

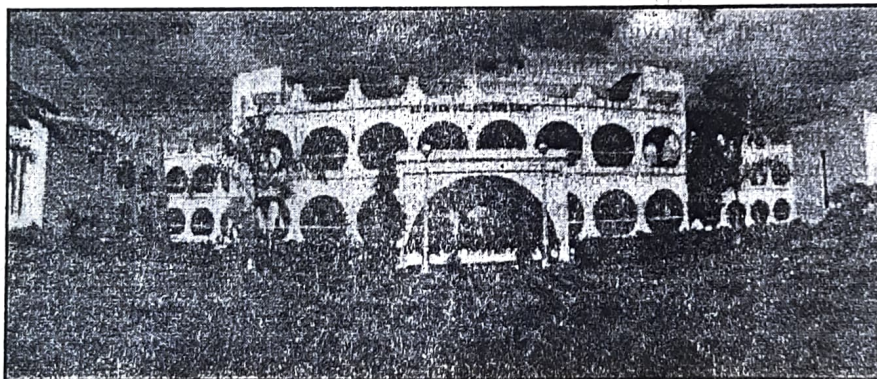
## BEST COLLEGE - AWARD WINNER

### St. Mira College for Girls, Pune

#### A Profile

The Mira Movement in education was born out of the vision of a philosopher-saint Sadhu Vaswani. Himself a distinguished Professor and Principal of prestigious institutions, Sadhu Vaswani was a visionary who believed deeply in womanpower and woman-spirit, long before feminism was even thought of. He founded the Mira School in Sind in 1932, and the model institution was all set to evolve into a Mira University when the Partition of sub-continent forced him and his band of devoted workers to leave their homeland, Sind and migrate to Maharashtra in Independent India.

The State of Maharashtra with its glorious history of culture and liberalism provided a fertile ground for the Mira Movement to take new roots. The Mira Schools and College were set up in quick succession. St. Mira's College, established in 1962, was one of the pioneering colleges set up exclusively for girls in this part of the country. Today, the College is a member of the prestigious and exclusive Mira Family-9 institutions, located across India in Pune, New Delhi, Baroda, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Jaipur. The Mira Movement's Headquarters is located in Pune and the institutions flourish under an enlightened and supportive management headed by none other than Dada J. P. Vaswani, a world-renowned spiritual leader and messenger of India's spiritual heritage.



College Building

#### What is special about MIRA education ?

- \* Sadhu Vaswani felt that the end of true education is character building. Education must merely be academic or abstract; it has to prepare the students for real life. To this end, he devised a new type of education, which would not only develop the

brainpower, but which provide a triple training of the head the hand and the heart -to equip the student to become a worthy participant in the adventure of life. The name Mira is synonymous with Nobility, Wisdom, Indian culture, courage, purity, service, sacrifice and above all, pure love. The deepest in St. Mira was tuned to the spirit of freedom. She was an advocate of that true freedom for women, which grows out of the love of God and service of poor. With one strong sweep of her soul, she rose heroically to break the fetters of Indian womanhood. Mira flowered from a rebel into a Saint. She asserted her will, vindicated her dignity as a woman, only to surrender her will to the Lord, providing a luminous example of "Our wills are ours to make them Thine !" It is these very qualities, which Sadhu Vaswani wanted girls to be blessed with. Therefore Sadhu Vaswani call his experiment in education after this Saint of Indian History.

It was the fervent aspiration of Sadhu Vaswani that the students of this college may draw inspiration from St. Mira's message of dignity and dedication, self-assertion and self surrender and grow in the heroic moulds of life to become strong and meet failure with courage, that the students at St. Mira's College may develop faith and determination to assert their dignity as woman and not be oppressed by evil customs, but rebel against them in a peaceful way.

The Mira Movement has chosen to concentrate on educating girls because it was Sadhu Vaswani's firm belief that women would play a vital role in shaping India's destiny in the future. "The woman-soul shall lead us upward, on !" he asserted, emphasizing the spiritual *Shakti* that women represented. The Mira Movement is, in effect, aimed at the empowerment of women - emotional, intellectual and spiritual. It testifies to the adage : educate a man, and you educate an individual; educate a woman and you enlighten a whole family. St. Mira's College seeks to accomplish this ideal by providing an environment where the girl students can flourish and evolve to achieve their highest potential.

What sets St. Mira's in a class apart from other educational institutions is a composite atmosphere and functioning which may be described as the Mira way of life. Its outstanding features are many :

- \* **Academic excellence** is never compromised and St. Mira's students are given every support and training necessary to show excellent result in the University Examination.
- \* **Social Service and Community Development** are an integral part of the Mira education system. Students, working with the active support and guidance of their teachers, participate in a full-fledged, year long Social Service Programme, which forms an Impressive calendar of service activities. In most cases this involves hands on Contribution in diverse activities that include visits to orphan-ages, old-age homes, hospitals, Slums, schools for the visually impaired and other institutions for the handicapped and the underprivileged.
- \* **Indian ideals** and the eternal values of life are sought to be inculcated in the students, through the unique features of the Sanctuary - a daily assembly devoted to the Art of Living. Among the unique features of St. Mira's College, the daily sanctuary

must surely take pride of place. Not only is the Sanctuary a crucial part of an aim to impart value based education; it also fosters a strong sense of belonging among teachers and students; and it serves an assembly, which promotes cultural and religious harmony. At the Sanctuary, heroes of humanity and saints of all religions are remembered on their Birth/Death Anniversaries. Inter-faith prayers are conducted, Important festivals and sacred days of all religions are observed. Over and above all this, the Sanctuary provides an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills in public speaking. Their interest in music is also cultivated by the community singing of *Kirtan* and *Bhajans*, which is actively encouraged.

The sanctuary has attracted several distinguished visitors, all of whom have been uniformly impressed and appreciative of this unique feature of the Mira institution.

- \* For the Mira Management, Education is not a commercial enterprise, but part of its highly idealistic programme of service to society. Therefore no capitation fee is charged for admission to any of its courses. Every paisa received from the students, every rupee received as grant from the government, is scrupulously, accounted for.
- \* The Teaching and Non-Teaching staff share the ideals and aspirations of the Sadhu Vaswani Mission, serving their beloved college in a spirit of devotion to duty.
- \* Students enjoy direct access to staff members and the Principal, to sort out any problems they have.
- \* No student is ever turned away from a Mira Institution for want of money. Generous patrons and donors have instituted freeships and scholarships, which are well utilized to aid under privileged students. Apart from tuition fees, needy students are also provided with books, notebooks, free breakfast coupons, woollens and cloths—all this is done unobtrusively without causing embarrassment to the students, through the close interaction between students and their teachers.
- \* The College takes pride in producing every year, several graduates who are **first-generation learners**. The freeships and concessions available for them are fully utilized by these students, who benefit greatly from the *encouragement that they receive from staff members*.

In the day-to-day activities of the College, Curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are woven into a seamless fabric; enabling active participation of students and teachers in all event and programmes. With the able support of the office and the administrative staff, Guest Lectures, Seminars, Workshops, Debates, Dramatics, Cultural Programmes and Inter Collegiate events take place on a regular basis. St. Mira's has received special praise for the smooth and efficient conduct of these programmes.

The College is located in the green and salubrious environs of Koregaon Park. Designed with architectural elegance and functional simplicity, the campus offers excellent infrastructural facilities, which include the following :

- > A spacious Sanctuary Hall to accommodate the entire student population of the Degree College/Junior College.
- > Well laid out green lawns.

- > Paved parking lot for students' two wheelers with parking attendants.
- > A beautifully designed auditorium to accommodate 500, with excellent acoustics.
- > Spacious playground and gym.
- > 25 well designed classrooms on three floors.
- > An excellent and well-stocked library with adequate reading room facility.
- > A Homeopathic Dispensary.
- > A Cafeteria.
- > A Girls' Common Room.

We have come a long way since our inception, when we began by adding one class each year, with the pre-degree course—a small group of eager learners and a handful of dedicated teachers and staff who did not even expect remuneration for their efforts ! But then, as now, the stars in our eyes remain. Our vision, our ideals are still fresh in our minds. And we are determined to strive for them.

Year after year, hundreds of young and bright-eyed students enter our portals. In each one, we see the potential that we can draw out—for that is what true education is. To each one, we offer the best that we are capable of, for that is what the MIRA ideal is all about.

Our courses keep abreast of the changing times. Our young charges are tomorrow's people. We ourselves are growing, evolving. But our ideals remain the same. Nor have they grown old or faded. Ever fresh, ever constant, our sights remain focused on the dream and vision on which they were founded. For we truly believe that perfection is not a destination - but the journey; excellence is not a goal - but a process. And this perfection, this excellence is what we aspire to !

**“To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield.”**

The members of the management committee are :

- Dada J. P. Vaswani
- Mrs. R. A. Vaswani
- Mr. A. M. Vaswani
- Mr. P. M. Manchandya
- Miss N. T. Jotwani
- Mr. Basant Ahuja
- Miss Piya Uttam
- Miss Krishna Kumari Thadani.

The family is served by a dedicated team of staff—teaching as well as non-teaching—who all work in a spirit of total devotion to duty and love for the student community.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE :**

- (A) Year of Establishment : 1962;  
Affiliated to University of Pune.
- (B) Courses offered : Arts, Commerce and Home Science.
- (C) From the academic year 2002-2003, we have started Std. XI Science stream.