



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE

A FRANSALIAN INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NAAC ACCREDITED • PERMANENTLY AFFILIATED TO BANGALORE UNIVERSITY • AICTE APPROVED • RECOGNISED UNDER SECTION 2(F) & 12 (B) OF THE UGC ACT • ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Title: "FIRST STEPS, LASTING IMPACT: OUR FIRST-GEN JOURNEY" –

St. Francis de Sales College's Commitment to First-Generation Learner

Introduction

St. Francis de Sales College, in its pursuit of excellence, has embarked on a transformative journey, marked by its commitment to first-generation learners. Aptly named "First Steps, Lasting Impact: Our First-Gen Journey," the Institutional distinctiveness centers on empowering first-generation learners, providing support, inclusive programs, and an enriching academic environment, ensuring they take confident strides into higher education and beyond.

First-generation candidates at St. Francis de Sales College are defined operationally as 'individuals whose parents have a lower socio-economic status and limited educational background.' These students represent the first generation in their families to pursue higher education, reflecting the College's commitment to providing opportunities for those who may be the first in their families to embark on academic pursuits.

1. Diversity of Student Demographics:

Diversity of students like race, gender, language, culture, ethnicity, religion, socio economic status, mental and physical ability are addressed in Higher Educational Institutions. Diversity in the classrooms speaks about social identities. These identities are intersectional and overlapping. Individuals can have multiple social groups at the same time. The diversities mentioned above are more visible in nature. Diversities like learning styles, personality and mental health are present without being visible.

National Education Policy (NEP) has identified many components in brining holistic development across all educational institutions. NEP addresses the most important aspect of diversity. According to the NEP, *"Learner diversity is an issue worth addressing in education practices across countries if inclusive societies are to be developed, promoted and sustained. Inclusive education is a process that involves the transformation of schools and other centers of learning to cater for all children: boys and girls, students from various ethnic groups and linguistic minorities, rural populations, those affected by HIV and AIDS, and those who have exceptional learning needs"*.

First-generation students seeking admission at SFS College is the distinctiveness of the Institution. Children of parents with lower socio-economic status and less education is the operational definition of First-generation candidates at St Francis de Sales College. Number of first-generation candidates seeking admission has considerably increased. The success of one candidate motivates their siblings and others to come forward to attain higher education.

Sample of First Generation Candidates

Batch	No.of first Generation Learners	Total no.of students	Percentage of first Generation Learners
BA	46	54	85.19%
BBA	134	141	95.04%
BCA	69	80	86.25%
BCOM	337	365	92.33%
BSC	86	104	82.69%
	672	744	90.32%

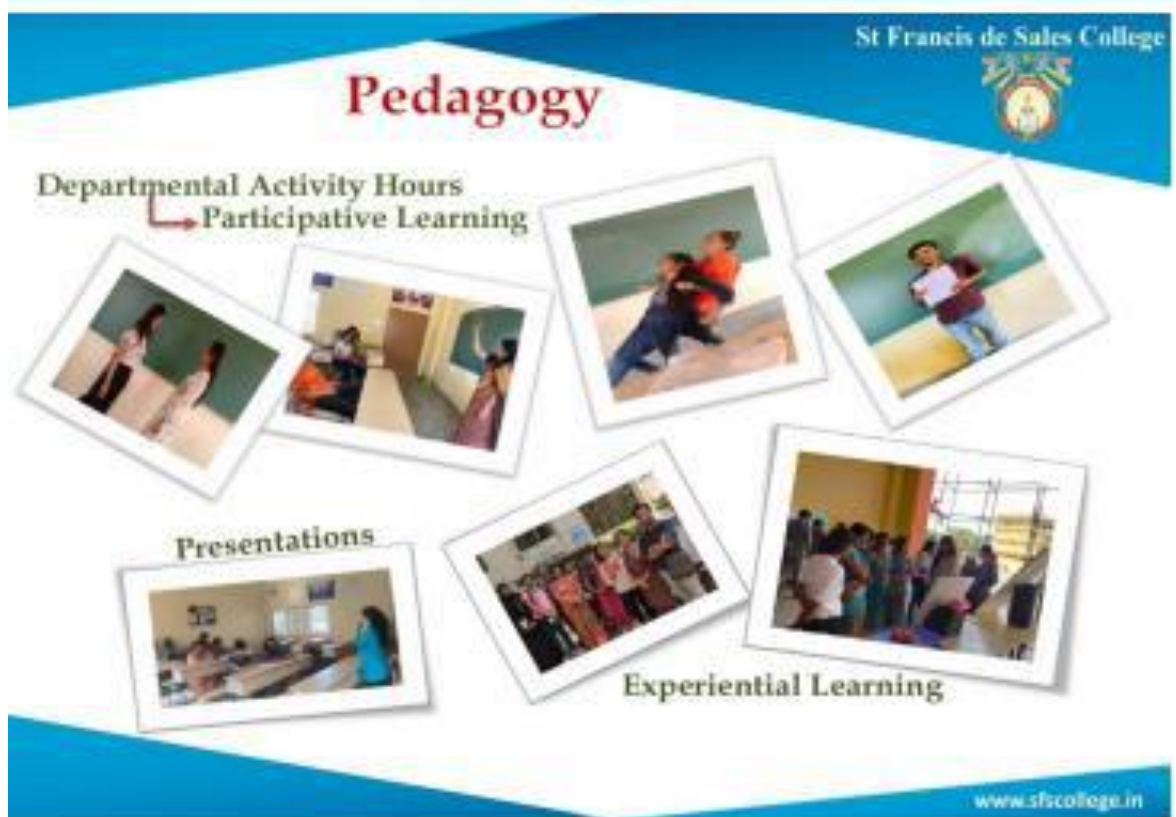
2. Specialized Programs and Support:

As given by NEP the first-generation learners come with exceptional learning needs. NEP highlights adult education and lifelong learning in the 21st point. An opportunity should be created to attain foundational literacy. Its right of first-generation learners to have the opportunity to learn and obtain education. St Francis de Sales creates academic ambience, where every student can have better living conditions. Better living conditions is the basic right of every citizen. Literacy and education open up opportunities. Life long learning enables students to progress personally and professionally.

Presentation of Curriculum Planning and Implementation:



Presentation of Pedagogy followed:



3. Scholarships and Financial Aid:

NEP also highlights Financing: Affordable and Quality Education for all. First-generation learners at SFS are taken care to complete their course with peaceful mind without much financial disturbances. Scholarship policy for first-generation makes fee payment convenient to first-generation learners to focus on academics. Request letters, acknowledgment copies are maintained in Scholarship Policy file.

4. Mentorship Programs:

Mentoring is when someone shares their knowledge, skills, and experience to help another person to progress. Mentoring in general has various benefits.

- o Effective learning and first-hand knowledge-sharing through mentoring
- o Gaining practical insights, guidance, and advice from those in a position of experience
- o Increased confidence
- o Improved interpersonal and communication skills
- o Empowerment to progress effectively
- o Wider understanding of different perspectives
- o A trusted partner to discuss more confidential challenges and goals in one's career.

5. Community Engagement Initiatives:

Active participation of all students in extension/outreach programs under DISHA (Best Practice) of the College develops social responsibility. First-generation learners are to be exposed to every aspect of education. No student is deprived in College for any opportunity. The maximum opportunities possible are created to all students. Seeking admission at SFS, exposes first-generation students to be part of various events and parallelly learn to build their career and also plan for their successors of the family. Being First-generation, should never feel underprivileged, equal opportunity is given to all.

6. Alumni Success Stories:

First-generation learners' success stories after graduation are the evidence of success of Distinctiveness. The first step has lasting impact through consistent and meticulous training and placements at College. Students are given opportunities through campus drive. The placement cell has tie up with companies and arrange for campus drive. Many of Desalites are selected through Campus interviews. Alumni interaction is equally given weightage in the campus. Each department invites Alumni to interact with present juniors and motivate them. Alumni have been handling sessions, training juniors and conduct workshops. Training given to them during their study period has a lasting impact on them and its witness through the skills exhibited during Alumni interactive sessions. Alumni activities reports, feedback and testimonials are maintained in File. No. 7. Placement details by each department is maintained in File No. 29.

7. Collaborations with Industry Partners/NGOs:

SFS College has various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. In collaboration with many organizations and institutions, extensions activities, outreach programs, guest lectures, academic events, sports and cultural programs are executed. The collaborative activities builds the sources and resources of first-generation learners.

Every event, activity, program is an opportunity created to build their career. Documents related to collaborations are maintained in File No. 42. Activities, events and programs are maintained in File No.'s 12, Z series and DISHA.

8. Academic and Career Progression:

Career guidance and Competitive exam cells have conducted several activities. Experts talks, lecture series, training programs, field visits, internships, skill development programs, placement drives are the perpetually planned to support students. Firstgeneration learners are guided by mentors to initiate, participate and make the best use of opportunities. Students have attempted and cleared competitive exams. Many are placed in good companies. Most of them have taken up higher education. Academic and career progression for first-generation learners is the priority of College. Each students details are maintained by respective departments.

9. Inclusive Curriculum Design:

“Entry into quality higher education can open a vast array of possibilities that can lift both individuals as well as communities out of the cycles of disadvantage. For this reason, making quality higher education opportunities available to all individuals must be among the highest priorities. This Policy envisions ensuring equitable access to quality education to all students, with a special emphasis on SEDGs” says NEP. There must be continuity to ensure sustainable reform. Fee policy, scholarship policy for first-generation learners is a clear mirror of the inclusion system followed by the College. Admission is given to every first-generation child. 100% participation policy makes it mandatory for all students to take part in all events.

10. Fulfilling Parental Dreams:

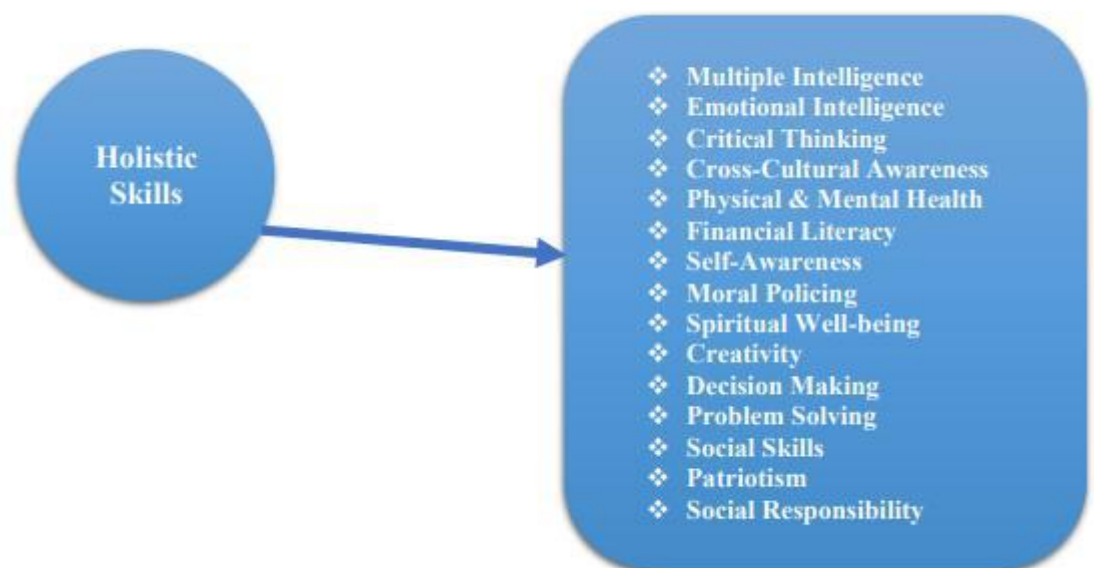
Illiterate or poor socio-economic parents aims to bring their children to the streamline. Hard-work, dedication and commitment of parents is the result of first step by firstgeneration learners at SFS College. Sammilana (PTM) is conducted regularly to meet parents. Mentors interact with parents and explain about the curriculum structure and practices of the College. Feedback and suggestions are taken from parents. First-generation learners and their parents together would attend Sammilana. Mentors brief about the progress of their children and career guidance is given. Interaction with parents has encouraged them to send siblings and also encourage others in the family to join College for higher education. Larger the first-generation are motivated to enroll in Colleges, larger will be contribution of College to bring change in the society. Parents dream about their children being educated and achieve something in life. An assurance to parents of first generation learners is given through Sammilana. Reports of Sammilana are documented in File No. 5.

11. Holistic Growth:

Any child's birth right is to have education. First-generation learners have taken the first step towards education. Effective, fruitful learning experiences leading to success career path attracts the next generation of the family, and helps in attracting youngsters of the family towards education. SFS College has not left any stone unturned in making learning experience meaningful at SFS College. Every step is planned for their future.

Holistic growth and development are the vision of the College. Institutional distinctiveness builds holistic skills among first-generation learners.

Conceptual framework of holistic skills:



Conclusion

First Steps, Lasting Impact: Our First-Gen Journey is the Institutional Distinctiveness. Though the College resides amidst companies, the geographical area has many villages around the College. Still many first-generation learners are joining College. Agriculture, farming, working in factories, auto drivers etc are predominantly noticed in the area.

SFS College always has an open arm to all first-generation learners and pat their backs with pride while successfully completing their courses. The first step of first-gen is made to have a lasting impact in their lives as well as the academic journey of College.

Principal