

Since its inception in 1966, Khalsa College, Garhdiwala has always been catering to the educational needs of the backward Kandi area of Punjab. People from long distances in the adjoining rural area get quality education from this college. The college has made outstanding contributions in the holistic development of the students so that they not only get empowered educationally and intellectually but also become enabled and enlightened citizens of the country and make their contribution to the development of society.

The college plans various bridge and crash courses for the students at the entry level before the beginning of the academic session. The purpose of these bridge/crash courses is to give the students a foresight into the university pattern of education and to acclimatize them to the new environment. The students can attend these bridge courses organized by the college after their 12<sup>th</sup> exam boards are over. All the courses are free of cost keeping in view the financial condition of most students as they belong to the backward/rural Kandi area. Mainly the bridge courses focus on English, Computer Science, and skill-based subjects. Such courses are run individually as well as collectively to give the students a peep into the upcoming university standards of education and to empower them in the subjects so that they can meet the day-to-day challenges of life where these subjects stand in good stead by them. Special lectures are organized of and on personality development, skill enhancement, career guidance, and general studies. The dilemma of the students in choosing the optional subjects is resolved as all the teachers from all the departments deliver their lectures underlining the significance and utility of their respective subjects. Such lectures help the students decide the options they have to opt for during their graduation classes. Motivational videos, educational trips, games, music workshops and various other interesting activities are organized during these courses. Students from the surrounding villages and colleges attend such courses and get preliminary knowledge about the university pattern before the commencement of the actual academic session.

Around a dozen add-on courses have been introduced by the college to give the students specialized knowledge in various subjects. The college has been given affiliation from Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala to start three certificate courses i.e. Certificate Course in GST filing and Practice, Certificate course in Retail and Sales Management, Certificate course in Office automation and E-Governance.

These courses are run by Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala and proper exams are conducted as per university pattern. The college is aiming to enhance the number of these certificate courses in the coming year. A special teacher has been recruited by the management to impart this education and three courses i.e. Certificate Course in GST filing and Practice, Certificate course in Retail and Sales Management, Certificate course in Office automation and E-Governance are running under the guidance of this teacher.

The college has framed its own that are offered to the students free of cost. These short courses are 36 hours in duration and are organized to empower the students academically and intellectually. Presently the college is running 11 add-on courses. The college aims to add more courses in this category in the coming years so that more and more students take the benefit of these courses.

Except for the courses run by Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, all other courses are offered to the students free of cost. In the case of the courses offered by Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University, Patiala, these too are offered at very nominal fees. The moral and value-based courses that are run by the management have incentives of scholarships and cash prize awards also. The students of the college have been benefitted by the awards/scholarships.

The distinctiveness of providing preliminary bridge-on/crash courses and providing value-based and add-on courses to the students free of cost makes the college stand apart from the surrounding colleges and institutions. This distinctiveness is aligned with the vision and mission of the college which aims at serving humanity through education.