

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

- **Uplifting Rural Students Through Technical Education**

India is predominantly a rural economy with around seventy percent of the population living in villages and not having enough resources and opportunities with regard to professional education. Thus, the institution was established in 1956 envisaging this need to uplift the students with rural background - who cannot be considered less capable by any means - to become good technocrats. In the process it was decided to reserve seventy percent of the total seats in engineering programmes for rural students.

This distinctiveness of supporting rural masses in achieving their dreams of leading a good quality life with purpose is unique to our institute and has no parallel in India. This initiative not only helps rural people meet their aspirations, but more importantly serves as a strong 'growth engine' for the country by tapping huge unexplored talent and energy of rural youth. Also, this distinctiveness is in sync with the institute's Vision and Mission of serving rural community through engineering education.

The rural students have some basic issues regarding use of English for communication, apprehensions of living and dealing with the cities, etc. The college atmosphere has been created to enable the rural students to hone and exhibit their engineering skills at par with the industrial expectations. Special attention is paid towards developing communication skills through personalized contact of faculty with the students under the mentorship system, whereby a student is assigned a faculty mentor right at the time of admission. In addition, English language classes are arranged to improve their communication skills. Continuous practice sessions in the English laboratory, delivery of seminars etc. are an integral part of the curriculum that helps students in their pursuit of competing with the world. To further instil confidence in the students, various societies and chapters are run in the institute, e.g. Students' Chapter, Institution of Engineers (India), Indian Society for Technical Education, Society for Automotive Engineers, Association of Civil Engineers etc. These societies primarily focus on organizing various cultural and technical activities including debates, declamations, quizzes, paper presentation, extempore etc. The events under these societies are primarily planned and conducted by the students themselves, under the guidance of faculty, which is a good mean of experiential learning. The students are also encouraged to participate in activities being organized at other institutes/universities to help them develop public speaking skills, a prime requisite of a contemporary engineer. NSS and NCC units are also established in the institute through which students get opportunity to understand and learn societal and national perspectives and requirements.