

7.3.1. Institutional Distinctiveness -“Onward with Honour”

Pioneer College of Arts and Science is located at Jothipuram in Perianaickenpalayam town panchayat about 22kms from Coimbatore city. Though large part of the city has sprawling homes, educational institutions, towering apartments, malls and multiplexes this region still remains unaffected by the onslaught of urbanisation. The neighbouring areas are Karamadai, Velliangadu, Mettupalayam, Sirumugai, Pethikuttai, Annur, Govanur and Kavundam-palayam. The people of this area are primarily involved in agriculture and their main language is Tamil. The institutions for education available in this area are mainly Government, Government aided schools, a few private schools, a couple of colleges and one Government college has been started very recently. The people of this region are mainly involved in agriculture, mill work and weaving.

Pioneer College of Arts and Science was started in the year 1998, when there was no higher education institutions in this sector of the district. Students who wanted to pursue their higher education had to travel to the city where only meritorious students were able to get admission in Government and Government aided colleges. Others had to choose Private Colleges in the city whose fee structure was not cost-effective. The founders of this College started this educational edifice mainly with the objective of providing quality education at an affordable cost to the less privileged section of this locality. They thought empowerment can be achieved only through knowledge and wisdom. Commercialisation was not in their minds. Service with excellence was their ideal.

Pioneer College of Arts and Science intakes students on ‘first-come-first serve’ basis and every year additional free seats are requested from the University beyond the sanctioned strength to include a few more students into the academic stream so that their higher education dreams may get fulfilled. The admission details for the last five years are given in the table below:

Programme	2018-19					2017-18					2017-16				
	Sanctioned Strength	No. of students admitted				Sanctioned Strength	No. of students admitted				Sanctioned Strength	No. of students admitted			
		OC & BC	MBC	SC & ST	Total		OC & BC	MBC	SC & ST	Total		OC & BC	MBC	SC & ST	Total
B.Com	66	32	22	9	63	63	36	21	6	63	63	31	19	10	60
B.B.A	66	25	16	17	60	63	18	16	20	54	63	23	20	20	63
B.Sc.(CS)	66	21	18	21	60	126	34	30	30	94	126	43	41	31	115
B.C.A	132	34	36	29	99	126	43	35	28	106	126	55	43	25	123
B.Sc.Maths	50	10	7	5	22	50	19	10	5	34	50	16	9	7	32
B.Com (CA)	66	32	15	16	63	63									
B.Sc.(IT)	66	29	15	14	58	60									
M. Sc.(CS)	34	22	9	2	33	30	20	9	5	34	30	23	7	5	35
M. Com	40	14	8	4	26	36	25	10	4	39	36	18	14	5	37
Total	586	219	146	117	489	536	195	131	98	424	536	209	153	103	465

The above table shows that majority of our students belong to Most Backward Class (MBC) and Scheduled caste and Scheduled tribes (SC &ST).

Our College stands as Pioneer in arranging scholarships for the deserving students. We help our downtrodden and economically poor students to get financial help.

Government scholarships to SC/ST students:

2017-18	8,23,780	given to	122 students
2018-19	6,58,710	given to	94 students

Apart from the above government scholarships to SC / ST students, we provide private scholarships wherever possible. More than 30% of the students complete their higher education with the help of these scholarships. Below are the details of Private scholarships enjoyed by our students in 2018 – 2019.

Private Scholarships - GKD Scholarship, Premier Mills Scholarships, Vijayakrishna Private Ltd Scholarships.

Endowment Scholarships - Sri.Sreedharan Iyengar, Amirtham Velusamy, Sri.V.Gopalakrishnan, Sri.P.Vijayakumar, Sri.P.Krishnasamy, Sri.Rama Jeyam, S.Padmalochna, Dr.R.Chinasamy and Prof.K.R.Karthikeyan. Interest out of Endowments are given to deserving students

Other scholarships - Alumni Association Scholarship-Rs.10, 000/-, Free Education - 18 students every year, Sports Scholarship - 20% fee concession for 11 students, Fee concession - 50% fee concession for 2 students, 20% fee concession for 2 students, XII Students from our Pioneer Mills Higher Secondary School who have joined their UG in Pioneer College of Arts and Science - Rs.500/- concession and Students who have scored above 1000 Marks in XII - Rs.500/- concession. All these amount to Rs. 3,73,750/- for the year 2017-18 and Rs. 7,23,200/- for the year 2018-19 benefiting 39 and 54 students respectively, for two semesters.

We have been acknowledged as one of the best colleges to offer more free education to the downtrodden students, and rewarded with the merit certificate by the Bharathiar Univerisity in the year 2007.

As Majority of our students are from Tamil medium rural schools, they struggle in academics when they come to college due to sudden switch to English medium of instruction. Our strength is our sound pedagogy to teach in Tamil (Mother tongue of 90% of our students) that has withstood the test of time. Faculty members take much effort to teach Tamil medium students in Tamil and in English in the first two semesters and transform them to become executives, entrepreneurs and leaders of tomorrow with self- confidence and efficiency. We focus on all round development of students – our students not only excel in academics but also in sports, cultural and yoga events.

Right from its inception, the college focuses on academic excellence of its students. The College has consistently produced high percentage of results and University Ranks in all streams every year. We have been performing well securing 90% pass percentage. More than 5000 students have graduated successfully out of this institution. As on date the college has produced 76 ranks including 12 gold medals.

Placement cell of the college takes every effort to get employment for all the students. One hour/week is dedicated exclusively for Aptitude training handled by the Mathematics department faculty for all the students irrespective of their Programme. Two hours/week are allotted to soft skill training which is handled by English department faculty in the English Language lab. Placement training has been outsourced to Innovative HR Services Pvt.,Ltd.

Internal Quality Assurance Cell plays pivotal role in maintaining quality standards to attain excellence and has conducted about 15 quality enhancement initiatives in the past five years

All these efforts of our institution have made the less privileged students of this region to lead a confident and honourable life. True to its motto, 'Onward with Honour' the college ensures anyone who enters this portal of learning leaves with honour – academic achievement and placement. To add a feather to our cap, one of our students A.Stephenraj of 2015-18 batch was selected in two companies Microsoft and Google. He is serving as 'Google student ambassador' and continuing his higher education at KIIT, Odisha with the scholarship from Google.

Pioneer – a confluence of values and quality is an institution that has grown from a less-seen, less-heard of region to an emerging education destination in this suburb. This is an institution not born from the mere glory of its past, rather it is the one carved for its eagerness to serve the downtrodden. It is neither strategically placed nor has mythical pasts but has positioned itself as an institution that offers quality education at an affordable cost and as a safest place for women students to learn and grow.