

Title - Option for the Poor

St. Joseph's College has been actively engaged in uplifting the economically and socially marginalised sections of the nation. The college has been functioning with the motto *Pro Bono Et Vero* (For the Good and the True), and the driving force of the college is the policy of **Option for the Poor**. The college has been focussing on the advancement of the marginalised communities – women, students from the economically and socially marginalised sections and students with physical disabilities. The college has an admission policy that serves the above agenda. Though St. Joseph's was established as a college for men, it has changed its policy to accommodate many women students from many marginalised sections of the society. It has incorporated into its curriculum a variety of topics on gender sensitization and gender equality. The college also has created a conducive learning atmosphere that promotes a culture of equality. Many Committees and clubs such as the Girl Students' Welfare Committee, SHEPHERD, NSS, Equal Opportunity Centre, Student Empowerment Centre, UGC SC/ST Cell, PwD Cell and others conduct awareness programmes that emphasize the importance of social equality.

True to its Vision, "To form through intellectual inquiry and experiential learning, globally competent, committed and holistic persons to become men and women in the service of others and empowered to live and promote just, humane life", the college strives to promote "just, humane life", inculcating in its staff and students the necessary values that would create and sustain a culture of equality. Students of the college are trained to excel in academics, yet the notion of excelling in social equality and justice is clearly spelt out in the goals and objectives of the college

- To strive towards the excellence of the socially and academically disadvantaged among the students through remedial and flexible courses;
- To arouse in students a sense of social justice, responsibility, compassion, sensitivity and concern for the poor and the disadvantaged through participation in the SHEPHERD Programme;
- To inculcate in the students through courses in Ethics/Religion, basic moral, social and spiritual values necessary for building up character and developing personality.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell
St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli

To achieve this, various measures are taken by the college to train the students in capacity building and career counselling. The Placement Cell of the college assures the placement of the students, assuring social respectability and economic independence of the socially and economically marginalised communities. Job Fairs for students with Physical Disabilities are conducted and many students of the college are selected for jobs in many companies. SHEPHERD addresses the locational disadvantages, and serves people of 69 adopted villages and 21 urban areas, and creates a service-oriented living experience of all the students of the college who become “men and women for others”.