

Institutional Distinctiveness – M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Dnynaprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre's journey began in the year 1974 as an institution of higher learning, adding another leaf in the already existing arsenal of institutions under Dnynaprassarak Mandal. The institution emerged as a re-defining force in higher education in post-liberation Goa. The emergence of the institution provided a platform to the young minds to pursue higher education with an ease of accessibility as earlier the youngsters from Goa had to travel across the borders to pursue higher studies.

Located on a plateau overlooking the village of Assagao and Goa's commercial hub, Mapusa, the institution has been serving the society for the last 46 years. Blending into the rich cultural milieu of the state, the institution strives to maintain the cultural aesthetic through various initiatives like *Ghumot Aarti* competition.

With its vision being "*Education for Social Transformation and Nation Building*", the institution has rightly carved out a niche for itself in terms of being the pioneer in adopting new ways to face the dynamic challenges of the modern world. With its focus being dissemination of updated knowledge and skill sets adhering to the growing demand of the professional world, the institution is copiously contributing in the process of nation building. The area of institutional distinctiveness is the prime example of the institution's adherence to its vision.

The mission of the institution is "To proactively contribute towards the creation of an intellectually dynamic society which is committed to excellence, human dignity and the realization of human potential." The institution is thus committed to creating a knowledge-driven community, aiding the process of nation building with apt importance to human dignity.

A considerable number of the students admitted in the institution are first generation receivers of the tertiary level of education. Demographically, they belong to the rural as well as the semi-urban set up across the north district of Goa with majority belonging to middle and lower middle-income background.

Area of institutional distinctiveness – M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Adhering to its mission and vision, the institution has been on the forefront with regards to introduction and innovations in programmes and allied initiatives to cater to the demands of the academic, social, and industrial milieu. One such unique programme is the M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry which was introduced in the year 2009. This programme not only opened employment opportunities in the face of growing demands from the pharmaceutical industry in the state of Goa but also provided an opportunity to the youth of Goa to explore new avenues in research in Chemistry as well as Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dnynaprassarak Mandal's College and Research Centre is the only institution in the state of Goa to offer this unique programme which derives its distinct nature from the unique blend of two disciplines, Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Science. Goa has the zeal to be the cynosure of pharmaceutical research. Companies like Sanofi, Unichem Laboratories, Teva Group of Companies, Centaur pharmaceuticals, Glenmark pharma and many others have taken the

pharmaceutical research in Goa in the right direction. Goa is a hub of pharmaceutical industries which needed well trained analyst. A student with a Bachelor's degree chemistry, requires sound pharmaceutical knowledge before claiming a pharmaceutical job and this programme is thus designed to cater to this growing seeker of job opportunities in this sector. Since its inception in 2009, the number of students applying for the programme has been approximately 25 to 30% more than the intake capacity which shows the demand for the programme amongst the graduates in chemistry who wish to acquire jobs in pharmaceutical industry.

Gauging the growing demands of the pharmaceutical industry, the institution had designed a diploma in pharmaceutical analysis and after consultation with the stakeholders from the industry, the M.Sc. programme was initiated. Keeping in mind the needs of industry, a committee was constituted which comprised of both academic as well as industry experts. In September 2009, the M.Sc. course started on self-financing basis with the intake capacity of 20 seats. The prime focus of this course was pharmaceutical manufacturing, pharmaceutical analysis, and pharmaceutical statistics. It is a well-defined course which befits the industry needs and leads to assured job acquisition. With 145 students placed in the last decade, the programme has rightly served its purpose of meeting the demands of the industry.

With the generous CSR support from various pharmaceutical companies, this programme has got state-of-the-art facilities worth Rs. 40 lakhs. The industry experts have been visiting faculties for engaging lectures under the programme. This industry input along with industry visits has given a greater exposure to the students of the programme. The students are placed in the pharmaceutical industries across Goa and many have seen professional growth over the last 5 years. This proves the worthiness of the programme and its distinctiveness.

Research has been in forefront in this programme. The students have got recognition for their research work at State-level symposiums, securing top prizes on many occasions. Their dissertation work has resulted in several research paper publications in conference proceedings and journals. One of the efforts taken to promote research culture was hardcore research training for students at Basic Sciences Research Centre (BSRC), KLE's College of Pharmacy, Belgavi-Karnataka.

In the bygone decade, three students from M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Chemistry have secured the gold medal at the university level for securing the highest marks.

The sense of evolution can be best observed from the fact that the department has been organizing innovative courses such as cosmeticology, a course which was designed and developed by the institute keeping in mind the emerging trends related to cosmetics in the pharmaceutical industry.

Thus, the M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Chemistry programme befits the area of institutional distinctiveness.