



Ref. No

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7.3.1 – Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust

Integrating Gandhian Ideology and Practices in Higher Education

Integrating Gandhian Ideology and Practices in Higher Education Gujarat Vidyapith takes its inspiration from Gandhian ideology and practices in higher education. The goal of Gujarat Vidyapith is to create well-educated individual who works for reconstruction of the rural society. All aspects of higher education i.e., pedagogy, life style, and institutional structure and practices in Gujarat Vidyapith is geared towards achievement of this goal. The curriculum is geared towards questions of rural life. Different disciplines of social sciences, applied sciences, and professional studies keeps rural issues at the centre of their interrogation. One of the by-products of this kind of curricular orientation is that most of the students who come to study in Gujarat Vidyapith come from rural and tribal background. The Institute strives to make them feel at home and seeks to ensure that what they learn as a part of their curriculum must reflect their lived reality and its problems. Apart from curriculum, the life style in Gujarat Vidyapith too reflects the Gandhian ideology of khadi, manual labour, and simplicity. Every member of Gujarat Vidyapith, be it staff or student, is a habitual wearer of hand-spun khadi which is the most potent symbol of self-reliance. Students are taught how to spin yarns on charkha and then how to weave the yarns into cloths. The lesson of cloth self-sufficiency (vastra svavlamban) is thus instilled into the student. Other activities in Gujarat Vidyapith also emphasizes simplicity in life style, food, and action. Udyog (skills acquisition) is an important part of Gujarat Vidyapith's pedagogy. Gandhi's education system envisaged training of head, hand, and heart. Udyog takes care of the training of the hand in which the students learn to create new things with their hands and in the process, they pick up different skills. Training of the hands ensure that students never shy away from any kind of manual work. It also develops the sense of empathy towards those sections of the society who has to put in lot of physical labour in their work in order to earn meagre livelihood. Doing physical labour enables the students to respect the value of other people's labour. Gujarat Vidyapith is proud of the fact that its graduates can think and argue, embraces physical labour enthusiastically, and have a sense of deep empathy with different sections of the society. Apart from curriculum and physical labour, extension is a major part of pedagogy in Gujarat Vidyapith. Teachers and students of Gujarat Vidyapith keep a constant interaction and engagement with the wider society especially the rural society. Activities such as Gram Jeevan Yatra and NSS Camps brings the teachers and students in close contact with the wider society. It provides an experiential learning environment to the students. Above aspects of the education is Gujarat Vidyapith are unique practices which adheres to its goal of preparing youths to take up the work of reconstruction of the rural society.

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