

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

SYNERGISING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Dr. V. S. Krishna Government Degree College(A), Visakhapatnam, is a premier institution in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh which is known for its legacy of excellence in all aspects of its functioning, leadership, academics, research, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. It stands out as one of the district's **Nodal Resource Centres (NRC) which was earlier called District Resource Centre (DRC)**. There were **15 colleges in the VSK DRC**. After the restructuring of DRCs as NRCs for academic and administrative purposes, there are **8 Govt. Degree Colleges and 2 aided colleges in its purview**. This unique recognition of the college by the Department of Higher Education in the State of Andhra Pradesh is testimony of its ability to offer, enhanced academic, research, governance and infra resources to select colleges, thereby empowering them to deliver quality education and effective governance.

THE DISTINCTIVENESS

The distinctiveness of this college stems from the opportunity and responsibility earned by it to develop inclusive competencies in faculty and academic leadership within and extend the same to select colleges grouped with it. It is an extraordinary onerous task that delivers on meeting the challenges and compelling educational needs of the colleges in this region. The DRC/NRC committee consists of the Principal as chairman, a senior faculty as coordinator and a few faculty members.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of developing Dr.VSK DRC is leveraging collaborations for **Capacity Building** through the sharing of academic and infra resources among the colleges in the district ensuring that students & staff have fair and equitable access to better educational facilities and opportunities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To identify the needs and shortages and the subsequent fulfilment of the constituent colleges.
2. To reduce the disparity and to ensure **equity in education**, regardless of their location.
3. To promote inclusiveness through resource sharing to enhance educational experiences.

4. To organize training programmes, seminars, and workshops for the administrators, faculty members, and students.
5. To provide equal placement opportunities by the Nodal Jawahar Knowledge Centre by conducting job drives.
6. To promote a culture of collaboration and mutual support among the neighbouring colleges.

THE PRACTICE:

A. FACULTY DEVELOPMENT- LEVERAGING COLLABORATION

1. It is the legacy of Dr.VSK that the faculty has been receiving State Best Teacher Awards since 2014. The research centre has 31 faculty members acting as research supervisors with 90 scholars. One of the faculty members is the Executive Council member of Andhra University.

The college frequently organises **capacity-building programmes** across the region and has organised **Training of Trainers (ToTs)** and workshops through NRC. Many faculty acted as Master Trainers and Key Resource Persons (KRP) in ToTs and played a vital role in upskilling the teachers. The KRPs were trained at premier national institutions like JNU-Delhi, Central University, Hyderabad and EFLU, Hyderabad. The College conducts orientation sessions for its faculty on technical skills for **e-content** development. As a result, they are contributing to the official Learning Management System (**LMS**) portal of the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education(CCE). The NRC faculty from various colleges are appointed as Nodal Resource Persons, Subject Experts and NRC Co-ordinators for e-content development and LMS tools.

2. **Faculty Exchange/ Deputation Programme:** The NRC strongly adheres to **inclusive practices** and therefore, the college identifies the faculty shortage in the neighbouring Govt. Degree Colleges extend their faculty members and offer their **expertise beyond their walls** to semi-urban and rural Government Degree Colleges in areas such as Tagarapuvalasa, Nakkapalli, Bhimili, Vijayanagaram, Marripalem and Sabbavaram for administrative and academic purposes. This collaborative effort not only fills the gaps in staffing but also ensures that students in these areas receive education without any parity with their urban counterparts.

4. Nodal Jawahar Knowledge Centre (JKC)

As an NRC college, the VSK GDC(A) has a **Nodal Jawahar Knowledge Centre(JKC)** which offers mandatory training for all the final-year students of the college. The Nodal JKC of the college organises Campus Drives and Mega Job Drives providing equal job opportunities not only for the students of the college but also for the students of local and non-local colleges which indicates the social responsibility perspective of the college. It acts as a catalyst to bridge the gaps between academics and industry.

5. **Administrative Liasoning:** The institution acts as an interface between the CCE and the member colleges of the NRC, and organises Zonal Review Meetings.

6. The **Learning Resource Centre** extends its knowledge repository to the students of B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Andhra University Correspondence students and also to aspirants of competitive exams from the nearby locality.

IMPACT:

The effectiveness of the development of faculty and their upskilling within this college, as well as the select group of colleges under the NRC, has significantly reflected upon improvement in teaching-learning, thus resulting in enhanced student outcomes in jobs, higher education and entrepreneurship.

The college has been collaborating in organising **SKILL HUB** programmes, conducting many **Value-added courses and Certificate Courses**. The local NPTEL chapter of the VSK NRC enrolled students on various platforms like **SWAYAM, NPTEL, and UDEMY**, and monitored them to complete a variety of courses.

Beyond the Classroom capacity-building activities, it offers value-added courses in Yoga and Meditation, Self-Defence Course, and Music and Dancing Courses.

Knowledge transferring is a continuous process and therefore, the upskilling of faculty ultimately impacted its end goal- **fostering student capacity building**, a vibrant student life with active participation in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities and successful survival in the present global scenario.

The Encore Club, Eco Club, Srujana Film Club, NSS, NCC and RRC hone the hard and soft skills beyond the classroom.

FEEDBACK:

The feedback on the effectiveness of the training programmes wcollected, analysed, and factored into a plan for future improvements. The current satisfaction level of stakeholders has been good. There are, however, certain areas of continuous improvement, and going forward, would be addressed, suitably.

FUTURE:

The stated distinctiveness of the Dr.VSK NRC has created a synergy of cooperation and support amongst the government and the institutions, essentially required for the development of education in the State. This knowledge centre will continue to inspire other knowledge centres in the State for its contribution to excellence in education.