# 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.

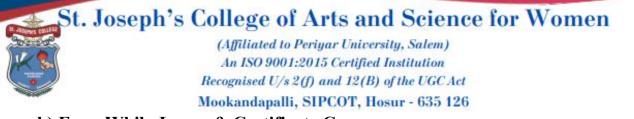
# **Objectives:**

- 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

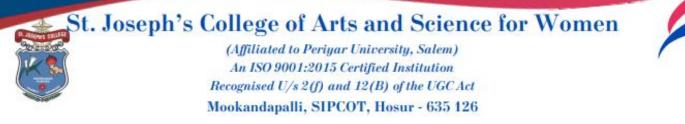
Scholarships offered to:

- 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.