

## **7.3 – Institutional Distinctiveness: Weekly Prayer**

### **1. Introduction**

The College ensures that the Vision and Mission of the Institution is periodically revised in order to make it in tune with the needs of the changing times which are reflected in the higher education policies of the nation.

**The Vision:** The Vision statement of the College is ‘Duritache Timir Jawo’ which means: ‘May the darkness of ignorance, corruption and wickedness be eradicated from the society’. The term ‘Timir’ implies the undesirable forces such as vices and evils. The College can play a vital role in eradicating this ‘Timir’ from the community in general and the students in particular.

**The Mission:** The second statement of the mission of the College is ‘To inculcate introspective, scientific and democratic attitude among the student through value education and social as well as environmental awareness’. Accordingly, thrust is laid on molding the students into good human beings. All efforts are made to enlighten them with all such desirable qualities which are significant from a nation’s point of view.

### **2. The Title: *The Weekly Prayer***

All religions involve prayers. God is invoked by a person for mental, social, moral or material prosperity. This is true of every religion and every individual. But a higher education institution is a social organization, so its working should be secular in nature and spirit. The Indian Constitution advocates secularism, i.e. equality of religions. A general prayer, not pertaining to any particular religion, therefore, can serve the purpose in every higher education institution.

### **3. The Objectives of *The Weekly Prayer***

- i) To inculcate a desirable value system among the students
- ii) To facilitate quick and timely felicitation of the winner stack holders before a common congregation in order to encourage the winners to improve and progress and to promote the rest to become winners.
- iii) To provide a regular and periodic occasion platform for giving common instructions.
- iv) To promote the use of Music (Harmonium and Tabala) and to encourage the artists (singers and instrument players) by giving them regular and periodic opportunities.

### **4. The Context**

Due to some inevitable reasons sometimes the College can’t organize the Prize Distribution ceremony. At such a time the successful students or other stack holder can’t be duly felicitated for their achievements. On such occasions the weekly prayer comes to the rescue. Every week on Monday all inmates of the College including students, faculty, administrative staff and other support staff along with the Principal gather together on the three sides of the big central **B**anyan Tree in the College premises in order to offer the prayer. The successful sports students, winners in various competitions and the Faculty members achieving some tasks or wining some Awards or doing some Research are appropriately felicitated on this occasion. The purpose of this felicitation is not only to congratulate the winners but to motivate and encourage the rest to do the same. In addition, this common platform is also used to pay homage to the renowned personalities on their death.

## 5. Value Education

‘Inculcating a Value System among students’ is one of the core values of the Institution. The College consistently tries to impart Skill -Education through add -on courses (AOCs) and value -added courses (VACs) this skill development is crucial for the students in the job market. Skills, however, are of less value in the absence of appropriate value system. Therefore the College shoulders this responsibility of inculcating desirable value systems among the students. In our Country there is cultural plurality and diversity. It is necessary to integrate this variety into a homogenous society. Also it is essential that students absorb and imbibe appropriate values in accordance with our social, economic, cultural and environmental realities.

The values such as co-operation and mutual understanding, equality, justice, secularism, scientific approach, equal opportunity, fraternity and dignity of labor are reiterated and emphasized in our National Policy Documents like the Constitution of India and Education Commissions. Therefore, in a Higher Education Institution these values need to be focused through appropriate learning experiences throughout the academic year.

## 6. The Distinctiveness of *The Weekly Prayer*:

### 6.A) The Text of the Prayer

The College has adopted the lyric ‘*Itani Shakti Hamein Dena Daata*’ written by Abhilash for the film ‘Anuksh’ as the Weekly Prayer. The text of the Prayer consists of all secular words. Hence the Prayer is applicable to all Religions. The term ‘*Daata*’ represents the concept of ‘God’ present in every religion with different names. There are two stanzas in the Prayer along with a refrain.

#### 1) The Refrain

*Itani shakti hamein dena daata  
Man ka vishavas kamzor ho na,  
Hum chalen nek raste pe hamse  
Bhoolkar bhi koi bhool ho na.*

The refrain of the Prayer says “Give us so much strength, O Lord, the Giver that the faith in our hearts never wavers. May we walk the path of goodness and we don’t commit any mistake even by accident.”

#### 2) The First Stanza

*Door agyaanke ho andhere  
Tu hamein gyaan ki roshni de,  
Har buraai se bachte rahein hum  
jitni bhi den bhali jindgi de,  
bair ho na kisi ka kisise  
Bhaawana man mein badale ki ho na.*

The first line of the first stanza ‘*Door agyaanke ho andhere*’ - is analogous with the **Vision** of the Institution- ‘*Duritache TimirJawo*’ which means ‘May the darkness of ignorance, corruption and wickedness be eradicated from the society’.

The second line ‘*Tu hamein gyaan ki roshni de*’ means ‘give us the light of knowledge’. The third and fourth lines of Prayer mean *let us be far from all bad things. Whatsoever life you give us, it be good.* The stanza ends with the thought that *there should be no enmity with anybody and no vengeance for anyone.*

### 3) The Second Stanza

*Hum na sochein hamen kya mila hai*

*Hum yeh sochen kiya kya hai arpan*

*Phool khushiyon ke baatein sabhi ko*

*Sabka jeevan hi ban jaaye madhuban*

*Apni karuna ka jal tu baha ke*

*Kar de paavan har ik man ka kona*

This Stanza means to say that *may we never think what we have got, but what is it that we have contributed to the society. Let us give flowers of happiness to all, and everyone’s lives become a garden of sweetness. You flow the water of compassion and make every corner of the heart pious.*

The second stanza, thus, upholds ‘*the attitude of selfless-service*’. It is not ‘what we get’ but ‘what we contribute’ that matters much for us. Here a sense of ‘benevolence’ is highlighted. By giving ‘flowers of happiness’ we make everyone’s life ‘a garden of sweetness’. Finally, the prayer says ‘by the water of compassion we can make every corner of the heart pious.

### 6. B) The Human Values in *The Weekly Prayer*

Looking closely at the text of the prayer one may find that it is a reservoir of human values as mentioned below.

#### i) Righteousness and Compassion

The prayer underlines ‘faith in God and goodness’, ‘life without mistakes i.e. righteousness’, ‘light of knowledge’, ‘goodness with no ill will nor vengeance’, ‘contribution to the society’, ‘sharing happiness and sweetness’, ‘compassion’ and ‘piusness’. All these values are reiterated periodically, that is, weekly in order to engrave them on the students’ heart.

#### ii) Secularism

The text of the prayer, even though it is religious in nature, does not employ any word associated with any particular religion. Words, for instance, God, Bhagwan, Malik or Allah which stand for the ‘Almighty’ are implicit and not explicit. This imparts a secular nature to the Prayer even though it is in keeping with the Indian tradition.

#### iii) Significance of the Prayer

Only one sided bookish or curricular development of the students doesn’t make them good human beings. Hence, along with the core curricular program the College endeavors to train them in some skills that would mould them on par with the global demands. In addition, the moral and spirituals upbringing of the students has been a matter of priority and thrust area for the College in the present context.

## 7. Short Speeches on Values

In order to give an additional thrust to value education, the IQAC initiated a supplementary practice of short speeches on various values given by the faculty members at the time of the Weekly Prayer. On every Monday, following the Prayer, a speech by some faculty member on some universal human value is arranged. Different values are allotted to different teachers. In a very short time of five to ten minutes the teachers explain and discuss the given value before the heterogeneous congregation. Important values such as Righteousness, Gender equality, Dignity of labor, Cleanliness, Equality and fraternity and the like are discussed.

## 8. A Platform for General Instructions

A large number of students are present for the Weekly Prayer. Therefore, taking this opportunity some important instructions of general interest are given to the students and if necessary they are discussed at length by the concerned authority. This creates a good impact on the students. In addition, some important notices about urgent matters such as scholarship-applications, essay and elocution competition, sports tournaments etc. are given at the time of the Weekly Prayer. Also instructions about some special drive like Mahaswachhata Abhiyan and Voter-Registration Drive is given in detail. This practice has yielded good response and satisfactory impact.

## 9. Weekly Morning Prayer video link as : <https://youtu.be/-hoQXhyKYpo>

## 10. Speeches on Human Values & Professional Ethics 2019-20 by faculty members

Topic /Human Values	Speaker Name	Date	Number of participants
Importance of constitutions	Dr.Dhanaji Khatkar	9/16/2019	660
Scientific Approach	Prof.A.H.Pharane	12/23/2019	600
Scientific Approach	Prof.Rasal Usha	1/20/2020	800
Sensitivity Awareness	Prof.Sandip Wadikar	2/3/2020	800
Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Din	Dr.Nila Joshi	2/27/2020	1400