**SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUP (SEDG) POLICY**

St. Joseph’s College is committed to ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all students, with a special focus on those from Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs). The college adheres to the principles laid out in NEP 2020 and the UGC guidelines by implementing academic, financial, and socio-emotional support mechanisms to empower disadvantaged learners.

**Objectives:**

* To bridge academic gaps through bridge courses and foundational support.
* To promote inclusivity through orientation, induction, and sensitization.
* To ensure access to digital and e-learning resources.
* To enhance employability and self-sufficiency through certificate courses and earn-while-learn programs.
* To facilitate financial assistance and scholarships to eligible students.

**PRACTICES:**

**a) Academic Bridging and Support**

* **Bridge Courses:** Offered before commencement of the semester to help SEDGs students, especially first-generation learners, transition smoothly into higher education.
* **Student Induction Program:** Orientation for first-year students to acclimatize to academic and campus life.
* **E-Learning Resources and ICT Facilities:** Free access to digital platforms, SWAYAM, LMS, smart classrooms, and digital libraries.

**b) Earn-While-Learn & Certificate Courses**

* **Certificate Courses:** Tailored skill-based programs to empower students to “Earn while they Learn.”
* **Part-time Campus Work:** Opportunities like lab assistants, library assistants, data entry, and support roles.

**c) Extension and Outreach Programs**

Community outreach initiatives, science awareness for school children, literacy and technology programs, especially aimed at uplifting marginalized communities.

**d) Scholarship and Financial Support**

Scholarships offered to:

* Management Scholarships
* SC/ST, BC, Minority students
* Puthumai PENN Scheme (for girls who studied in government schools from Std. VI)
* With YoU Trust (for students from very poor backgrounds)
* IVDP Scholarships (for single-parent or economically backward students)
* Sports Quota Scholarships

Regular updates and awareness programs are given regarding scholarship deadlines and processes. Document verification and submission is supported by the college’s Scholarship and Fellowship Committee.

**e) Support Cells and Grievance Redressal**

Confidential grievance redressal mechanism with 24 hours resolution window.

**OUTCOMES**

* **Academic Empowerment:** Increased academic success and retention of first-generation learners and SEDG students through bridge courses and mentoring.
* **Financial Inclusion:** Significant number of students benefitting from various scholarships, reducing dropout rates due to financial burden.
* **Skill Development:** Certificate courses and part-time opportunities have enhanced employability and entrepreneurial thinking among students.
* **Community Impact:** Extension activities and outreach programs have raised awareness and contributed to social upliftment beyond the college.
* **Gender Equity:** Focused efforts on female students (especially through Puthumai PENN and With YoU Trust) have led to empowerment and progression to higher education.