

**A.VEERIYA VANDAYAR MEMORIAL SRI PUSHPAM COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS), POONDI-613 503, THANJAVUR**



INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Institutional Distinctiveness

The objectives and intended outcome of the best practice is to translate the goals enshrined in the trust document of the college into reality. The stated goal of the Founding Fathers is to serve the rural and downtrodden people of this area in the fields of higher education and Technology. The underlying principle is to offer quality higher education – in a cost affordable to them – to those in the depressed classes to prepare them as responsible citizens bestowed with skills and competencies to serve Self, Society and State. At the time when the starting of a college was conceived by the great family of Vandayars, in the year 1956, India was still a formative new nation. The spread of higher education was abysmally low and the density of it was felt only in a few urban areas where people in higher rung of society were conglomerated. Secondly, the establishment of the college was carried out in a time when education – that too higher education and technical education – was mainly at the hands of the state. The state being the primary player, there was a lot of control and people interested in the cause of education were hesitant to enter into the field of education in general and higher education in particular. Thirdly at the time when the college was opened, education was primarily a selfless service sector at the hands of the state and dedicated philanthropists giving no room for business motives. The people venturing into the field of higher education have to alienate huge resources for a noble cause without any inkling of profit motive. Only rarest of the rare people came forward to offer this benevolence and the leading light of Poondi family ranks first among them to donate more than 750 acres of fertile land for the cause of education. These are the contextual features and challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing this practice of offering higher education to uplift the downtrodden. More than 60 years have elapsed since the inception of the college and the college is under the ripe administration of an adorable octogenarian Gandhian. Even now the college is firmly sailing towards achieving the stated goal of equipping the people of this educationally backward area in the fields of higher education and technology without an iota of profit motive. This is all the more remarkable at this present juncture when floodgates of education are wide open to allow educational entrepreneurs, corporate houses and business people to vitiate the educational atmosphere to make quick money. To ensure the benefits of education, the system of reservation for SC, ST and BC people is in vogue. The college has extended the promulgation of reservation rules even to the admission of self-financed section. The college takes care to secure Financial Assistance through scholarships to all eligible candidates. Even those poor students, who are ineligible for scholarships are taken care of by the assistance offered by the Managements and other Private Charities.