

THE INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS OF SOPHIA SMT. MANORAMADEVI SOMANI COLLEGE:

The Sophia Cooverji Hormusji Bhabha Programme in Ethics and Spirituality

Goal: Our courses are highly professional in nature. Hence the need was felt of having a programme that would help the students to stop and think on wider, socially relevant issues and particularly on aspects related to values and ethics. This is integral to our goal of providing a holistic, value based training to our students, besides equipping them with all the professional skills and knowledge relevant to their respective fields.

The Context: Education today is often compartmentalized and confined within the boundaries of specific disciplines and syllabi. Students can live in ivory towers, far removed from the social reality. This is all the more true in the case of highly professional courses such as those we run in our Institute. More importantly, in a developing country like ours, the need to provide ethics and values to the youth, who will be the citizens of tomorrow and who are the future of our nation, is of vital importance.

The Practice: The Sophia Cooverji Hormusji Bhabha Programme in Ethics and Spirituality is a unique programme of our institute. Cooverji Hormusji Bhabha was a good friend and benefactor of our campus. Hence this programme is named after him. The programme is funded by a Charitable Trust connected with the Bhabha family, namely the Bai Alamai and Seth Ardershir Talati & Seth Sarosh B. Mody Charity Trust which gives Rs. 2 lakhs per year towards the expenses related to this programme.

Under this programme, a Theme is chosen for each academic year for the whole institute keeping in mind the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the institute. The theme for the year is displayed in a special display board at the entrance to the institute. The following are the Annual Themes from 2009 onwards:

1.	2009-2010	“Let us Build Bridges of Reconciliation & Peace”
2.	2010-2011	“It’s the voice of hope & peace: You, me, let us nurture our biodiversity”
3.	2011-2012	“Let the radiance of our values illuminate the world around us”
4.	2012-2013	“Educating for a New Global Order”
5.	2013-2014	“The STILL POINT in a whirling Universe”
6.	2014-2015	“Educating to Wholeness”
7.	2015-2016	“Education Beyond Self”

8.	2016-2017	“Living in Harmony with self, with others and with nature”
9.	2017-2018	“Quality Education with Care and Compassion”
10.	2018-2019	“Education as a Process of Humanization”

Under this programme, the following activities are held each year:

- a) Three workshops or sessions for each class
- b) Three interdisciplinary programmes for all the students of the Institute
- c) Three competitions for students : i) An Art Work based on the theme of the year (ii) An Essay on the Theme of the Year (iii) a Book Review from a value-based book
- d) Outreach Programmes, of which two are held each year: (i) Blood donation drive during September-October; (ii) The “Christmas Outreach” in the month of December
- e) In addition, counselling facilities for individual counselling (for personal, psychological, study related or career related issues) are also offered.

Students who successfully complete the programme are given a certificate on their graduation from the Institute. An annual report of the activities conducted under the programme is sent to the sponsoring Trust.