

Institutional Distinctiveness

Institute Vision:

Ever since its inception, St. John's College has been on the path of its vision "Leading the inmates of this Institution from the darkness of ignorance into the light of knowledge and wisdom with a definitive focus on steady academic achievements."

Educational Mission:

St. John's College was founded by the Christian missionaries (First by CMS and SPG, and then by TDTA and CSI), with the mission of delivering people from ignorance, chains of superstitious beliefs and showing them the right path to live on by imparting quality higher education to the local community of the Tirunelveli District. With its 140 years of untiring, incredible and invincible service in a place where many are living as bonded citizens to innumerable kinds of discrimination and discrepancies, it is determined to free them intellectually and spiritually with the vision of "Lighten to be Lightened."

To add cherry to the cake as a Christian Minority Institution, SJC primarily serves the socially and economically downtrodden.

Academic activity, Extension activity and Student Development:

St. John's College in its yeoman service has produced educationists, scientists, Statesmen, Politicians, Administrators and Entrepreneurs who serve around the world leading the people from darkness unto the light. At least half a thousand of graduates, who may be otherwise called sons of the soil, now serve the nation as teachers in reputed and esteemed institutions in Odisha, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and the other Union Territories in our nations. The zeal and passion acquired from St. John's College have energized umpteen number of first generation students to bear the torch of commitment, conviction, and confirmation of the purpose of their life.

Leadership Development and Social Commitment:

The Institution has an operational juxtaposition in teaching and imparting social values. Our students have an unconquerable spirit of social commitment. The invincible record that the college has in the form of having sent reputed statesmen, leaders, social workers, spiritual and moral heroes across the continents is immeasurable. A few of our former students are leaders in various Christian organizations and social development organizations. To mention a few, one of the greatest Evangelists of all time the Late Dr. DGS Dhinakaran - the Founder of Karunya University, the Late Mr. Sam Jebadurai, Writer and Evangelist, Er. Stanley, Founder, BYM are our distinguished Alumni.

The college has had a few great scholars on the role of teaching community. To mention a few, H. A. Krishnapillai, the literary giant who translated "The Pilgrims Progress" authored by John Bunyan. H. A. Krishnapillai's joint venture in translating the Holy Bible with the Rev. Bower into Tamil is unparalleled. Prof. Thangasamy, Former Principal, is a great Philosopher whose theories and explanatory notes are still prescribed in Western Universities for their content. Dr. A. Valanarasu, a renowned contemporary Tamil scholar and teacher is also from The Department of Tamil.

The institution has also produced various national leaders viz., Mr. Thambi Durai, Minister of the Parliament, Mr. Dhanaskodi Athithan, Ex. Member of the Parliament, Mrs. Vijila Sathyananth, Member of the Parliament, Mr. Muthukarupan, Ex- MLA, Mr. P. H. Pandian, Ex-Speaker, Member of the Parliament, etc., Notable academicians such as Dr. Murugan, Scientist D, Botanical Survey of India, MoEF, New Delhi, Dr. Saathik (Retd), Formerly Director, Madras Institute of Technology, Chennai, Dr. Subramanian, Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Chennai, Dr. Natarajan, Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Chennai, Dr. Rajkumar, Founder, Group of St. John's School, Chennai and Publisher, Thinasudar (Daily Magazine) and successful bureaucrats such as Mr. Rama Krishnan IAS and Radha Krishnan IPS and many more. They add laurel to the fame of St. John's College, and their academic standard.

There are a handful of social workers and counsellors working in many parts of India, making sustainable lifestyle of the people groups.

The academic spark that our alumni have left in the minds of the people of our nation can never be blotted out from History as long as men can breathe, eyes can see, so long as the torch bearers of St. John's College live and give moral, spiritual, intellectual and ethical values to the generations seen and unseen.

Institutional Excellence and Social concern:

The students of St. John's have been scattered to far flung areas of the Indian sub-continent and have reached uncivilized places with civilization and modern facilities. Many impart education to the tribal teachers and most are social and community development workers and some are counsellors in the unreached interior tribal groups.

Conclusion

The greatest singularity of SJC's Alumni is that many of them are embarked on the mission of civilizing the world by reaching out to the unexplored territories. The remotest parts of India will have our Alumni toiling as a teacher or a social worker, spreading the light and enabling them to step out of the various kind of darkness they might be seeped in. This is one trait that is extremely unique to the alumni of SJC. And the beauty of this whole thing is that alumni such as the ones mentioned continue to step out of our renowned college's threshold every single year. And that is an achievement.

This institution has been a boon for the local community people and has been a milestone in the development of the students for a period of 140 years. Our alumni are working as moral instructors, counsellors and social workers at various parts of the country carrying the same spirit of enlightenment towards serving the unreached public. They also take part in the cultural and societal development of various ethnic groups that are under-civilized.