

Institutional Distinctiveness

Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir's Arts, Science and Commerce College Manmad is the only pioneering educational institute providing quality higher education in the severely drought prone area like Manmad for the last 50 years. It's been instrumental to bring the less privileged people of the region in the mainstream of development through education. The institute keeps on pushing its limits to materialize the vision of the eminent educationist and social reformer, the founding father of Mahatma Gandhi Vidyamandir Institute Late Karmaveer Bhausahab Hiray. The college has made significant contribution to the lives of youth in the region being the catalyst of change in socio-economic, political, literary and cultural spheres.

In its glorious 50 years, the college has significantly contributed to fulfill the needs of higher education of the region. During these 50 years, the efforts have been directed through a variety of development stages. Initially, the college was more concerned with bringing the first generation of youth of Manmad within the sphere of higher education. Gradually, the focus moved to provide higher education of all streams including Arts, Science and Commerce. Alongside, the college is grooming itself to fulfill the learning needs of the students of the modern times. In this direction, the college tries at its best to strike a balance between traditional and skill based vocational education.

The vision and mission statements clearly reflect our approach towards education and motivate us to sustain the efforts in this direction. The college is gradually moving from traditional education to skill oriented vocational education. The year, 2018-19 marks the Golden Jubilee year of the college. This year, the college redefined its thrust areas and started working towards them. Therefore, the college initiated to introduce the vocational courses to impart skill oriented education to students to supplement the traditional education. In this attempt, the college successfully introduced two degree programmes (Bachelor of Vocational) and three diploma courses (Community College) under UGC NSQF scheme. The courses specifically address the skill gap identified by the college. These courses a variety of skill components that are immediately useful to the career and learning needs of the youth of Manmad. These courses also address the local needs of the society. In a way, the skill gap and the needs of the society are balanced in selecting the skill oriented courses. The initiative at large benefitted the students of Manmad to have exposure to professional courses which otherwise are not available to them at their doorstep. The college strives to bring the skills of professional education to the students.

More importantly, the students are from lower middle class, socio-economically less privileged sections of the society. The parents cannot afford to send the children to professional colleges based in metro cities despite strong will and expectations. The college has identified the necessity as a challenge and decided to work on it as an educational institute that is in the service of the community for the last 50 years. Introduction of skill based courses tries to fill in this gap. It is evident that the gap may not be filled in overnight. But, the college will sustain its efforts to

bridge the gap gradually. Moreover, the intent is also to supplement the traditional courses with a skill component to make them more life and career oriented.

There are two degree programmes introduced under Bachelor of Vocational. The first is *Software Development and System Administration*. In this course, the college intends to orient the students with a skill set in software development and system administration. Such skill based exposure is mainly available in professional educational institute. In modern times, use of technology has increased tremendously. The industry also heavily relies upon the technology. The industry needs a skilled manpower to take care of the software and systems that is at the base of this technology. The college intended to develop a skilled manpower through this course that can suffice the requirement of the region in this regard. The students and the society are at mutual benefit. The people need not go to the metro cities to get this service and the students can find opportunity of employability.

The second programme is *Electronic Instrument Maintenance*. The programme aims to develop skills related to electronic equipments and maintenance. The focus is on helping students learn the skills of maintaining the electronic equipments. The programme deals with small steps in training the students to produce small electronic equipment useful in day to day life and intends to lead to the big goal of an industry. The programme fulfills the needs of skilled manpower in the field of electronics that the society needs every now and then. The programme aims to make the students in and around Manmad have opportunities of self employment with immediate effect. The course decreases the dearth of skilled manpower in the field of electronics to some extent.

The diploma courses under Community College address a variety of skill components to be developed among the students. Among these, a Diploma in *Food Processing* specifically identified the needs of local region where majority of population is of farmers. They do not have an industry nearby where agriculture by products is not a possibility for many farmers. The diploma in food processing is trying to fill in this gap. The students who are the wards of farmers can learn the skills and techniques in food processing and utilize them to set up small scale business of agro products and help boost the local economy. The diploma in *Medical Laboratory and Molecular Diagnostic Technology* aims to provide the students training on a variety of skills in the domain of laboratory diagnosis. This primarily includes diagnosis of samples of blood and urine, CBC, and other medical diagnosis. The course exposes the students to opportunity in the specialized field of medical diagnosis. These services are a part of our daily life. Creating skilled manpower with a set of skills in this field can benefit the students to set up own diagnosis centres/ get employment in other diagnosis centres. Thus, the course can potentially generate opportunities for employment. The diploma in *Banking in Financial Services* aims to expose students to the field of financial services that are part and parcel of our daily life. The people of Manmad and the region do not have awareness about various financial services available in banking sector. This restricts them to get the benefits of government and non-government

financial services beneficial to them. The course imparts the students with the awareness and training in such financial services. This will enable to offer such services to the people.