

Institutional Distinctiveness

Inspired by the example of St. Vincent De Paul who dedicated his life for the poor, DiST undertakes educational activities for the empowerment of the society, especially that of the marginalized sections. St Vincent De Paul assisted people experiencing poverty and inequality and worked to form a more just and compassionate society. Empowerment (Saktheekaran) is meaningless unless underprivileged members of our college, all the students and local community are empowered. DiST has initiated a number of activities to match with its institutional Vision, Mission and Objectives under the titles Vanchit (Underprivileged) Saktheekaran Mission, Shishy (Student) Saktheekaran Mission and Samudaay (Community) Saktheekaran Mission.

VANCHIT SAKTHEEKARAN MISSION

Empowerment is meaningless unless there is sustained progress for the underprivileged and the poor. With this in mind, DiST has implemented many programmes.

Sahapadikku Oru Veedu

This initiative was started in 2017 with the objective of construction / renovation of at least one house in a year. Students, staff and management of DiST pool funds for helping their friends who are not having own house or living in unhealthy and insecure kutcha houses. Under this mission, we have built/renovated six houses for six of our financially backward students and a staff member.

Jingle Bells

Christmas and New Year celebration are hosted in our campus for differently abled students from special schools. It is a one-day colourful cultural fiesta for specially-abled children for showcasing their talents and to share the joy of Christmas and New Year with attractive gifts and sumptuous food. More than 100 students participate in friendly competitions every year and all of them are given fabulous Christmas gifts. Every year since 2010, we make our Christmas and New Year celebration more meaningful through jingle bells.

Flood Relief

In 2018, Kerala experienced a devastating flood which hit the people with untold miseries. DiST was in the forefront to help people who lost their belongings and livelihoods. Relief camps for water flooded areas, food distribution for people who were starving in rural areas, house visits to flood affected people especially nearby localities and our students' houses were undertaken by our staff and students. Students who lost their study materials and uniforms were distributed the same. Some students and faculty spent a day at Divine De-Addiction Centre, Muringoor to clean the boys' home workshop centre.

SHISHY SAKTHEEKARAN MISSION

To empower the students, student development programmes focussing on additional knowledge and skill acquisition and training to be innovators and entrepreneurs are given on a regular basis.

Conferences, workshops, seminars & Students meets are periodically organized by all the departments of DiST. The college motivates students by reimbursing examination fee to acquire additional certificates by joining the MOOC courses.

School of Professional Development

DiST has a dedicated department named School of Professional Development (SPD) which acts as a finishing school to refine students' soft skills and improve their communication skills and make them industry ready. WASSUP ENGLISH - a YouTube channel to create informative English videos, is an initiative of SPD to create opportunities for students to present and develop their communication skills.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell and Additional Skill Acquisition Programme

In association with Kerala Start Up Mission the college has started an Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Cell (IEDC) to develop the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship among the students. DiST also associates with Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP) of Kerala Higher Education Department for imparting additional skills to the students.

Fests and Students Meets

A two-day Inter-Collegiate Fest "D'Ignito" for Higher Secondary, UG and PG students of various schools and colleges, a Management Fest named 'Daksh' and an International Conference and students Meet by name 'De Novo' are organized every year to develop the organizational and managerial skills of the students. Trade fair organized by the college provides a good opportunity for the students to learn the fundamentals of starting and running a business profitably.

Student Scholarships

Every year the management sets aside a huge sum to give scholarships to meritorious financially backward students and staff members' children as the management intends that no student should go without higher education due to lack of finance. Students who have potential for excellence in sports, but financially poor' are given scholarships for education, free accommodation, food and free coaching. Many of these students got government jobs. In 2020 odd semester, all students were given a fee discount of 15% as the parents of many students lost their jobs and were in financial difficulties due to Covid 19 lock down. Fee discount was repeated in the 2021 lock down.

SAMUDAAY SAKTHEEKARAN MISSION

DiST believes that an education institution fails to achieve its mission unless it facilitates the empowerment of the community around. Hence, DiST has undertaken many efforts to strengthen the rural communities and the community around the college.

'Disha' – meaning 'Direction'

Disha is a three-day career orientation program for 10th and Higher Secondary Students from the nearby community organised at DiST campus collaboratively by DiST and Malayala Manorama daily every year. The three days' camp is fully packed with motivational classes and sessions by many eminent speakers on different topics like career guidance, memory formation, exam tips etc.

Rural camps

It is the regular practice in different departments in DiST to conduct rural camps to identify the community needs, prioritize these needs, identify community resources to meet the needs

and guide the community to use the resources for their development. The students conduct street plays, community awareness programmes, trainings, entertainment programmes, public place cleaning and surveys during these camps. Medical, Dental and Blood donation camps are organised in association with nearby hospitals for check-up and distribution of medicines free of cost to reduce the health concerns of the community. NSS Volunteers of DiST along with Vincentian Service Society started a 'Blood Donation Club' with the motto "Save a Life".

Legal Counselling

De Paul Extension Services (DES) in association with Legal Counselling Centre provides Legal counselling to those in need especially in cases of domestic violence and violence based on dowry. DiST legal counselling centre plays a vital role in Samuday Saktheekaran Mission by providing legal aid through counselling and community awareness outreach programmes.

Snehaswaram (Voice of Love)

This is a unique mission undertaken by our students and staff. It is meant to extend love and consolation to the lonely senior citizens of the locality by frequent visits, telephonic counselling, festival celebrations etc.

Each One Teach One

Each one Teach one is a unique idea of DiST to show our commitment and social responsibility towards the local community by reaching out to the neighbouring Malayalam medium schools to develop the students' English language.

Thus, DiST adheres to its Vision and Mission through the '*Saktheekaran Mission*'. We believe that the college achieves its goals when it develops and empowers students and community and thus, creates socially responsible citizens and respectable individuals with professional integrity and ethics and becomes useful for the community around and the nation at large.