

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

T.R.R. Govt. Degree College is located in the backward region of Prakasam Dist. It caters to the Educational needs of the marginalized sections and the poor students in the Society. Most of the students are first generation learners and that too, 60 % of the students are children of migrant labour. The college keeps in view the special needs of these students and plans to address them. We combine learning with a curiosity to study the society and provide practical inputs to our students so as to realize the transformative power of education. The Staff of the College, who are research oriented, encourage the students to actively participate in various co-curricular activities in the college and so also in the open arena. This helps the students imbibe scientific temper, progressive outlook, gender equality and above all patriotic fervour. The Staff with their thirst for knowledge have published 11 papers during 2019-20 (Overall 75 during the assessment period) in National and International journals. We have conducted Certificate courses and Skill development programmes, like Tally, Hardware Networking to update the students and keep them abreast with the recent trends. The college offers a varied, diverse and energetic platform to these students by instilling confidence among them by emphasizing on the Academic development and also in imparting skills that help them to face the challenges posed by the competitive world. But the distinctive aspect of our college is an Eco Friendly environment. The College has a strong bond with the immediate community and it is reflected in the acts of philanthropy. The Alumni formed a *NAAC SADHANA SAMITHI* through which they gathered material and have constructed an Azolla Pond, Kitchen Garden, Vermi Compost and Hydroponic units. We have also started Organic farming on the campus.

The aim of college education is to train the mind, to think and enable an environment to evolve into organic individuals. With this motive the college has conducted several programmes to take our students nearer to the society, inculcate the spirit of mutual work and have a first-hand experience of the real problems of the people. The college, to get nearer to the community, has started organic farming on the campus, though on a smaller scale. The students of our college with the guidance of Old students and supervision of Dept of Botany took up the task of Organic farming. We have been cultivating some leafy vegetables, Bitter gourd, Lady's Finger through organic Farming. *Azolla* culture and Solid waste management unit (Vermi Compost Unit) have been setup and the farmers of the nearby villages were imparted training in these areas. This is a first and novel step towards community service and development of an Eco- friendly campus.

Hydroponics is an innovative mechanism through which plants are raised in water without the use of soil. In our college we developed three different Hydroponic units like nutrient Film Technology (NFT), Dutch Bucket Model and Deep Water Culture Units. Through NFT shallow rooted plants like Spinach and Amaranthes are being grown. Through Dutch Bucket Model deep rooted plants like tomato, brinjal are raised. Plants like Coriander, Methi and Wheat Grass are produced through Deep water Culture. As we are in the initial stage of this Eco friendly innovative system, we are distributing the products free of cost among the members of the Teaching and Non Teaching Staff of our college. Later we are planning on a larger scale and take it to the nearby community.

Ours is an eco friendly campus with facilities like Botanical garden, Azolla culture, Kitchen Garden, Solid waste management unit, Hydroponics and organic farming. All these put together make our campus eco friendly. In our Botanical garden we have herbs, shrubs and trees of different families. Dried and wet *Azolla* is used as organic fertilizer for the plants in our garden. We also maintain a kitchen garden, with the nourishment obtained from the water of the *Azolla* pond and *Azolla* itself as a Bio Fertilizer. We raise Leafy vegetables in the kitchen garden, with the help of students and distribute them free of cost. In Hydroponics and Organic Farming we are not using pesticides or harmful chemical fertilizers, thus adding value to our Eco friendly activities. Vermi compost production is taken up under Solid waste Management unit in our college. The compost prepared is used in nourishing the plants along with *Azolla* culture. In Solid Waste Management Dry and Wet waste materials are separated. The plastics, Iron and other synthetic material are disposed off. Only Organic matter is considered for Vermi compost preparation. Through this solid waste management we are making our campus clean and green, thus paving the way for Swatch TRR Campus.

In all these programmes we involve our students to provide them with a practical knowledge and experience. We have also trained the students to take up projects in these areas. All these inculcate the qualities of leadership, community service, and a sense of togetherness among the students and evolve them into Eco friendly citizens. Thus the College tries to foster oneness among the students, instills confidence among them and thus paving the way to send out students with a spirit of National development, Integrity, Gender Sensitization, Environment friendly and Social Responsibility along with the skills needed to cope up with the competitive world.