and stereotypes associated with 'sex' and 'gender' by initiating meaningful discussions and deliberations on the issues.

The College organizes on regular basis Seminars/ Webinars and Invited Talks with the objective of initiating open discussions to critique 'gendered perspectives' and the resultant marginalization of women in the society. Some of these are:

- Seminar on 'Reading as a Women: Feminism in India' (12.07.2019)
- Webinar on 'Contextualizing Gender Issues' (28.06.2020)
- Webinar on 'Human Rights: Meaning & Significance in Modern Society' (30.01.2022)
- Seminar on 'Gender Sensitization for the Youth' (20.01.2023)
- Seminar on ' New Contours of Feminism in the Digital Age' (08.03.2023)

These academic events ensued a dialogue on the need and importance of honest acceptance of women's perspective on issues that sensitively relate to their (women's) struggle and existence. It also brought into sharp focus the urgency of gender empowerment and role of various agencies, in general, and higher education, in particular.

Pandemic was the worst nightmare that female students could have visualized, as their already restricted and restrained academic life got complete isolation owing to national lockdown. In 2020-21, during the lockdown owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the College commenced regular online classes strictly as per Routine, and the reports on the classes engaged were submitted to the University on daily basis.



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During that period, each Department was directed to hold interactive sessions to maintain communication channel and also to promote creative activities. The initiative received positive response as students showcased their talents in music, singing, dance and their innovative involvement in socially relevant activities- such as distributing home-made masks, making painting, decoration, feeding strayed dogs which didn't get any food on deserted streets, etc. These interactive sessions were immensely valuable in containing depression of the female students and in encouraging them to learn and share new crafts & arts and, thus, to explore their 'self' through their creativity.

It was at that time that the technical aspects of attending online classes came to the fore, as many could not join such classes due to poor network, while many, particularly the female students, didn't have individual smartphome of their own. To meet the challenge, the IQAC went ahead by creating a dedicated 'e-contents' Tab on the College Website and, through a unanimous resolution, all faculties were asked to prepare e-contents to be uploaded on the College website every week in the interest of those who couldn't join online classes, or couldn't have access to study materials. Satisfactorily enough, till the end of the lockdown period, more than 2000 e-contents have been uploaded, which even students from other institutions are using for their study.

The College follows a holistic approach to teaching- learning and evaluation process. Besides regular classroom teaching, all Departments seek to provide a kind of transformative education to female students to enable them realize their potential and self-worth. Opportunities are created for them to excel in co-curricular and extra-curricular areas; the sole objective being to ensure the growth of their academic competence as well as human qualities so that they may contribute to the creation of a just, humane and inclusive society. Some of the graduated female students of this Institution are successfully pursuing the goal of social transformation as empowered individuals; they are making significant contributions in all spheres of social life. The city Mayor of Hajipur, Ms. Sangita Kumari, an M.A. in English and an alumna of this College, is a dynamic leader, who takes keen interest in executing development plans for women, and has sanctioned some important projects for the College also. In recent years, many female students have qualified UGC-NET examination and are pursuing doctoral programmes; and in recognition of their academic achievement they have been empanelled by the College as Resource Persons in different Programmes .

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