



Sonopant Dandekar Shikshan Mandali's
Sonopant Dandekar Arts, V.S. Apte Commerce and
M.H. Mehta Science College, Palghar

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS 2019-2020

EQUALITY, INTEGRITY AND HUMANITY

It is increasingly recognized that culture has an essential role to play as a driver of sustainable development, contributing to the eradication of poverty and enhancing social inclusion. Culture helps to define people's identities and determines the way they shape their future. Gender equality, which is a UNESCO priority and SDG 5, refers to the roles and responsibilities of men and women and gender dynamics within families, societies and cultures. With the sustainable development policy adopted by the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in November 2015, we look towards a more peaceful and sustainable planet and the balance of power in our relationships continues to be an important issue to redress in this new framework. **"Equality for All"** theme into the sub-themes such as gender equality, equality in the financial provision, equality laws, fights for equality, views of equality thinkers, the impact of economic and material development on equality, various social organizations working for equality.

Further, the Institution has a history of uploading ethical values and philosophy in words and practice. It lays its foundations on equality, integrity and humanity. Our stakeholders being from the old school of thought, it is very important to balance the beam of modernism and universal human values. Moreover, with the increasing use of social media students were losing human values and mutual respect, sharing of resources. Series of activities that infuse and instil amongst all the acts of doing small things in every possible way along with enriched education formed the backbone of the institutional activities this year. Being great



just means **that you find a way to give of yourself to something that you believe in.** To ensure the team conducted a series of sessions on Gandhi thought, knowing oneself, universal human values, gender equality, thereby creating a sustainable society where each one is giver and taker.

The situation flipped with COVID 19, practically an unknown terrorism impacting the socio-economic life of every individual. It was observed that people were being anxious and became self-centred with hoarding of food grains and other material etc. Realizing the grim position of the society, with the help of volunteers, student fraternity, staff and all other stakeholders the lessons learnt from the various sessions were passed on to the society through various outreach programs, psychological counselling, distribution of ration kits, food grains, sharing food to casual workers, small farmers etc. The underlying thought shared was, *“Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You don’t have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don’t have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”*

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