

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

The Government College of Commerce and Economics was established in the year 2010 in the Margao city of Salcette Taluka. The pioneer motive for establishing this Institution was to cater to the marginalized sections of the society residing in and around the outskirts of Margao. Prior to the commencement of the Institution, quality education probably appeared a daunting and elusive task to many impoverished aspiring students. Low self-esteem and grades would make them balk their steps towards the mighty buildings of the reputed Institutions.

An analysis of the result of the Higher Secondary Examination indicates a growing number of students clearing the qualifying examinations in the Commerce stream in Margao city and the Salcette Taluka as a whole. Prior to the establishment of the College, there were a total of five Colleges located in the Salcette Taluka. While two of the Colleges in Salcette were limited by distance from the Margao City, of the three Colleges in the city itself, only two offered a Programme in Commerce. However, these institutions had brand value making it difficult if not impossible for students with a low pass percentage to take admission. **It was this gap that the Government College of Commerce and Economics, Borda, has addressed.** Students with ATKT and low passing percentages at the qualifying examinations for whom doors to the prestigious Colleges in the city were virtually closed were welcomed with open arms in our College.

The founding of this Institution under the banner of the Government thus proved to be a safe haven to these marginalized students from all sorts of discrimination. Empathy towards the zealous first-generation learners was shown by admitting varied background students without discrimination of any sort. The warmth exuberated at the time of admission buoyed them with the hope of achieving their aspirations of being a successful Commerce graduate. The ardour of the students to pursue their education was evident from the fact that, despite being a nascent Educational Institution with physical restraints such as no proper infrastructure, the initial intake of the students in its inceptive year was 105 which has been continuously increasing. The working time of the College, i.e. 1:30 pm to 6:15 pm, in earlier years too didn't deter them. Being sensitive to the varied background, special attention is bestowed upon

identified students. Their financial crunch is lessened through various scholarships available.

The zealous staff goes an extra mile to motivate and encourage the students. Though ten years plus of perseverance and dedication towards nurturing and honing talent have lapsed, the initial objective of catering to the marginalized section of the society has not waned off. The caliber of the majority of the marginal students is refined and honed into laudable attributes by the end of the three-year term spent in this Institution.

The College exhibits distinctive attributes:

- The student population of the College, although, Goan by domicile originate from different States of the country – Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana, Kerela, West Bengal and Goa. The College represents a meld of different cultures and languages.
- The demographic profile of our student population suggests a judicious blend of students coming from diverse economic strata, religion and caste groups. Statistics indicate a significant percentage of students from the minorities as also the SC/ST/OBC category. This is in consonance with the rationale with which the College was established.
- The College champions the cause of gender equality. 51 % of the students enrolled in our college belong to the female gender.
- While some of our students reside in the city of Margao itself, others travel to our college from the surrounding villages.
- A sizable percentage of the students belong to the economically disadvantaged sections of society.
- Some of our students due to economic reasons or otherwise take up part time jobs, learning and earning simultaneously.
- A considerable number of our students enrolled at the First Year during the assessment period had secured a pass class in the qualifying examinations while just about 1.9% students entered the College with a distinction.

Diversity is thus the essence and core of our College and it is this diversity that we celebrate. The trust area of our endeavours is to cater to this diversity in the manner specified below:

- The College adopts a universal admission policy, throwing open its doors to students of diverse academic backgrounds.
- While the medium of instruction in the College is English, the students and faculties too converse among themselves in diverse languages.
- Each instructional day in the College commences with students and staff singing the National Anthem which is played on the Public Address System, fueling feelings of unity and fraternity.
- The Student Council organizes a plethora of cultural activities providing a platform to students to showcase their talents. Folk dances, Mando, Carol Singing, Mehndi competition, Star Making Competition, Rangoli, Rakhi Making competition etc. promote sharing and assimilation of different cultures.
- Students belonging to the reserved and less privileged classes avail the benefit of scholarships and financial assistance from the Student Aid Fund and other government scholarships.
- Various capacity building programmes are organized for the benefit of students.
- Students participate in various extension activities enabling them to apply the knowledge acquired in the classroom in real life situations and develop a spirit of social responsibility.
- The composition of the Student Council of the College is representative of the diversity that characterizes the Institution.

The College thus essays a pivotal role in realizing the goals enshrined in the Vision Statement that of “*providing quality education and equal opportunities to heterogeneous student community from diverse backgrounds.*”

- Another distinguishing feature of the Institution has been the implementation of several **Smart Initiatives**:
 - a) The ornamental, flowering and medicinal plants adorning the college premises have been QR Coded.
 - b) A smart and robust navigation system/Digital campus tour augmented with virtual reality has been introduced.
 - c) Installation of an Atmospheric Water Generator and use of electric vehicles by office staff are an indication of the commitment of the College towards promoting a sustainable environment.