

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust (within 1000 words)

Avanthi Institute of Pharmaceutical sciences was established in 2007, approved by AICTE, PCI, New Delhi and affiliated to JNTU, Hyderabad. The college is situated in a serene and beautiful campus which is conducive for imparting quality education, helpful for the growth of knowledge and career building. The College has provided excellent credentials in the field of Pharmacy Education with a clear focus on the peaceful learning environment and sophisticated infrastructure.

- To provide technical knowledge of the highest order to help a graduate meet all kinds of professional challenges in a real time situation.
- To impart the practical training for strengthening their core technical competencies and also socializing abilities.
- To implement the best and innovative practices in teaching that help develop in the students logical, critical, creative thinking and problem solving abilities, needed for innovation.
- To produce skilled pharmacy professionals with a sense of responsibility, human values, ethics, compassion, accountability and integrity by way of linkage with the local communities. The institute's targeted beneficiaries are the rural people and the management aims to nurture academically distinct pharmacy graduates by focusing broadly on their cognitive abilities, values, attitudes, creativity and emotional development.

The mission is accomplished by adopting certain practices that continue to increase with the institute's progress. The management's primary focus was on the development of robust physical infrastructure. Extensive lawns and landscape gardening was done to enhance the aesthetic appeal of the place.

This was the first step towards creating a tranquil ambience for inspiring creativity. Subsequently, spacious academic and administrative building, indoor sports room, outdoor courts for various games, canteen, amenities like common rooms, health care centre, Animal house, Medicinal garden, R & D cell, Patent Cell, Incubation Cell, Entrepreneurship cell etc were all built to create a platform for students to work and realize their potential.

The management is uncompromising in the creation of facilities. To reinforce the learning environment, the following academic facilities were created:

1. Laboratories with advanced equipment
2. Classrooms with good ventilation and that are ICT enabled.
3. An open access computerized library with sufficient content for exploration.
4. Wi-Fi and internet connectivity which is a much needed tool for the present times.
5. DELNET and National Digital Library. 6. Membership in professional bodies for external linkage.
7. MoUs with external training agencies for enhanced learning.
8. Strong Training and Placement cell.
9. Department associations to help strengthen technical skill sets.

10. Field projects and internships.

11 Student Club activities for Co-Curricular and Extra- Curricular activities

A key point of focus was pooling the human resources to help students in their progress. The management made all out efforts to pool qualified faculty, technical trainers for effective laboratory teaching and created all the facilities for them to make the teaching learning process effective. The practices that exist in the institute are:

1. Facilitating faculty with access to Wi-Fi, Internet and ICT enabled classrooms.
2. Encouraging faculty for higher education in-service.
3. Mentoring responsibility.
4. Providing access to e-resources and reference books as required.
5. Encouraging to conduct and to participate in workshops/seminars/conferences by providing financial support.
6. Encouraging publications through incentives.
7. Involving staff in participative management such as institute's academic advisory, governing body, technical fests, grievance redressal, anti- ragging committee, women protection cell and the like which take important decisions in the institute.
8. Supporting in extension activities carried out by faculty.
9. Compensating extra working hours through compensatory casual leaves and flexibility in leave sanctioning.
10. Facilitating staff in carrying out 'beyond the curriculum teaching. A number of student support systems were established in the institute to provide a value based living possible.

Some such systems are:

1. NSS and NCC units to help establish campus-community linkage and inculcate values of social responsibility and nationalistic feelings.
2. Absence of gender discrimination on campus.
3. Creation of Student Club activities centres promoting all round development.
4. Effective student mentoring system (SMP) to help in addressing personal and professional problems.
5. Encouragement for peer teaching using LCD to help realize their potential. 6. Effective implementation of student appraisal of a teacher for enhancement of quality in teaching.
7. Registered alumni association as a suggestive and motivating system to make the institute lively.
8. Availability of resources for sports & games, yoga training for physical and mental alertness
9. Effective implementation of all value added courses which bring about ethical transformation in students.
10. Presence of internal communication system of suggestion boxes on the premises.

11. Organization of national level fests to help interact with students from other institutes across India.

12. Educational and industrial tours for real time exposure.

Communication skills is an essential learning outcome that the management gives major thrust to as most of the institute's intake is students from the surrounding rural areas. The institute facilitates the development of communication skills necessary for success through an advanced lab equipped with LCD projector, English language resources, recording facility (camcorder), public address system, prescribed software and a computer assisted language lab.

Sessions like JAMs, group discussions, and oral presentations are conducted as part of the curriculum and beyond to prepare them for the future.

Seminars on English language are conducted through Popular Science Club by drawing eminent resource persons.

The T&P cell also helps in organizing English training through tie-ups with training agencies like TASK. IPA-SF and NSS student volunteers create awareness on health, hygiene and malnutrition.

Students undertake rallies, distribute pamphlets, prepare leaflets and present them on social media too. Control and prevention of diseases like malaria, dengue, usage and storage of medicines; drug interactions are some of the issues taken up to spread awareness.

World Pharmacist Day and National Pharmacy Week need a special mention, as various programmes are organized to acknowledge the contributions made by pharmacists to the health care industry. The institute effectively conducts academic review meetings periodically through the institute academic committee.

Parent-teacher meetings are organized for involving parents as important stakeholders and contributors for the qualitative improvement of the institute.