

St. Ann's College for Women

(Autonomous), Affiliated to Osmania University
Accredited by NAAC with A⁺ Grade (3rd cycle), CPE by UGC

Mehdipatnam, Hyderabad.



RESEARCH ECOSYSTEM POLICY



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Preamble

St. Ann's College has a robust research ecosystem which aims at creating and supporting a multidimensional and multidisciplinary research culture for developing and promoting a holistic research temper and aptitude among the staff and students. It enables capacity-building in its stakeholders to take on intellectual and professional challenges in the contemporary world. It also aims at ensuring that the research activities of the college conform to all applicable rules and regulations as well as to the established standards and norms relating to safe and ethical conduct of research. The research ecosystem in the institution prioritizes on attracting research grants; provide opportunities for partnerships with other institutions, industries and the possibility of collaborative research among the faculty members. The policy intends to make college an ideal place for the motivated and leading researchers.

1.0 Objectives

- To create awareness and opportunities in Research and Development among the students & faculty.
- To provide a platform for design thinking and sharing information.
- To provide direction to the researchers to undertake research activities and development projects offered by various funding agencies.
- To promote interdisciplinary research across all the disciplines.
- To inculcate “Entrepreneurial Culture” among the students and equip them with the skills, techniques and confidence to act as torch-bearers of “Enterprise” for the new generation.
- To inculcate a culture of innovation driven entrepreneurship in the state.
- To promote new knowledge/ innovation-based startups.
- Encourage, provide a common platform to guide, expedite, aid and

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make the faculty and students, aware about protecting their scientific inventions, discoveries, pursuits and designs.

- Speeding up the process of filing the patent applications and spread the awareness regarding IPR.
- Facilitate the filling process and financial aid for any faculty, student, who believes to be in possession of an IP.
- Guide and support the other colleges' faculty, students, and researchers, approaching SAIPRC in IPR filling through the SAIPRC legal advisor and committee members.

2.0 Members

- Research Committee
- Research Advisory Council
- Research Ethics Committee
- My Council IIC @ St. Ann's
 - a.) SEED-St. Ann's Enterprise Entrepreneurship Development Cell
 - b.) SAIC-St. Ann's Incubation Centre
 - c.) SAIPRC – St Ann's Intellectual Property Rights Cell
 - d.) ARIIA-Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements

3.0 Roles and responsibilities

Research Committee: Committee undertakes all research-related activities on campus, including funding, proposal development and coordination of research projects. The research committee also serves as a resource for faculty and students who need assistance with research-related tasks.

Research Advisory Committee: Developing and enhancing the institution's research culture, safeguarding exploitation and patenting of the institute's intellectual property, checking for compliance with the code of ethics for research, Research-related complaint

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resolution, Building collaborations and investigating funding options with businesses and research

Research Ethics Committee: Research community should observe ethical norms related to the conduct and publication of research particularly in relations to originality, copyright, and the intellectual property rights. Research ethics committee reviews and approves research proposals to ensure that they meet ethical standards and do not harm the participants or violate their rights. The committee reviews all research proposals before they are approved, and provide guidance and support to researchers on ethical issues.

Institution Innovation Council: IIC was established in Sep 2019 under the guidance of AICTE/MHRD with elected office bearers and regular activities are conducted as per the calendar of events suggested by MHRD. New units like SAIPRC, Incubation centre , Innovation and Start Up Cell and revamped ED cell was established and guidelines for Innovation, Start Ups and Entrepreneurship Policy was finalized with industry mentors. SEED-St. Ann's Enterprise Entrepreneurship Development Cell tries to boost entrepreneurship skills amid the young minds and create a platform with best entrepreneurship opportunities .SAIC-St. Ann's Incubation Centre works in harnessing passions, skills, experience, knowledge and insights, resources and networks to spot and transform the new age skill sets to setup viable business ventures.SAIPRC – St Ann's Intellectual Property Rights Cell- provide a platform to guide, expedite, aid and make both faculty and students, aware about protecting their scientific inventions, discoveries, pursuits and designs.

4.0 Scope

Creating a robust research ecosystem on campus helps to maintain the competitive edge, attract top talent and make significant contributions to society. A sustained commitment from stakeholders can build a research ecosystem that is resilient, adaptable, and responsive to emerging challenges and opportunities



5.0 Plans, Process and Procedure

Institution encourages faculty and students to conduct research that addresses real-world problems and has a positive impact on society. Vibrant research ecosystem on campus includes

- **Clear research strategy:** A clear research strategy which focuses on the resources and focus areas where competitive advantage is present is developed to make the most significant impact. This involves defining the college research priorities, goals, and objectives, and aligning them with its mission and vision.
- **Research centres:** A dedicated research centre SACRED provides a designated space for researchers to collaborate and conduct research and also facilitates interdisciplinary collaboration. It also provides access to specialized equipment and resources which helps in attracting external funding and collaborations with other institutions or industry partners, resulting in greater visibility and impact for the college. Management takes steps to ensure availability of infrastructure and financial support to staff and students alike, to pursue research. Infrastructure facilities such as Computers, e-resources, N-list subscription, laboratories, plagiarism software, SPSS, etc. are available in the research centres that are recognized by the college.
- **Supportive research culture:** Research Excellence is encouraged by a supportive research culture by encouraging and providing faculty members the opportunities for professional development and training. Institution recognizes and reward research excellence through incentives such as research promotion, research awards, and funding for outstanding research. Mentorship, support and seed funding for early career researchers helps them develop the necessary skills and establish their research careers.

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- **Research Grants:** Securing funding for research projects and equipment is essential for advancing knowledge and conducting impactful research. Research Committee share information on active grant calls with faculty members to help them identify relevant funding opportunities. Research mentors like senior faculty members provide guidance and mentorship to young researchers in preparing grant proposals. Faculty members are also encouraged to collaborate with other researchers and institutions to increase the chances of securing funding. Faculty members are encouraged to submit grant proposals to funding agencies that align with their research interests and submitting them within the given timeline.
- **Foster collaborations:** Promoting research collaborations is also an essential aspect of the ecosystem to foster innovation and advance knowledge. Collaborating with external researchers and institutions helped college gain access to new resources, knowledge, and expertise. It also helped in expanding the scope of research and increases its impact. The college established partnerships with local industries and government agencies to identify research needs and opportunities. This lead to joint research projects, internships, and employment opportunities for students.
- **Research-based curriculum:** The college has research-based curriculum that integrates research activities in many of its courses and programs. This provides opportunities for students to engage in research activities early in their academic careers and develop research skills that can benefit them in their future careers .The institution also encourages interdisciplinary research programs that encourage collaboration between faculties and students from different departments and fields of study.
- **Promoting undergraduate research opportunities:** Promoting undergraduate research opportunities at college is an essential aspect of developing a research

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culture .Undergraduate research opportunities enable students to gain valuable experience in conducting research, applying critical thinking skills and applying theoretical concepts to real-world problems. These opportunities can be in the form of research projects, research assistantships, or collaborative projects with faculty members. Undergraduate research opportunities also promote mentorship relationships between students and faculty, which can have a positive impact on student success. This type of hands on experience prepares students for future careers in research or graduate studies and provides a unique opportunity to develop skills that are not typically acquired in traditional classroom settings.

- **Communicating research:** Communicating research findings to the wider community involves disseminating research findings in a way that is accessible and understandable through various channels, such as academic publications & seminar/conference presentations. Quality of research is ensured by asking faculty to publish in journals indexed in popular databases like UGC care list ,Scopus and Web of Science and consider publishing articles in journals with open-access options, which ensures that research is accessible to a wider audience. E-journal 'Ann quest' of the institution provides an avenue to publish research work online and network with researchers across the globe.
- **Support entrepreneurship and commercialization:** Research can lead to new products, processes, and services that have commercial potential. The college supports entrepreneurship and commercialization by providing resources, training, and mentorship for both faculty and students who want to start their own companies or commercialize their research.St.Ann's Incubation centre , a constituent of Institution Innovation Council in the campus serve as a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs, providing them with a supportive environment to develop and grow their ideas into successful ventures.



- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** College motivated faculty and students to file patents, as it can lead to increased innovation and commercialization of research. The IPR cell provided a platform for researchers to understand and manage their intellectual property rights, ensuring that their inventions are protected from unauthorized use or infringement through regular seminars/workshops organized by the research committee. In addition, the IPR cell also helped researchers in filing their intellectual property.

5.0 Guidelines and Implementation


- Research committee with IQAC of the institution formulate research strategy and monitors the research progress in the institution
- The committee monitors the progress of the registered Ph.D and M.Phil research scholars.
- The committee promotes collaborative interdisciplinary research projects with external agencies.
- The Committee formulates strategies to increase the research publication in high impact journals.
- It closely monitors the research clusters and reviews the physical and financial utilization of the sanctioned projects.
- Receive and compile applications of seed grant from researchers and present them to Research Advisory committee for evaluation and / or approval.
- Coordinate and facilitate writing of research proposal for submission to external funding agencies
- **St Ann's Research Award(SARA)** to recognize faculty researchers.
- **Seed grants:** Financial assistance to the faculty to meet their operating expenses of a research program or project.
- **Incentives:** Incentives for publishing in International, National journals, UGC listed journals & Conference volumes.

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- **Flexi timings:** Provision is made to the staff by two hours in the morning or in the afternoon after completing their classes so as to facilitate them in doing research in the campus and reaching out resources under autonomy.
- The institution encourages the faculty **to participate** in International, National and Regional conferences and present papers by providing financial assistance for transport, accommodation and registration, which was strengthened under autonomy.
- **Financial support is provided to organize** conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs of faculty.
- State of the art infrastructure facilities like well -equipped ICT enabled seminar halls are available to organize conferences, seminars, workshops and training programs. **SACReD** – A centralized research facility with latest equipment, computational facilities, work stations and books and journals was upgraded in last five years.
- Financial grant from UGC – CPE was also made available to the students and staff for research/ project work.
- **E-journal 'Ann quest'** provides an avenue to publish research work online and network with researchers across the globe.
- **Institutional Innovation Council** under the direction of MHRD has been created and sub committees are constituted in the year 2019-20 where in students and staff members took active part in different events organized by IIC.


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