



**ST PAULS INSTITUTE OF COMMUNICATION EDUCATION FOR WOMEN  
(AFFILIATED TO MUMBAI UNIVERSITY)  
24<sup>th</sup> Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400 050**

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### **7.3: Institutional Distinctiveness**

#### **7.3.1: Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words**

##### **Best Practice I**

##### **Institutional Distinctiveness: Holistic Development of Our Students**

Institutional distinctiveness is a unique feature often reflected in the institution's mission, vision, and practices. The mission of our college, "To build a vibrant and inclusive learning community in a culture of Communication that affects holistic change," clearly indicates a commitment to creating an inclusive learning environment that fosters holistic development.

As a Women's College, functioning from Bandra, Mumbai where the focus area is Women empowerment, learnings include gender equity, environmental consciousness and sustainability, inclusion and situatedness, human values, professional ethics, and promotion of universal values.

##### **Holistic Development**

Holistic empowerment involves addressing socio-economic disparities, promoting gender equality, and fostering environments for women's development.

Students come from diverse backgrounds and from Mumbai and other Indian cities. (see the table for reference)

Women students study in a safe environment, they have access to a guidance counselor as well as a counseling cell. The campus also includes access to a wellness room and there is a sanitary napkin vending machine. The importance of healthcare is addressed by talks on health issues, heart health, Women's health, sport and wellness etc. There are also counseling workshops and sessions focussed on mental health to help students deal with anxiety, life's pressures, Communication in the Work Environment etc.

There are 14 female faculty, HoD's are women educators who excel in their field, have written books, and are invited to write syllabus. ( table 7.3.2)

'Mediathon' – the annual intercollegiate fest, encourages all students to put their best foot forward, to explore and showcase their managerial talents, to enhance their leadership abilities all while focussing on engaging - with students; internal, external; faculty, sponsors, local authorities etc., to ensure the annual college festival is a success.

In a spirit of collaboration, MoU's are signed with colleges in Mumbai to cooperate, support and facilitate academic development, knowledge sharing, faculty exchange and other resources available at St Paul's Women's College. In January 2023, there was a two-day skill development workshop 'Youth as Agents of change', organized in collaboration with Nirmala Niketan College.

The Placement Cell with its industry linkage enables economic/internship opportunities for all students starting at the first year itself. The Placement cell regularly liaises with industry professionals, conducts several activities and arranges for placement opportunities as well. There are guest lectures, masterclasses led by industry professionals in addition to mentoring sessions with faculty and alumni interactions.

Cultural events, traditional festivities, eco-friendly and sustainable pathways are also celebrated/put into practice.

### **Intellectual Development: Empowerment through Education**

The institution employs innovative pedagogical approaches, involving mentors, industry experts, and professionals. It identifies curriculum gaps, offering remedial classes and library access for holistic learning.

The 2021 batch achieved a 90% pass rate, with notable successes such as Anushri Satalvekar, a University of Mumbai rank holder. Alumni achievements are celebrated online.

Partnerships with Mumbai educational institutions like R.D. and S.H. National College, S.W.A. Science College, Nagindas Khandwala College, and Leelabai Thackersey College of Nursing focus on community education, conferences, and student exchanges. They're also offered bespoke career advisory and TV studio sessions for media specialization understanding.

The college arranges industry interactions like study trips, masterclasses, and guest lectures. In 2023, students visited Goa and Rajasthan, following a local trip in Maharashtra. In 2024, they explored Amritsar and Chandigarh to understand local industries. The Placement Cell supports job searches and opportunities.

Paper Presentation on August 7, 2021, by University of Mumbai's Communication and Journalism Department. Staff received awards.

Staff have also published articles in journals of repute.

Principal Fr Dr Plavendran Irudayasamy SSP was invited as Resource Person for TYBAMMC Semester V Orientation Workshop by Principal Dr. Ameer Vora, DGMC.

### **Social Development**

Social skills are nurtured to focus on empowering women and society through various activities conducted. These activities aim to foster a sense of community and social responsibility among our students.

The college supports economically backward students through special fee concessions, scholarships (reference figure 7.3.1) and aiding employment opportunities while studying. A philanthropist has supported a few BAMMC/BMS students.

There are several workshops organized – health issues, heart health, mental health awareness, menstrual hygiene - in person pre and post pandemic and online during the pandemic. Important areas like plagiarism, gender equity etc. were also covered.

There were health camps organized in 2018, including an eye check-up and a dental check-up camp. Similarly, Yoga camps, blood donation and health check camps are organized by the college.



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NSS Unit: Recognized as Runner Up for second-highest blood donation drive collections in August 2023 by Univ. of Mumbai. Community outreach began in Talasari, December 2023, focusing on menstrual hygiene. Staff were encouraged to donate sanitary pads. 40 students and 4 staff participated in the field team.

Since 2022, we have partnerships with local cultural hubs like Campus 360! Literature Live on Campus who hosted a Poetry and Story Contest for our students and also a special Performing Poetry session for our women students. Contest Winners meet with eminent authors and their names are published on the official festival website.

Social Service Cell organized visits to orphanages, cancer care centers, and facilitated clean Mumbai drives for all student groups.

### **Staff Welfare**

Staff actively engage in academic, cultural, and extracurricular activities like inter-college sports and faculty development sessions. Management recognizes an 'employee of the month' and celebrates birthdays and festivals monthly, fostering camaraderie. Amid the pandemic, monthly rations, vaccination drives, loan facilities, and travel reimbursements were provided. Both faculty and non-teaching staff are encouraged to publish articles and pursue Ph.D. opportunities, with equal opportunities for men and women.

In summary, these initiatives reflect the college's commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity, encapsulated in its tagline, 'in quest of truth and excellence'. They cultivate a supportive environment, promoting collaboration and mutual respect, enhancing the sense of community within the college.