

Profile

The Principal of St. Mira's College for Girls, Dr. Gulshan H. Gidwani is a highly-recognized leader in education with 35 years of teaching experience and 17 years as Principal. A dedicated advocate for education and empowerment of women, Dr. Gidwani has steered St. Mira's growth to a world-class centre for germane, quality and value-based learning. As the first Autonomous College in Pune, reaccredited with an 'A' grade by NAAC, St. Mira's has significantly expanded the number of students from 62 to 3500, among which are many girls from low-income and first-generation college families. Under the leadership of Dr. Gidwani, St. Mira's has developed an invigorating intellectual climate for both faculty and students thus encouraging both excellence in traditional academic disciplines and new interdisciplinary learning.

Dr. Gidwani holds a Masters in Commerce and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Marketing. Along with being the Principal, she is also the Head of the Department of Commerce.

Dr Gidwani has contributed extensively to academia as Committee Member for setting Papers for Commerce Examinations for both Degree & Post Graduation, as the Vice-Chancellor's Nominee and Subject Expert on the Selection Committee for Lecturers and for Principal's Post, as Member of Advisory Committee for Academic Staff Colleges, Pune University and as the Peer Team member by National Accreditation and Assessment Council to assess the Colleges other than Maharashtra State, among other prestigious appointments.

Dr. Gidwani also serves as the member of several boards and commissions. She is the Secretary Local Managing Committee, the Secretary of the College Board, Secretary (Academics) of Sadhu Vaswani Mission, Director of St. Mira's Education Institutions, Member of Indian College Forum, Member of Executive Committee of National Institute of Event Management and Member of National Consultative Committee for capacity of Women Managers in Higher Education, along with many other committees.

Dr. Gidwani has been honoured with the following awards:

- Recipient of International Award on- Kukkiwon Award in appreciation and in recognition of teaching self-defence as a subject for Girls since the last 15 years and for promoting intercultural harmony! Kukkiwon is the world Taekwondo headquarters in Korea. (2016-2017)
- Recipient of International Women Achiever's Award in March 2012 by the Human Achiever's Foundation for her exemplary contribution to the field of Education
- Best Teacher Award conferred by Lions Club of Pune, in the year 1996.
- Best Teacher Award conferred by Uttar Bhartiya Sangh Pune in the year 2001.
- Recipient of the Jewel of India Award from the International Institute of Education & Management, New Delhi in 2002

- Recipient of Best Citizens of India Award conferred by The International Publishing House, New Delhi, in 2003
- Recipient of Samajshri/Sarvshri/Millennium Award 2005 by Indian Council of Management Executives Mumbai.
- Recipient of Bharat Jyoti Award January 2006 by India International Friendship Society, Delhi.

A strong believer in the idea of lifelong education, Dr. Gidwani has continuously updated her scholarship attending Seminars, Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops. Dr. Gidwani attended a National Seminar in Bangalore from 2nd March 2011 to 3rd March 2011. She presented a Case study of St. Mira's search for Excellence through Autonomy on 28th April 2011 at Birla College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Kalyan as a guest of honour. She attended the 4th Annual WILL "2011 Women in Leadership Conference" on the topic "Best Employers for Women in Corporate India: Dynamics of Business Success" on 17th - 18th October 2011 at Mumbai and also attended the 2nd NTL Festival of Learning, 2011, Mumbai on the topic "Creative Approaches to Leadership" from 13th - 15th November 2011 organised by Resonate Consulting Pvt. Ltd. In 2014, she attended a National Seminar on "Global Economic Crisis - An Opportunity in Disguise" on 24th & 25th January, organised by Sadhu Vaswani Institute of Management Studies and participated in a two-day Faculty Development Programme on "Mentoring" held on 15th & 16th September 2014 organised by Sadhu Vaswani Institute of Management Studies - these being among the more recent of her wide scholarship.

As Principal of St. Mira's, she has laid strong emphasis on integration of learning and social service in order to encourage students to engage with the community. She has participated in the National Literacy Mission and the MPFL Course (Mass Programme of Functional Literacy). She has organized Blood Donation Camps - Free Eye Camps/Cardiac Check-up Camps and is also a volunteer for Inlaks & Budhrani Hospital.

Keenly aware of the developments in the corporate sector Dr. Gidwani has organized various Seminars for Post Graduations and Under Graduate Students of Commerce for increased understanding and participation in corporate life, including co-curricular activities and arranged various competitions like Music, Rangoli, Posters, Slogans, Dramatics, Debates etc. This has helped maximise St. Mira's inclusion, innovation, and impact on the corporate sector.

Dr. Gidwani has organized a UGC Sponsored one-day State Level Seminar on "Quality Certification through NAAC: A Roadmap for Excellence" on the 5th of October 2002 and a NAAC sponsored two-day National Level Seminar on "Towards Excellence in Higher Education: Challenges of Autonomy" on 7th and 8th March 2003.

Dr. Gidwani is also the editor of several impactful journals including the monthly Journal MIRA, the Meatless Day Newsletter, and Book Review Editor - East and

West Series. She has been invited as visiting faculty to the Marathwada Mitra Mandal College to deliver lectures in Marketing to their M.B.A students (1994 & 1995) and has also made a tremendous contribution as the NAAC Peer Team member.

The guiding vision of the founding father Sadhu T.L Vaswani and Guru Dada J.P Vaswani, and the distinguished leadership of Dr. Gidwani have created, in St. Mira's College for Girls, an eminent, multidisciplinary institution that not only supports scholarship but also emphasizes the importance of ethics and human values.