

7.2 INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Guru Nanak College is the outcome of a small group of three hundred Sikh families who have, for their entrepreneurial reasons, made Chennai their home. Their benevolence led them to partake in the development of a local community through the spread of education. They established the Guru Nanak Education Society and under its aegis, Guru Nanak College was founded in the year 1971 to mark the 500th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev ji. The core values and functioning of the college are guided by the motto “**Pro bono Publico**” - in service to society.

GNC does not claim minority benefits despite being founded and established by a Sikh management. It stands tall extending a strong support to the majority community. One third of its students are first generation learners; more than 92% of them are from socially or economically backward sections of society. The college plays a vital role in uplifting youth from the weaker sections by giving them an affordable education with world class infrastructure and highly qualified, professionally skilled and spiritually motivated teachers. Out of the 280 faculty members, 137 hold PhD degree and 70 are NET/SLET qualified.

The college has a full-fledged **Learning Management System (LMS)** where faculty can upload study materials such as PowerPoint presentations, blog articles, YouTube videos etc. ICT enabled observational and experiential learning through conferences, webinars, presentations, workshops, group discussions, internships, projects, industrial visits and virtual e-learning sources enhance our students’ capabilities and enriches their knowledge leading to practical exposure in the relevant field. This ICT enabling does not end with the supply of technology hardware but rather in the synchronization of the learner, the teacher, and educational resources.

The college has a well-equipped **Integrated Management System (IMS)** that supports the management and administration in decision-making to enhance quality in all arenas of the institution. Apart from the admission and examination process, various modules were introduced & expanded upon to meet the requirements of academic, research and co-curricular activities, and administrative processes. It integrates all frameworks into a single system thus making the campus a “Paperless Campus”.

The College is governed by a philanthropic council; no private ownership is claimed. All members of the council are successful entrepreneurs with a high social standing and with a noble desire to serve society. The management is highly committed and all surplus from the institution is cycled back into the welfare and upliftment of the college. The exponential growth and development of the college is largely due to the service-orientated perspective of the management. Regular social outreach programmes help within the campus such as Langar - midday meal for needy students - and Swabodhini - skill development and day care centre for special children - are an integral part of GNC. The college also provides support to the local community when required. Over 2600 migrant workers were provided accommodation and their basic necessities were met over the course of the pandemic.

Guru Nanak College has a strong tradition of providing world class players in various fields of sports. This year, the Guru Nanak cricket field produced one international player, four Ranji Trophy players and many more for IPL & TNPL. Abhay Singh of B Com (MM) won the UK open squash tournament as well.

In an attempt to inculcate and nurture moral values and a humane approach in the younger generation, the college has made it mandatory for all first-year students to enroll in one of the extension activities - NSS, NCC (air & army wing), YRC, ED Cell, etc. Value education has been introduced in the curriculum of our autonomous syllabus. A full unit on the universal teachings of Guru Nanak Dev ji is also included. The value system propagated by Guru Nanak Dev ji helps students be intellectually vigilant, emotionally stable, ethically sound, socially committed, culturally enhanced and spiritually oriented.