

Institutional Distinctiveness

Addressing the Local Needs through Different Means

Leola city is situated in the farthest corner of the Nasik District. It has been a dry area and affected by drought since long. There is less scope to the farming and since the place is remote there is less possibility of the industrialization and linkages with the industry. Fortunately the place is known for the product of Paithani which is now globally recognized as Yeola Paithani. Since this is the only industry the students seeking admission to the higher education come from the weaver's community. So the basic challenge to the institute is the students coming from economically backward sector. The institute empowers these students to pursue higher education by giving concession in fees and facility to pay the fees in installments. After that every effort are taken by the institute to avail other facilities like Poor Boys Funds, Scholarship scheme, Earn and learn scheme. Thus the local needs of the students have been addressed promptly.

Yet it has been observed that most of the students get absorbed in the Paithani industry on daily wages as it can give them instant money. This has affected their studies negatively and hindered their progression to the higher education. Moreover, they cannot progress in their also work and remain Paithani weaver for the whole life due to the lack of capital. There are a few examples of the weavers becoming entrepreneur in the local industry. Identifying this local need the institute has started the Advanced Diploma Course in Yeola Paithani. This course is run under UGC - NSQF. The special feature of the course is that it gives appropriate training of weaving Paithani to the students and introduces them to the new trends in the Yeola Paithni. The course involves a lot of academic flexibility and the student can get the certificate at the completion of every level. Since this certificate is on behalf of NSQF it is valid all over India and student can apply for the loan on the basis of this certificate. Thus the institute tries to give not only proper training in Paithani making but also equips students with the capital.

Similar provision has been done by the institute for the Commerce stream students. The institute runs a Post Graduate Course in Commerce. But the students with the Master Degree in Commerce are seen weaving and doing the work far removed from what they have learnt in the syllabus. To avail proper job opportunity to these students the institute has designed a certificate course in Auditing and Taxation. The course is going to equip students for the basic skills needed in offices and banks and thus promise them white colored job. The Sport department of the

college also identifies the talents of the students and grooms them accordingly. There have been number of students playing on the university and the national levels which again open bright prospects to these students for better jobs. In coming future the institution has many such schemes that would address the local needs