



**St. Francis**  
**College for Women**  
Begumpet, Hyderabad-500016  
(Autonomous & Affiliated to Osmania University)

## **Institutional Distinctiveness 2023-24**

### **Village Vanguard Program of SFC**

St. Francis College for Women is committed to empowering rural communities through a range of initiatives that address their unique needs and challenges. Through a multipronged or multi-faceted approach, it strives to bridge the gap between rural and urban populations, promoting inclusive growth and social development.

Our initiatives, including Swarnojwala Rural Student Adoption Scheme, Vajrojwala Village Adoption Scheme, Social Intern Projects, and collaboration with NGOs like Street Cause, aim to improve the quality of life for rural populations, with a focus on education, healthcare, and economic empowerment.

#### **Francis Alumni Association (FAA)**

The institution works with its alumni association to address the needs of the rural community. In celebration of Daan Utsav, the Francis Alumni Association (FAA) collaborated with the SFC Rangers Unit to organize a community service program. On December 11, 2023, they visited Prashanthi Nilayam, a home for senior citizens in Bijjinapally Palem, Telangana. The FAA team donated essential items, including stand fans, adult diapers, under sheets, tissue boxes, groceries, ration, and snack items, to improve the quality of life for the residents. To spread Christmas joy, the FAA champions decorated the premises and sang carols, bringing cheer to the elderly.

#### **Swarnojwala- Rural Student Adoption Scheme**

St. Francis College for Women has always considered social awareness as a priority. Therefore, numerous opportunities are given to students to participate in various social outreach programs. To further deepen its commitment, it launched the Swarnojwala scheme in 2009, a flagship initiative marking its Golden Jubilee. Under this scheme, three deserving students from rural areas each year are adopted, providing them with comprehensive support, including quality education, accommodation, clothing, and access to all facilities. This holistic approach enables them to grow

into confident, competent, and empowered women, aligning with the institution's vision. To date, 38 students have benefited from the Swarnojwala scheme, with four students currently pursuing their education at this college.

### **Vajrojwala- Village Adoption Scheme**

Building on our commitment to social outreach, SFC introduced the Vajrojwala scheme in 2019-20, marking the inaugural year of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations. This pioneering initiative engages our staff and students in the holistic development of Edulapur village in Medak district, located near the city.

Through Vajrojwala, our faculty members collaborate to address the multifaceted needs of the village community, focusing on the following key areas:

- Health and Hygiene: Improving access to healthcare and promoting sanitation practices.
- Education: Enhancing educational opportunities and outcomes for villagers.
- Employability Skills: Developing vocational skills to boost livelihood prospects.

Our faculty works in tandem with the NSS programme officers to ensure the effective implementation of these initiatives, fostering a transformative impact on the lives of Edulapur's residents.

### **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)**

St. Francis College for Women has embarked on a transformative journey, aligning with the visionary goals of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) voluntarily though it was not mandated for it to do so. Our mission is to empower rural communities through a multifaceted approach, encompassing education, environmental sustainability, health awareness, and social justice.

Our primary objectives include:

- Raising awareness of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and green practices
- Promoting health, hygiene, and balanced nutrition through community education
- Empowering women with vocational skills in sustainable practices
- Creating awareness about government welfare schemes and social issues

In November 2023, our institution voluntarily became an official participant in the UBA 2.0 program and adopted five villages in Sangareddy District within a 10 km radius. These villages include Vaddenaguda, Erdanoor, Ippalagadda, Kandi, and a differently-abled colony in Kandi Village.

A comprehensive household survey, conducted by 90 students, 12 faculty members, and two staff members, achieved a remarkable 91% coverage across 394 households. This exercise helped identify key developmental gaps and informed the creation of actionable village development plans.

In collaboration with key stakeholders, including parents, students, local leaders, NGOs, and government bodies, we implemented initiatives focused on:

- Waste segregation and management
- Tree planting and environmental conservation
- Promoting sustainable livelihoods
- Health education and awareness

Furthermore, free education was extended and hostel facilities to five deserving girls from the adopted villages under Swarnojwala, exemplifying SFC's commitment to educational equity and rural empowerment. Through our participation in UBA, St. Francis College for Women reaffirms its dedication to inclusive rural development, empowering communities, and fostering a sustainable future.

### **Social Intern Projects**

As part of their summer social internship, NSS volunteers embark on a meaningful journey to serve the community. For five days, they dedicate their time to visiting old age homes and orphanages, offering a helping hand to the staff and residents.

Through interactive sessions, the volunteers teach, entertain, and engage with the elderly and children, fostering a sense of connection and community. This project has enabled volunteers to reach out to various homes in rural areas near Vijaywada, Guntur, Nallagonda, Pochampally, and other locations, spreading joy and making a positive impact on the lives of others.

### **Street Cause Francis – Hyderabad Chapter**

St. Francis College for Women also collaborates with a student-managed NGO in Hyderabad students called Street Cause for the rural and economical upliftment. Our students hold executive positions and participate in events like movie screenings and dandiya nights to raise funds. These funds support infrastructural development projects, including constructing toilets, installing drinking water tanks, providing furniture for schools, and distributing essential items to underprivileged communities. Through Street Cause, our students develop valuable skills while making a positive impact.