

INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

7.1.1 - Measures initiated by the Institution for the promotion of gender equity during the year

Arya Kanya Degree College was established in the International Women's Year and very seriously engages matters regarding gender sensitization and equity. College has implemented values naturally in curricular and co-curricular activities. We inculcate ideas about freedom, social justice in the widest sense and enable girls to understand how to get rid of social injustices.

We encourage our NSS and NCC volunteers to visit the slum area. Educate women to understand their basic needs and to prepare them to solve their problems.

Safety and Security

- We have high boundary walls and all entry and exit points are monitored by CCTV cameras. Arm guards are posted at the entry gate to ensure the security.
- Anti-ragging rules are strictly implemented. At the time of admission, students are required to fill the anti-ragging form.
- The college has made arrangement of first aid and medical attention for girls who fall sick on campus, serious health and hygiene issues are addressed by medical experts' time to time.
- Our institution is dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive atmosphere for our female students. With over ninety percent of our staff being female, we ensure that our students have relatable role models and mentors who understand their needs and experiences. This strong representation not only contributes to a friendly environment but also enhances the overall sense of security and belonging for our girls, empowering them to thrive academically and personally.
- International Girls Child Day is observed every year on 24th January.
- Sanitary napkins wending machine installed in the college campus.
- The college has organized an Indra Jaiswal essay writing competition, titled "Nari Shakti ke Unnayan mein Arya Samaj ki Bhoomika" on 30.01.2024 to develop critical thinking and develop creative writing skills in them.

Counselling

Career counselling programs are organized by college. Invited professionals and experts address our students our students regarding different career options to make them self-dependent and self-reliant.

Common Room

Common room for relaxation and study for students. There is a canteen inside the campus.

Outdoor Gym

College has an outdoor gym for the students to exercise for the physical and mental well-being of the students.

7.1.2 - The institution is committed to sustainability through various facilities for alternative energy sources and energy conservation measures. The use of bulbs, along with power-efficient equipment, further exemplifies its dedication to reducing energy consumption and promoting eco-friendly practices.

7.1.3 - The institution employs a comprehensive waste management system to address various types of waste effectively. For solid waste management, a garbage disposal van collects waste, which is sorted into green and blue dustbins on campus. In terms of liquid waste management, the institution currently lacks recycling facilities, so liquid waste is directed into the main drain and treated at the town's sewage treatment plant. Biomedical waste is carefully segregated and disposed of through authorized channels to minimize environmental impact. E-waste, containing hazardous materials, is managed by partnering with certified e-waste recyclers for safe disposal and recycling. Additionally, the institution has implemented a recycling system where AC refuse water is reused for irrigation, promoting water conservation. For hazardous chemicals, strict disposal protocols are followed to ensure compliance with safety regulations, although specific facilities for radioactive waste are not detailed. This holistic approach underscores the institution's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental responsibility.

7.1.4 - Water conservation facility

The institution has implemented several water conservation facilities to promote sustainable water management. Rainwater harvesting systems are in place to capture and utilize precipitation, while bore well and open well recharge practices enhance groundwater levels. Additionally, the construction of tanks and bunds helps to store water effectively. Wastewater recycling is actively pursued, allowing for the reuse of water within the campus. The maintenance of water bodies and the distribution system is prioritized to ensure efficient water flow and availability. To further raise awareness about water conservation, the institution organized a debate activity and a cleaning initiative for water bodies on August 21, 2023. These efforts reflect the institution's commitment to environmental sustainability and responsible water usage.

7.1.6.1 - The institution demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability and energy efficiency through several key initiatives. These include conducting comprehensive green-energy, and environmental awareness programs, which help assess and enhance the campus's ecological footprint. Additionally, the institution engages in environmental promotional activities beyond the campus, fostering a culture of sustainability in the community. One notable event is the celebration of World Environment Day on June 5, every year which serves as a platform for raising awareness and encouraging participation in environmental initiatives. Along with that, tree plantation drives and rallies are conducted. With NSS, 'ek ped maa ke naam' event takes place to foster the environmental concerns. Together, these actions underscore the institution's dedication to creating a sustainable and environmentally responsible learning environment.

7.1.8. The institution is dedicated to fostering an inclusive environment that embraces cultural, regional, linguistic, communal, and socioeconomic diversities. Governed by the Arya Samaj society, it upholds the principle of equality and rejects discrimination based on caste, community, or religion. Communal harmony and tolerance are core values that shape the college's initiatives, promoting multicultural activities throughout the year. The college

hosts events such as National Unity Day, Children’s Day, and various competitions—like poster-making, slogan contests, and poetry recitations—facilitated by NSS and NCC members. Additionally, spiritual activities such as Havans and Rishi Langars invite participation from all communities, nurturing a sense of togetherness and spirituality. Celebrating World Heritage Day further enhances awareness and appreciation of India's rich cultural legacy. Through these efforts, the institution cultivates an atmosphere of respect and unity, ensuring that all students feel valued and included.

7.1.9 Constitutional Obligations

The Constitution is the backbone of every democratic and secular fabric of a nation. College organizes various activities to inculcate constitutional values among students. The National Voters’ Day is celebrated on 25th January every year with great enthusiasm and spirit. An oath is administered to the students as well as faculty members and they are made aware of their rights and duties. The college is committed to instilling constitutional values among students, recognizing the Constitution as the foundation of democracy and secularism.

- One of the key activities is the celebration of National Voters’ Day on January 25th, where students take an oath and learn about their rights and responsibilities.
- On August 7, 2023, a National Seminar sponsored by ICHR, titled “Panch Pran: Shashakt Bharat ki Oar ek Sakaratmak Peהל,” was organized to emphasize citizens' duties and responsibilities. The institution also observed Constitutional Day, fostering awareness of constitutional rights.
- On July 26, 2023, the college held a one-day seminar to commemorate Kargil Diwas, honoring martyrs with a documentary screening.
- Additionally, a Sadak Suraksha Pakhwara was organized on July 31, 2023, featuring DCP Shri Abhinav Tyagi as the chief guest, who educated students on traffic safety measures.
- Furthermore, a two-day Child Rights Training program was conducted on February 6, 2024, sponsored by the National Human Rights Commission, emphasizing the protection of child rights.
- On January 30, 2024, the Smt. Indira Jaiswal Intercollegiate Essay Competition on the topic “**Nari Shakti ke Unnayan mein Arya Samaj ki Bhoomika**” drew around 300 participants, celebrating women’s empowerment and awarding winners with certificates and cash prizes. These initiatives collectively reflect the college’s dedication to promoting constitutional obligations and social responsibility.

7.1.10 The institution is dedicated to upholding a robust Code of Conduct that applies to students, teachers, administrators, and all staff members. This code serves as a foundational framework for promoting ethical behaviour, respect, and integrity within the academic community. The Code of Conduct is prominently displayed on the institution’s website, ensuring accessibility and transparency for all stakeholders.

To reinforce adherence to these standards, the institution has established a dedicated committee responsible for monitoring compliance with the Code of Conduct. This committee plays a crucial role in promoting awareness and addressing any concerns related to ethical practices.

Furthermore, the institution organizes regular professional ethics programs tailored for students, faculty, and staff, fostering a culture of accountability and ethical decision-making. Annual awareness programs are also conducted to refresh and educate the community about the Code of Conduct, its importance, and its application in daily interactions.

Through these initiatives, the institution strives to create an environment that emphasizes ethical behaviour, mutual respect, and professionalism, ultimately contributing to a positive and harmonious academic atmosphere.

7.1.11 The institution actively celebrates national and international commemorative days, events, and festivals to honour the sacrifices of martyrs and promote awareness of freedom. Independence Day and Republic Day are marked each year with great enthusiasm and vigor, reflecting the patriotic spirit of the college community.

The Jayanti of Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri is observed on October 2nd, emphasizing their contributions to the nation. On National Unity Day, a rally titled "Run for Unity" is organized to foster solidarity among students. National Youth Day, celebrated on January 12th in honor of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, features NSS volunteers presenting a video on "Swami Vivekananda ke Vicharo ko Aatmasar Karta Badalta Bharat," highlighting his inspirational ideas.

Other significant observances include Teachers' Day, Kargil Diwas—where students watch a patriotic movie and hear from a Lieutenant—and the commemoration of Vibhajana Vibheeshika Diwas to remember the agonising past of India's partition. Through these activities, the college cultivates a strong sense of national pride, unity, and respect for the country's history among its students.

7.2 Best Practice

1. Yajna
2. Computer Awareness Program

Best Practice-1 Yajna

The four great Vedas are considered as the most sacred scriptures of the Hindu religion. Undoubtedly, they are the oldest sources of knowledge and wisdom. During the Havan and Yajna the sacred hymns are chanted with great magnificence. Healing and spiritual well-being is ensured by chanting of hymns. These chants produce spiritual significance. The whole atmosphere becomes vibrant and has a therapeutic experience. The smoke produced during the ritual is believed to cleans the atmosphere, and the mantras chanted contribute to mental clarity. Our college incorporates the practice of Yajna at the beginning and end of each session, engaging both students and faculty in this meaningful ritual. This practice is a core part of our routine, promoting the vision of 'Har Ghar Yajna, Ghar Ghar Yajna.' Yajna not only fosters positivity and resilience among students but also helps them navigate challenging times, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students learn to perform Yajna here and are encouraged to continue this practice at home, integrating it into their various samskaaras. This holistic approach not only enriches their spiritual well-being but also strengthens the sense of community within our college

Objective:

- To purify the environment and soul.
- It acts as a powerful purifying agent both physically and metaphysically.
- To sensitize citizens and to understand the significance of ancient knowledge stored in Vedas.
- To spread precious knowledge stored in the Vedas.
- To simplify the rituals of Havan and connect people irrespective of caste, creed, and religion.
- To bring ecological balance through performing Havan and Yajna.

Outcome:

Arya Kanya Degree College is based on the altruistic principles of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. The college imparts the philosophy of Veda and contributes significantly to raising consciousness among students and citizens in ancient knowledge of Veda by organizing Havan and Yajnas at regular intervals in collaboration with Arya Samaj Chauk, Prayagraj. Every session of the college begins with Havan and ends with Havan. Havan is performed on the Foundation Day of the College and reminds the values and ethics of Arya Samaj to establish a humanitarian society. The college has stated a unique tradition of one-week Ved Prachar Saptah. We are living in a modern society where natural living is replaced by technical tools. Impacts of social media, pollution anxiety, and depression are increasing day by day and hampering human health and productivity. We need to adopt a healthy lifestyle and for this purpose, Havan and Yajna will certainly play an important role in reviving the ancient knowledge of the Veda into action. The College is imparting knowledge to female students and encouraging them to learn the rituals of Havan and adopt it as a Profession.

In addition to our regular sessions, we organize daily Yajna during the Kumbh Mela, complemented by the Vaidik Dharma Prachar Shivir. This event features a series of enlightening lectures by esteemed saints, offering deep insights into our traditions and values. By participating in these rituals and discussions, students not only enhance their understanding of Vaidik principles but also actively contribute to the preservation and promotion of our cultural heritage.

Havan organized under Ved Prachar Saptah throughout the academic session 2023-24:

- On 19/09/2023, A Havan was organized on the Foundation Day of the Arya Kanya Degree College was celebrated with enthusiasm.
- On 03/05/2024 Havan Programme was organized to celebrate the Vishva Yajna Diwas for human welfare and the peaceful election of Loksabha.
- Havan was performed in the college on 23/05/2024.

Computer Awareness Program

Our institution has been conducting a Computer Awareness Program for many years, reflecting our commitment to enhancing digital literacy. Initially, this initiative was supported by the University, followed by collaboration with various NGOs. Today, we are proud to say that our institution has developed the capacity to conduct this program independently. This evolution not only showcases our dedication to empowering students with essential technology skills but also demonstrates our ability to sustain and grow impactful educational initiatives.

Objective of the Practice: The purpose of implementing this practice was to help our students, particularly those from underprivileged backgrounds and affected by the digital divide, whether they are from the Arts, Commerce, or Science streams. The aim is to make them computer literate, enabling them to bridge this gap and utilize digital tools for learning during their time with us and beyond, even after graduation.

The Context: In today's knowledge-driven ecosystem, computer literacy is essential for accessing digital resources. Recognizing this, we see computer literacy as a crucial academic milestone that prepares our students to thrive in the digital world.

The Practice: Although the importance of computer literacy has been acknowledged, many higher education institutions have been slow to respond, leaving the responsibility to private providers who charge high fees, often unaffordable for most of our students. The challenge was to improve the quality of our educational programs by providing computer literacy while ensuring equity and access. What makes our approach unique is that we adopted this program as a compulsory requirement at the degree level, being the first college in the region to do so.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Implementing this program as a compulsory component of the curriculum posed significant challenges due to 25 of senior students involved. One major issue was managing costs, as the program required substantial capital investment, making it difficult to keep fees affordable. Another challenge was designing a curriculum that provided students with just enough foundational knowledge of relevant technology within a limited time frame, while encouraging them to explore and deepen their understanding independently.

Like many institutions, we have encountered challenges, particularly related to space and funding. However, through dedication and hard work, we have successfully navigated these obstacles. Our commitment to our students and programs has driven us to find innovative solutions and make the most of our resources, ensuring that we continue to provide quality education and support.

Success of the Practice:

- **Increased Employability:** A significant rise in the number of students securing jobs that require basic computer literacy, especially in fields like administration, finance, and IT-related roles, can demonstrate the success of the program. Employers may also report a higher preference for graduates with these skills.
- **Enhanced Academic Performance:** Improved academic results, particularly in courses or projects that involve digital tools, indicating that students are applying their computer skills effectively in their studies.
- **Higher Graduation Rates:** An increase in graduation rates could reflect the positive impact of computer literacy on students' overall academic success and engagement.
- **Student Feedback and Satisfaction:** Positive feedback from students regarding their ability to use digital tools for learning, research, and assignments can serve as a qualitative measure of the program's success.

- **Recognition and Collaboration:** Other institutions or organizations in the region adopting similar practices, or seeking collaboration with the college, would indicate that the initiative has set a valuable precedent.
- **Entrepreneurial Initiatives:** Some students may even start small businesses or freelance work using their newfound digital skills, further showcasing the practical impact of the program.
- **Alumni Success:** Tracking the career progress of graduates who benefited from the program, especially those who attribute part of their success to the computer literacy skills they gained.
- **Increased Digital Engagement:** More students participating in online courses, internships, and certifications, reflecting their confidence in using digital platforms for learning and career development.
- **Positive Employer Feedback:** Employers acknowledging the preparedness and competence of graduates in handling tasks that require digital proficiency can be a strong indicator of success.

7.3.1 Institutional Distinctiveness

Our institution proudly embodies the ideals of Dayanand Saraswati, emphasizing the importance of moral, human, and spiritual values in a society that often overlooks these essentials. Governed by the Arya Samaj, we are dedicated to nurturing harmony and love among students from diverse linguistic, cultural, religious, and social backgrounds.

We place a strong emphasis on promoting girls' education, particularly for those from underprivileged backgrounds. Through various scholarships and encouragement, we empower these students to stand confidently in society, regardless of their initial circumstances. Our institution has awarded scholarships to **290 students**, encompassing both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, who are in need of financial assistance. This initiative demonstrates our dedication to promoting the aims and goals of Dayanand Saraswati.

Initiatives like the publication of our magazine, Arya Garima, further reflect our commitment to Swami Dayanand's ideologies. Through these efforts, we strive to foster a sense of unity and purpose among our students, ensuring that our dedication to moral and spiritual upliftment remains a hallmark of our institution's identity and mission.

7.3.2. Plan of Action for the next Academic session 2024-2025

Teaching – Learning

- Quality enhancement in teaching-learning through ICT.
- Teaching through smart classrooms.
- Use of e-journals/e-books.
- Wi-fi Campus.
- Computer education for students.
- Practical learning through visit to historical places.
- Environmental awareness program.
- Faculty Development Programs.

- Inter disciplinary/subject specific special lectures to be organized.
- Remedial teaching for slow learners.
- Special coaching for competitive examinations.

Research Activities

- To organize seminars/workshop/special lectures.
- Indira Jaiswal Essay Competition for students.
- Two days Training Programme on Human Rights sponsored by NHRC.

Publication

- College Magazine (Annual)
- News Letter (Annual)
- College Journal

Language Progression

- Sanskrit Sambhaashan Shivir.
- English speaking course.
- Rajbhasha Pakhwada.

Extension Activities

- Community Awareness Programmes through NSS, NCC and Departments.
- Environmental Awareness Programmes and activities.
- Value Education through Yoga.
- Study Tourism and visits to historical/geographical places.

Other Activities

- Newly admitted students' induction programme.
- Cultural activities.
- Sports and other curriculum activities.
- Special lecture on Female Health issues, Environment, Disaster Management, Personality Development, Constitution Day, Voter Awareness, Code of Conduct.

Infrastructural Development

- Solar Panels to be installed.
- Water Harvesting System to be developed.
- To make office fully automated for efficient functioning.