



**7.3.1 – Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust**

**Unique Experiment in Community Living**

Gujarat Vidyapith has made it compulsory for all the students to stay in the hostel on the campus. The reason for making hostel compulsory is that Gujarat Vidyapith believes that the task of education is to create a better society. In order to achieve this end, it becomes necessary to turn the Institute into an experiment of ideal communal living where all the staff members and students live in close proximity for round-the-clock interaction. This experiment in ideal communal living is expected to act as a model of ideal society which the students can endeavor to realize in their own communities and societies. The inspiration for this experiment is derived from Gandhi's ashrams which were the experiments in communal living. Gandhi's ashrams were not religious ashrams but they were secular spaces which served as an ideal of how should a society be organized. Gujarat Vidyapith aims to replicate the same experiment in whatever way it can.

The first principle of community living is that all members are considered as equal individual who has equal rights and duties as each member of the community. The task of running the day to day life of the community is shared by all the members in such a way that very little outside help is needed. In Gujarat Vidyapith, it is done by demarcating the tasks and preparing teams for doing each task in such a way that each team gets to do all the tasks on rotational basis. The duties are not fixed to any one team permanently, rather they are performed by different teams at different occasions as per the time table of the campus.

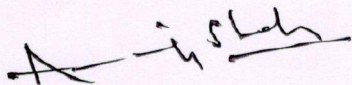
Second principle of the ideal community life is securing as much self-sufficiency as possible. At Gujarat Vidyapith, partial self-sufficiency is achieved in production of grains, milk, and vegetables. These things are grown in rural campuses which meets part of the annual requirements. Students and teachers participate in working in the field and cow pen to produce these things. Another aspect of self-sufficiency is learning skills to prepare different kinds of materials which



we require in our daily life such as cloth, soap, detergents, pickles, different food items, notebooks, pens and other stationaries, etc.

Finally, the most important part of ideal community is the feeling of fraternity among its members. Gujarat Vidyapith believes that an ideal society can be created only when the students are exposed to a community where perfect communal harmony exists between people of all religion, caste, creed. To ensure this, the Institute follows strict policy of not segregating people on the basis of class, caste, religion, and gender.

All the above aspects help the Institute to realize its objective of creating workers committed to the reconstruction of an ideal society.



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