

SRI RAMAKRISHNA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
Autonomous (Formerly S.N.R. Sons College)
Coimbatore-641006

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Innovative Practices in Curriculum

Sri Ramakrishna College of Arts and Science (SRCAS) (Formerly S.N.R. Sons College) is a prestigious institution in the region recognized for introducing innovations in its curriculum. It is one among the few institutions of Bharathiar University which became autonomous in the year 2004. Since then, the autonomous status is well utilized in an exploratory way to introduce innovations in curriculum. Right from the introduction of Electronics and Catering Science & Hotel Management in 1987 as undergraduate programmes in Arts and Science stream to the introduction of study abroad programmes in 2017, SRCAS stands apart from the other arts and science colleges.

The college designs the curriculum to educate the youth to meet the global challenges. It enables them to excel in the field of their choice through standard curriculum, enriched training and research. Developing the skill sets and personality are the primary areas focused to help the students to explore experiment and excel in the field globally.

The lacuna between the curriculum and developing one's personality and communication skills is difficult to be filled in by the educational institutions. SRCAS has overcome this difficulty by its innovative approach towards curriculum. The curriculum of SRCAS gives equal importance to subject knowledge and personality development and communication skills. SRCAS has a mandatory course PACE – Personality, Aptitude and Career Enhancement in the curriculum to hone employability skills and develop personality. All the students are trained by Center for Training, Internship, and Placement (TIP Centre) to identify their self, strength, weakness, opportunity and challenge,

and set goals and move towards the goal with strategic planning. PACE course is offered from the first to the fifth semester through the academic agencies or training centers identified by the TIP Centre, with which the college has signed MoUs. The syllabi of PACE course are framed jointly by the TIP Centre and the departments. Online examination, presentations and oral examination are part of the evaluation process. Minimum pass percentage for this course is 60. Postgraduate students are offered a similar course MACE – Masters Ability and Career Enhancement to hone the employability skills.

The present generation learners are keen on having a clear idea about the outcomes of their learning experience. Outcome Based Education (OBE) system clearly states what is to be gained at the end of the study period and in 2017 the college opted for OBE. The successful implementation of OBE has resulted in clarity in the learners' expectation and understanding, flexibility in instructional methodologies, rubrics to analyze students' learning ability, and participatory learning. Adoption of Bloom's taxonomy for evaluation provides common framework to the teachers and promotes higher order thinking among the learners. The college follows Choice Based Credit System in which students have freedom to select the courses and the teacher of their choice.

Educational ICT tools like Hot Potato, Plickers, Socrative and Quizzes are used in the classroom to conduct subject based activities to encourage students' participatory learning. These kind of tools assist the teacher to convert the classroom into student-centric, hold the attention and interest of the students throughout the period, and to evaluate of students' comprehensive level immediately. The students of SRCAS are connected to their teachers even after the working hours in the virtual classroom. Google Classroom is efficiently utilized to share learning resources, conduct activities, submit assignments and audio or video seminars. All the students and teachers undergo a minimum of one online course in a year through the portals like NPTEL, Swayam, and Spoken Tutorial.

The college focuses on honing the technical skills along with the transfer of subject knowledge. Five Job Oriented extra credit courses, with one credit each, are offered to the students during the period of study, in the specialized areas. Experts from the industry or corporate sector train the students and provide a certificate for these courses. The right way of acquiring language proficiency is through honing the four skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. SRCAS, by signing an MoU with The Hindu, offers a 70 hour course STEP – Standardized Test of English Proficiency to improve communication skills.

The autonomous status of the college gives freedom in introducing new courses in line with recent trends and modifying the existing syllabi to suit the industry needs. Industry integrated courses have been introduced through MoUs with corporate and academic bodies like TCS, Infosys, IBM, Google, UTL Technologies, Cloud Reign Technologies, Ui Path, Tally, Texas Instruments, NEN, IIM-B, ACCA, ISDC and IoA. The college has adopted track system to accommodate the different needs of the students. Study Abroad Programme is the recent innovative approach in which students undergo a part of the course in a foreign university.

The curriculum provides space for students to follow their passion like singing, dancing, drawing and photography by adding a credit under part V as Special Interest Study (SIS). Oral examinations, different pass percentage, online examinations and open book examinations are the innovative practices of the evaluation system. Credit transfer facility is available for the courses completed through online education portals.

Research Colloquium is conducted yearly once to streamline the process of research. Research Committee Coordinator, Dean, Research Supervisor and the subject experts review the progress of the research and offer suggestions.

Faculty Record Book of SRCAS is also innovatively designed. Along with usual features, it carries space for a list of learning resources and topic beyond syllabus, teaching methodologies and aids to be adopted, and seminar and activities scheduled for the particular course. The Management Information System in addition to data maintenance provides facility to share learning resources, conduct online tests and analyze academic performance of the students.

Students' Feedback, internal and external Academic Audits and Pedagogical Audits are the parameters adopted by the college to evaluate the implementation of the innovative practices in the curriculum. These parameters assess the extent to which the students have been benefitted through the innovative practices.
