



## **CRITERION 7** INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES

7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

2019-2024 Submitted to



## 7.1.1 Gender Policy

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# POLICY MANUAL



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## **PREFACE**

Welcome to the Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Arts and Applied Sciences, (RVCAS) Policy Manual

This manual is more than just a collection of rules and guidelines; it is a reflection of the values, principles, and vision that define RVCAS College. As we continue to grow and evolve as an academic institution, this document serves as a cornerstone of our commitment to excellence, equity, and community.

At RVCAS, we believe that every member of our college—students, faculty, staff, and administration—plays a vital role in shaping the vibrant, inclusive, and dynamic environment that we are proud to call our own. This policy manual is designed to provide clarity, consistency, and direction, ensuring that we all work together towards common goals and uphold the standards that distinguish RVCAS.

The policies outlined in this manual have been carefully crafted to support the academic and operational integrity of our institution. They are intended to guide our decisions and actions, promote a culture of respect and accountability, and ensure that everyone at RVCAS has the opportunity to thrive. Whether students and staff are navigating academic procedures, understanding their rights and responsibilities, or seeking guidance on college operations, this manual is here to assist them.

It is important to recognize that this manual is a living document. As we continue to adapt to new challenges and opportunities, the policies within will be reviewed and updated to remain relevant and effective. We encourage all members of our community to engage with this manual, to familiarize themselves with its contents, and to contribute to its ongoing improvement.

Together, we will continue to build an institution that not only meets but exceeds the aspirations of all who are part of the RVCAS family.



## 15) GENDER POLICY

## **INTRODUCTION**

Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Arts and Applied Sciences, inspired by the CMI vision of holistic education, is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment for all students. This commitment is reflected in our comprehensive gender policy, designed to ensure the safety, dignity, and equal opportunities for every individual, with a particular focus on addressing the unique needs and security concerns of our female students.

Our institution offers a diverse array of programmes, including BA English, BBA, BCA, BCom, and BSc Psychology. Despite having a predominantly male student population, we recognize the importance of creating a balanced and supportive environment for female students. This policy aims to uphold non-discrimination principles, promote gender sensitization, and establish robust safety and support systems to safeguard the rights and well-being of all students.

### **POLICY**

Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Arts and Applied Sciences adheres to a strict policy of non-discrimination based on gender, ensuring that all students have equal opportunities in admissions, academic programmes, extracurricular activities, and access to campus facilities. To foster a culture of respect and understanding, the college regularly conducts workshops and seminars on gender sensitization, aimed at educating both students and staff on issues related to gender equality and respectful conduct. In addition, we conduct Annual Gender Audits to assess and enhance our efforts in promoting gender equity across all aspects of college life.

#### **INITIATIVES**

COLLEGE

- A. Ensuring the safety and security of our students is paramount. The campus is equipped with surveillance cameras to monitor and safeguard all areas, particularly those frequented by female students.
- B. The women's cell, "Sakhi," plays a crucial role in monitoring and addressing issues related to female students. It serves as a dedicated platform for women to voice their concerns and seek redressal for grievances.

- C. The campus includes a designated "She Corner," an exclusive space for female students to relax and study in a safe and comfortable environment.
- D. Regular self-defense training sessions are organized to empower female students with the skills and confidence to protect themselves.
- E. Sanitary napkin dispensers are installed on campus to cater to the personal hygiene needs of female students, ensuring they have access to necessary resources.
- F. The institution maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards any violation of students' rights, particularly concerning gender-based discrimination, harassment, or violence.
- G. Clear and confidential reporting mechanisms are in place for students to report any incidents of gender-based violence or discrimination, either through the women's cell "Sakhi" or directly with the administration.
- H. Reported incidents will be promptly and thoroughly investigated, with strict disciplinary action taken against perpetrators, including suspension or expulsion depending on the severity of the offense.
- I. In line with our commitment to holistic development, Rajagiri Viswajyothi College offers a range of support services to address academic, personal, and psychological concerns, with particular attention to the unique challenges faced by female students.
- J. Mentorship programmes are established to support the personal and professional development of female students, providing guidance and encouragement to pursue their ambitions.
- K. The institution also promotes community engagement and social responsibility, encouraging students to participate in initiatives that advocate for gender equality and women's rights.
- L. To ensure the continued effectiveness and relevance of our gender policy, regular feedback will be sought from students to assess the impact of our initiatives. This policy will be reviewed annually, with updates made as necessary to address emerging issues and improve our approach to fostering

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a safe, inclusive, and equitable campus environment.

Rajagiri Viswajyothi College of Arts and Applied Sciences remains steadfast in its dedication to creating a campus culture that respects and values all genders, providing a secure and supportive environment for the holistic development of every student.



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