

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

The academic year 2020-2021 proved to be a year of patience, acceptance and learning as Damocles' sword in the form of the Covid-19 pandemic continued to lurk around. Socrates famously said, 'the secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new'. Though we seemed to be constantly operating in the zone of uncertainties, we at KKCE kept building our new. This year's annual report demonstrates the potential and perseverance of KKCE in these difficult times. It projects the optimistic attitude of the institution and provides a reassurance that the biggest of challenges can become ephemeral; and great outcomes can still be achieved if one is determined and persistent. It was a difficult year - navigating through unseen barriers and newer challenges as we moved forward. However, along with these hurdles, we also learnt to adapt, gain insights into newer perspectives and explore stimulating experiences. While the pandemic restricted us, we continued our pursuit for excellence in the online mode and adopted creative approaches in attaining our objectives. We found our new superpowers in persistence and resilience and completed all the mandatory requirements of the course efficiently. We even managed to do things that were beyond imagination just a year ago! Following are some of the significant highlights of the year gone by:

- Complete shift to online mode – lectures, guest lectures, assessments, workshops, community work, extension work, sports day, club activities and a host of other celebrations. Even tutorials and mentoring program was run online without compromising on the quality of engagement.
- All students were provided real time experiences through Online Internship after having gone through a carefully designed training programme for online teaching.
- Week long Buniyadi Shiksha Saptaah was celebrated on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti where apart from other activities centering around the Gandhian philosophy of Basic Education, students delivered online Nai-Talim lessons in schools.
- A two day International Webinar titled "Exploring the Transformative Potential of Education: The Choices We Make" was organized on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 with resource persons as well as participants from around the globe.
- A Collaborative Content Action Research program was conducted in association with the faculty of Gordon Academic College of Education (GACE), Israel.
- School Internship department entered into a one year Memorandum of Understanding with AIESEC India for teaching internship opportunities around the globe.
- Two certificate courses – 'Basics of Cyber security' and 'Use of Performing Arts' were offered to the SY batch.
- Tele and group counseling was provided to students during the pandemic.
- Week long TET training was provided in the online mode.

- Orientation programme for FY students was reimagined in the online mode.

Detailed description of the activities conducted and events held during the year are given below.

## **CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- **School Internship**

School internship forms the core of B.Ed curriculum as this is where all the theory is practiced. This year however, educational institutions all over the country were grappling with the shift to online teaching. Seeking permissions from schools was an uphill task since teaching had reached students' homes and schools were clearly concerned. University, on its part, tweaked the school internship programme. But it still wasn't easy because we at KKCE did not want this batch of student-teachers to have any lesser experiences. So, within the given constraints, an elaborate internship programme was planned and rolled out in Semester III & IV. Some of the significant steps taken were as follows:

- ~ Conducted a survey as starting point to understand technical and other concerns of students to deliver online lessons. The specific issues were addressed and accommodated.
- ~ A mini preparation programme was organized which included the following sessions:
  - 'Re-orienting Internship Practice: Understanding School Experiences of Covid-19'.
  - 'Use of Tools in Online Teaching' by Sh. K. Saravanan.
  - Lecture on 'Managing Online Classrooms' by alumnus Pinaaz Bamanbehram.
  - Online demo lessons by our alumni Sehal Gada, Stacy Vaz and Neha Dubey.
  - Peer session on 'Enhancing Video Lessons' by Vivek Singh and Dhiraj Sharma.

All sessions were recorded for referencing purposes if needed. Stationary was converted into soft copies and were customized to suit online teaching. Students could collect hard copies from college if they wished to. Online guidance was organized. DocHub was used extensively to guide as well as fill observations schedules. Internship started with few simulated lessons in the online mode which helped in confidence building for student-teachers, faculty members and the department. Gradually we moved to taking lessons in schools. Every student developed some interesting video lessons. The practice of Peer Assessment was reimagined and continued. Nai Talim, CAM and ALM orientations were organized. All students delivered Nai Talim lessons. Some attempted ALM too. Studenta also made Radio lessons. Video lessons (edited on the basis of feedback) were submitted to schools as learning resources. Online Evaluation Workshop was reimagined and organized to orient students to Year Plan, Unit Plan and Blue Print. Students administered Unit Tests few students in their vicinity or their peers. DocHub was used extensively for guidance.

Eventually, all internship requirements were completed for both Semester III & IV. Students shared enriched experiences while following innovative methodologies. The department strived to persist with its good practices even during this challenging academic year. Extensive online feedback sessions, guidance, rotation of supervisors, concept of home

school supervisors, etc. were continued. 360° feedback was taken from all stakeholders. Semester II internship this year could not materialize because of delayed admissions.

The department extended free invitations to internship schools to participate in the international webinar hosted by the college. We also entered into a one year MOU with AIESEC India which provides global internship opportunities for trainee teachers.

- **Theory Lectures and Evaluation**

The academic year was delayed due to the pandemic induced lockdown. Theory lectures for SY batch began in August, 2020. While in the previous year only few lectures were delivered in the online mode, this year everything went online – theory lectures, guest lectures and internal as well as external evaluations. Google Meet platform was the preferred medium for lectures. Some important lectures were recorded for the benefit of students in case they could not attend in real time. Every day was a learning experience for educators as they experimented with activities in the online set up. Quizziz, kahoot, padlet and the LMS MOODLE were used extensively for lectures, sharing of notes and evaluation; especially class tests and content test. All assignments were submitted and assessed in the online mode.

Due to delayed admissions, lectures for FY batch could begin only in March, 2021 after the customary orientation to the institution and the course. Besides the regular lectures, a session on Concept Mapping was organized for the batch with the dual purpose of acquainting them with this method and of familiarizing them with their pedagogy 1 content. All students submitted soft copies of their concept maps to their respective pedagogy teachers. Their essays were changed to higher order application questions and it was a very meaningful experience. Qualitative feedback was given on the essays. Class tests were planned on the lines of end semester exams to familiarize students with the pattern as well as technology.

The end semester assessments were carried out in clusters and were based on MCQs and short descriptive answers. Teachers actively collaborated with cluster teachers to make question banks for all papers for Semesters I, III and IV. This year, there were no Semester II exams due to delayed admissions.

- **Action Research**

Action research was done differently this year. Students were divided into three groups. We collaborated with educators from Gordon Academic College of Education, Haifa, Israel and they oriented these groups to 3 different models – Critical Friend Model, Future Thinking Model and Reflective Thinking Model. The students then developed high quality learning resources in these methods and engaged in the process of modifying and enhancing the quality of these resources based on expert feedback. Soft copies of reports were submitted to the respective guides. Though all students worked very hard on this, some stood out in their effort more than the others. These students were recognized for their efforts during the virtual Annual Prize Distribution Day.

## **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- **Students' Council**

The Students' Council of KKCE faced a unique challenge this year, since all the cultural programs were to be organised in the online mode. The department pooled in skill sets and resources of the students and found creative ways to adapt to the situation. Teachers' Day was celebrated on a never before scale, as retired faculty members and alumni were invited to be a part of the virtual celebration. They participated with tremendous enthusiasm. Gandhi Jayanti was also celebrated in the true spirit of Gandhian philosophy through a weeklong celebration titled Buniyaadi Shiksha Saptah, Following the motto of Care, Share and Create, using waste materials creatively, the student teachers shared their expertise in making creating DIY objects which were beautiful as well as sustainable. Tips on Gardening as well as the process of preparing eco-friendly bags were also shared. While national pride was nurtured in the Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations, the cultural diversity of India was showcased in the celebrations of various festivals like the Christmas Celebration.

A unique farewell was given in the online mode to the outgoing batch of 2018 – 2020. The function, aptly titled Memories and Moving On, brought nostalgia, and also the hope of meeting face to face for a class that could not bid adieu in person. The new FY B.Ed batch was also welcomed in an online program, and they showcased their talents in the online Talent show. The year was indeed challenging for the department, but, finding opportunities within these challenges, the department strived to reach out to the wider KKCE family, and learnt to use the advantages offered by technology for organization of vibrant programs which left their memories deeply etched on hearts and minds.

- **Community Work**

KKCE aspires to create well grounded teachers who seek to change not just the world of learning but also bring about a significant transition in their social surroundings. Community work hence is not just an important element within the B.Ed course but also a greater part of KKCE's way of life. While the pandemic restricted our student-teachers to move out of their homes, it did not hinder their enthusiasm to bring about a 'change where it matters'. The SY students crafted their own 'dijas, lanterns and masks' during Diwali and distributed them around their neighborhood to those in need undertaking all the necessary precautions. This act of kindness lit up a bunch of smiles during the festival of light.

The FY students were engaged in two activities - English teaching for BCPT and Seed Ball Making. As part of a pilot programme, few students volunteered for online teaching for the Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT) project where they were assigned to develop Basic English language skills of Grade I-III students. An online Seed Ball Making session was organized where the students made more than 300 seed balls of various native plants which will be used for gorilla plantation in monsoons. They were also given training on making eco-bricks using plastic bottles and wrappers.

- **Extension Work**

Pandemic and the resultant lockdowns greatly impacted our outdoor volunteer work that is a tradition at KKCE. But, instead of bowing down to the grim situation, we chose to reinvent. Newer ways of extending our services to the community were explored. The entire batch of SY students engaged in an 8 week extension work programme with IDF's (India Development Foundation's) flagship programme on Student Leadership. The student-teachers were divided into two groups. One group engaged in live lessons and the other group created video lessons for students of Pradnya Bodhini High School, Goregaon (E) and St. Mathews School, Malad (W).

- **Annual Sports Meet**

The pandemic restricted the movement of people, but it didn't necessarily dampen the spirit of students and teachers at KKCE as they celebrated the Annual Sports Day on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 in virtual set up in the comfort of their homes, but with equal energy and enthusiasm. The day started with morning prayers, oath taking ceremony, Principal's address and a warm up session. A Zumba session by Ms. Sanskruti Agarwal, an international licensed zumba instructor kept participants on their feet with rigorous dance moves and foot tapping music. As is the usual practice, students were grouped in four houses – red, blue, green and yellow. They participated in a variety of individual games like Push-ups, Skipping, Elbow Plank and Book Balancing while tossing the ball. They even participated in group events such as Sports Quiz, Treasure Hunt, Pictionary, Ludo and Cheerleading. The games were either played live on screen or pre-recorded. It was spectacular to see not only the participants putting in their best efforts but also the viewers cheering on for their teammates.

Based on the overall points allotted to the winners, Omkar Padave (FY) of Yellow House and Forum Chhapekar (FY) of Red House were declared Sports Man and Sportswoman of the Year respectively. Yellow House, led by Komal Jain (SY) and Radhika Mehta (FY) bagged the rolling trophy for being the house with the highest overall points. Though conducted on a virtual platform, the Sports Day was a success and provided all students and teachers an opportunity to engage with one another thus showcasing the true spirit of sportsmanship.

- **Guest Lectures and Workshops**

The college organized various webinars and workshops in association with renowned resource persons throughout the year. The webinars ranged around various subjects of mindfulness, drama, storytelling, graphology etc. The following table is an overview of all the sessions organized during the year.

Name of the Programme	Dates	Resource Person
TET/Content Enrichment	27 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Various Resource Persons including KKCE Faculty & Alumni

10 Day Yoga Workshop	8 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> August	Ms. Samita Verekar
Workshop on ‘Stress Management through Mindfulness and Meditation’	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Dr. Subhalakshmi Kumar
Webinar on ‘Re-orienting Internship Practice: Understanding School Experiences of Covid-19’	11 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Various School Principals
Workshop on “Effective Communication Skills”	13 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Ms. Veena Bose
Guest Lecture on ‘Use of Tools for Online Teaching’	17 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Mr. K. Saravanan Nadar
Workshop on Radio Lessons	27 <sup>th</sup> August 2020	Mr. Pankaj Athavale
Cancer Awareness Session	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Kasturi Foundation
Workshop on “Critical Friend Approach”	24 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Dr. Hadas, Faculty, GACE, Israel
Workshop on “Model of Reflection”	25 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Dr. R. Reichman, Faculty, GACE, Israel
Workshop on “Teaching Future Thinking in Schools”	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2020	Dr. Hava Vidergor Faculty, GACE, Israel
Guest Lecture on ‘Enhancing Video Lessons’	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2020	Mr. K. Saravanan Nadar
Guest Lecture on “Education for Peace”	7 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Ms. Madhu Jagdish
Guest Lecture on “Appreciative Enquiry”	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Ms. Jaya Nuty
Workshop on “Creativity in Teaching using Performing Arts”	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	Ms. Lata Raman
Antarchakshu 2.0-Season 3 Workshop on “Reading without Seeing”	4 <sup>th</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	XRCVC
Orientation to “Global Teaching Internships”	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	AIESEC
Webinar on “Exploring Global Opportunities for Indian Trained Teachers”	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	Mrs. Annie Abraham, Mrs. Neeta Joy and Mrs. Shabnum Hiremath
Workshop on the “Creative Art of Storytelling”	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	Mr. Gerish Khemani

## STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Certificate Courses:** KKCE believes in equipping its student-teachers with as many skills as possible. A certificate course titled 'Basics of Cyber Security' was introduced for the S.Y. batch this year. It was a free online course taught by our in-house faculty. The objective of this course was to create awareness of the threat and risks of the digital world, the potential consequences of cyber attacks, steps for safeguarding oneself and actions to be taken in case of online threats. With the pandemic, things have gone online exponentially. It is necessary for student-teachers to be aware of issues relating to cyber security. The course was very well received by the students, especially because it was very relevant to their lives.

The certificate course on 'Use of Performing Arts in Education' was continued this year too for the SY batch in the online mode. As a part of this course, Ms. Lakshmi conducted an online workshop on 'Creativity in Teaching using Performance Arts' and Mr. Gerish Khemani conducted an online workshop on Storytelling. Students enjoyed all the activities planned by the resource persons as they were different and stress busting.

- **Tutorials:** Tutorials are an integral component for both the students and the teachers at KKCE. This year, they were carried out through the new medium but with the same intent of helping the student-teachers recognize, realize and understand the significance of varied components while forming and articulating an answer. Tutorials were conducted in coordination with the Essay department. For SY batch, students were divided into two groups, each group discussing a different subject in rotation. Even while conducting the tutorials in an online set-up, the teachers were careful in keeping up the spirits of the students by encouraging them to voice their doubts and then resolving them.

Tutorials for FY students were held slightly differently. Though they were in co-ordination with the Essay department, but only the units/sub-units were discussed and revised during the tutorials. On the day of the essay, a higher order application based question was asked based on the unit/sub unit discussed during the tutorials. This new version of tutorials went off very well as the students navigated their way through higher order questions.

- **Mentoring:** Periodic mentoring sessions were provided by the college where the student-teachers interact with their respective mentors and share their concerns and doubts along with conversing about their happy moments. The students of both batches were randomly divided into groups of 6-7 and assigned a faculty mentor. Mentoring sessions created safe spaces for students where they could confront their problems responsibly and find solutions. The mentors play a key role in guiding the students capably, assisting them with varied suggestions and providing fresh perspectives that could lead to suitable resolutions. These sessions provided relief to both the mentors and the mentees; and a chance to refresh, relax and reboot - a much needed break from the chaos. Mentoring also brings mentees together and creates a safe environment for exchange of thoughts, ideas and challenges.

- **Counseling Cell:** We were almost a year into the pandemic with no signs of normalcy. The fear of falling ill, of losing a loved one, poor placements and financial concerns gave rise to different mental health issues. Recognizing this, the Counseling Cell continued its last year's practice of offering one-to-one tele-counseling sessions with the college counselor. These sessions were need-based. Apart from this, whenever the faculty and/or the Counselor realized that students were stressed over any issue, they were provided the required support by the cell. FY batch was oriented to the Cell on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to make the new entrants aware of the structure and the facilities of the cell. This session was led by the college counsellor who also explained the basics of Counseling during the session.

A teacher is required to play the role of a counselor to his/his learners. Powerful communication skills – listening as well as speaking are very important to play this role well. Keeping this in mind, the cell organized a session “Effective Communication Skills” on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for the SY batch. The college counsellor led the session and stressed on the need for appropriate content, tone and body language for effective communication.

- **Placement Cell:** The Placement Cell of KKCE was actively involved in ensuring that maximum students of the batch of 19-21 get placed. The pandemic has resulted in a number of schools cutting down on their faculty strength and this has resulted in considerable reduction in fresh teacher recruitments. Besides the regular annual workshop on ‘CV Making’ and ‘Facing the Interviews’, the cell also conducted a session on making e-portfolios this year. Due to the pandemic, schools were given a choice to conduct campus interviews either in online mode, face to face in college or face to face in their institutions. All schools, who participated in campus placements, preferred to hold the interviews online. Necessary arrangements and coordination was done by the cell resulting in a smooth and well- coordinated series of interviews, followed by the online lesson demonstrations.

The placement cell also organized a webinar for exploring global opportunities for teachers trained in India. The resource persons were alumni of college and are academicians in UK, Canada and USA. The intricacies of essential qualifications, licenses, job descriptions, role of teachers, remunerations and their lifestyles in these countries were explained. The webinar was highly appreciated by the students as well as past students who attended it.

- **Parents Teachers Meet:** Parents (or spouses in case of married students), as stakeholders, play a key role in influencing the learning process of students. Their involvement in students’ educational journey positively impacts the learner. We at KKCE therefore go the extra mile to foster a healthy parent-teacher relationship, thus encouraging them to be actively involved in the education of their wards. During 2020-2021, a Parent Teachers Meet was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 to familiarize parents/guardians with college practices in online teaching platform. A brief college report was presented to acquaint the parents/guardians with the plan for teaching-learning, school internship and other major activities for the academic year. The college was aware that due to the pandemic, every home would be fighting its own battles.



So the institution wished to extend a helping hand to the parents. It collaborated with Grey Quest to offer loans to students at extremely low interest rates. Parents/guardians were oriented to this facility in the meeting and were informed of the facts and procedures for availing of this facility. The meeting provided an opportunity to the parents to share their experiences of the institution, the course and their overall impression.

- **Method Clubs:** At KKCE, we inherently gravitate towards holistic education and give students a complete experience in every unit. Method clubs play an important role in providing students a wholesome encounter with their respective pedagogies along with participating and understanding the analogies of other subjects as well. Method clubs also equip the students to connect with their own subjects beyond academics. Although we were confined within online meeting rooms this year, the method clubs continued to shine by showcasing their subjects in a different light and uplifting their importance. The Math club kick-started the activities on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 with their online programme ‘Mathemagica’ to celebrate Pi Day that is celebrated worldwide on 14<sup>th</sup> March every year. Creative events like Math Bingo, Math-e-Bollywood and many others were planned by the Club. The highlight of the programme was the impact and use of Mathematics in daily lives which was put forth by the organizers impressively.

The Language Club too organized their event ‘Lingua Franca’ on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Members engaged the audience with a series of activities like Story-Telling, Synonyms, Proverbs and many more. A unique feature of this event was that every activity was multi-lingual which elevated its significance manifold.

- **Library**

KKCE library is a fully automated unit with ‘SLIM 21’ software. The library boasts of quality collection of Books, Journals, Magazines, CDs, DVDs and e-resources. It also houses a separate PhD section which has an authentic collection of Research Books, Reference Books, Bound Volumes of Journals, Thesis & Dissertation. It also houses separate IT facilities for research scholars. All library operations (acquisition, circulation, cataloguing, serials control etc.) were carried out by library staff during the year. In addition, the following activities were also carried out by the library:

- ~ Maintaining the subscription and registration of INFLIBNET’s N-List programme.
- ~ Online Orientation and Library tour for FY B.Ed students and Research Scholars.
- ~ E-Journal article reviews for SY B.Ed students to promote use of e-resources.
- ~ Information literacy session ‘N-List E-Resources: Online Access’ for FY students.
- ~ Undertaken initiative to introduce SWAYAM courses to faculty and students.
- ~ Display of new arrival throughout the year.
- ~ Formed Student Library Advisory Committee (SLAC) to improve library services.

Besides, various services were provided to students through upgraded MOODLE-LMS. The institutional repository continues to benefit all. It has made Web OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) available on college website. Library website continues to provide online library services to students, enabling them to find books through remote access. Book Bank Scheme was continued. During the year 182 books were added to the library collection (total collection 18870). Along with this, it has also subscribed to 35 journals and 11 magazines.

- **TET Training:** An extensive online TET training was organized for the SY batch from 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Various resource persons along with the faculty and alumni of KKCE trained student-teachers in the content of their respective methods. The details are as follows:

Physics – Mr. Rakesh Gandhi

Mathematics – Mr. Sarang, Dr. Selby Jose

Biology – Mr. Sandesh Kadam

English – Dr. Ruchi Mittal

Geography – Dr. Sheetal Zalte

History – Ms. Damyanti

Economics – Mr. K. Saravanan

Chemistry – Dr. Sunil Rajpurkar

Besides these sessions, they were also provided training on general English, which is a common paper for all TET aspirants. Towards the end, students were helped with practice tests. They were motivated to appear for TET and CANTA exams.

### **RESEARCH CELL - Shodh Sadhana**

The research cell of KKCE strives to promote educational research, disseminate and build capacities in researchers. The Research Cell endeavours to collaborate with other organizations to upscale quality and learn from diverse opportunities provided in the educational environment. Foremost, the Research Cell is proud to announce three successful online defence of vivas of our research scholars organized in our centre on behalf of the University of Mumbai during the pandemic. Mr. Alim Chamdawala, Ms. Sunita Shah and Ms. Sheetal Zalte successfully defended their thesis and were awarded their doctorate degree. Several of our faculty published papers in peer reviewed and refereed journals and attended workshops to update and upskill themselves in diverse areas related to research. We are extremely proud of Dr. Megha D'souza's contribution to the body of research in the form of co-development of a standardized tool – Academic Resilience Scale which was published by National Psychological Corporation.

The institution also believes in up scaling our knowledge of research through exchange and collaborations. One of our objectives in collaborating with Gordon Academic College of Education (GACE), Israel has been promotion of research. Three research based workshops were organized by faculty of GACE for our faculty and students centering on the themes Critical Friend Approach, Model of Reflection and Teaching Future Thinking in schools. Student-teachers applied the knowledge gained from these workshops for their action research projects. Mr. Anay Nanglia from Oxford University interacted with research scholars and educators from KKCE and other institutions and shared his unique experiences as a researcher at Oxford. Dr.

Gopal Midha, a research scholar from Virginia University took research based sessions titled “Improvisation in Times of Uncertainty” and “Staff Meetings – Boring Routines or Dynamic Opportunities”. Several Principals, teacher educators and leaders in Education attended these sessions.

KKCE as an institution promotes research by supporting budding researchers and also partakes in institutional initiatives that facilitate research. Several teacher educators and teachers conducting research locally and globally are respectfully given space and time to collect data. Another major initiative is to partake in research as an entire institution. The Principal and faculty consented to participate in a collaborative research project on Teacher Education conducted by CEIAR, TISS, Mumbai and Department of Education, University of Mumbai funded by Aziz Premji University. The researchers observed faculty curriculum transaction through classroom transactions.

### **WOMEN’S CELL**

All activities of KKCE’s Women's Cell were also held in online mode this year. The cell collaborated with organizations like Sophia College and Kasturi Foundation. SY students participated in a Webilogue "Gender Lens on Covid 19: A Panel Discussion on Gender Stereotypes and Care Economy" organized by Sophia College on August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A session was organized in collaboration with Kasturi Foundation, to create awareness on breast cancer on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The session focused on creating awareness among students of the symptoms, precautions and treatment for breast cancer. As is customary, the new batch of FY students was oriented to the cell on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The objective of this orientation was to create awareness among the new students about the structure and working of this cell.

The cell celebrated International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. On this occasion, selected TED talks were played to spread a message to all the women to believe in their own selves. Besides this, there was poetry recitation and sharing by faculty and students on empowering women. Initiatives taken by various girl students and female faculty members during the pandemic were acknowledged. A guessing game was played where student representatives introduced every female faculty member by highlighting their dominant characteristics and others had to identify them. It was a day to celebrate women and education as a means of reinforcement of their position in the society.

### **KKCE’S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – NIRANTAR**

Members of NIRANTAR have an important and inseparable connection with the KKCE. Their involvement and active participation is crucial for development of the institution. With this belief, a round the year engagement with alumni was planned at KKCE in the following ways:

- ~ Alumni were invited to build capacities of student-teachers for online teaching during the pandemic Ms. Pinaaz Bamanbehram facilitated a session on ‘Management of Online

Classrooms’, Ms. Sehal Gada, Ms. Stacy Vaz and Ms. Neha Dubey demonstrated teaching of lessons in online setup.

- ~ To ignite love for language, a slogan competition was organized by NIRANATAR. Ms. Priti Sheth, Mr. Himanshu Worlikar and Ms. Sonal Shah bagged the top three prizes.
- ~ Alumni were offered free registration for the international webinar organized by the college on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021. This initiative was appreciated by alumni members and they responded by participating in good numbers.
- ~ Emerging opportunities for professional development and new jobs are shared on alumni Whatsapp groups from time to time. These groups remain a strong link between KKCE faculty and its alumni.
- ~ A multi-lingual Alumni newsletter which will be a compilation of ideas, experiences and reflections of alumni is in the process of publication.

### **ANNUAL WEBINAR**

A two day international webinar “Exploring the Transformative Potential of Education: The Choices We Make” was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The main focus of the webinar was Universal Human Values (UHV) for peaceful coexistence and creating a better tomorrow. The overarching themes included harmony with self, in relationships, in society and in nature.

Chief guest Prof. R.G. Kothari set the ball rolling with an eye-opening keynote session on ‘Universal Human Values – Critical Pedagogy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Are Universities Doing Enough?’ This was followed by a very insightful session ‘Discovering Life’s Purpose through Values’ by Mr. Vikas Mittal. This was followed by a panel discussion ‘The Challenge of Embedding UHV across Disciplines and Implications for the Future’. It was moderated by Dr. Nilesh Chatterjee and had speakers Dr. Anusha Ramanathan, Dr. Neeraj Hatekar, Ms. Sucheta Phadke and Dr. Shamin Padalkar bringing in various perspectives to light. Post lunch session was on ‘Epistemological and Psychological Bases of UHV led by Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann which was followed by a session on ‘Futuristic Thinking – with Value Orientation’ by Dr. Hava Vidergor Day 2 also saw an assortment of interesting sessions. ‘Non-Violent Communications: Creating Learning Communities’ by Ms. Jaya Nuty and ‘Reflective Thinking: Turning Experiences into Insights for Transformation’ by Dr. Roxana Reichman left an impact on the participants. The valedictory session ‘Teacher Professionals and UHV’ by Dr. Sybil Thomas provided an effective summation of the two days of deliberation.

Very innovative and interesting papers were presented from around the world during the webinar. The feedback to the webinar was inspiring. Most participants expressed their delight at the true international character of the webinar and of getting an opportunity to interact with international speakers, participants and paper presenters. The papers presented during the seminar are being compiled to be published in the seminar proceedings with an ISBN No.

### **FACULTY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

The college constantly encourages its staff – teaching, office as well as support, to upskill themselves at every possible opportunity. Everyone is provided the space to grow, to enhance their knowledge and/or skills. Individual members of the staff enthusiastically worked on enhancing their professional competencies throughout the year (details of which are attached in the following section). Dr. Sheetal Zalte completed her Ph.D by successfully defending her research work in an open online viva.

The academic year 2020-2021 went by in a flash. It was a year of nonstop action because every little activity had to be re-planned and re-imagined. Things that happened in auto-mode earlier needed hours of deliberations to arrive at the best and most feasible ways. It was a year where everybody's learning curves moved north, and how!

And just when everyone thought the worst was over and lockdown started easing out, there came the second wave. Calling it brutal would be an understatement. This time it did not spare anyone. KKCE suffered too. Our staff got affected, our students tested positive. It was everywhere. We lost a member of our KKCE family – Dr. Ashima Deshmukh to post COVID complications. While first wave appeared to be happening in some distant world, second wave hurt us. Every family had a story to tell. In this struggle to survive, everything else seemed meaninglessly mundane. These were the times when the rainbow refused to show up. Yet we persisted, and will continue doing so. Technology and medicine have been our saviors. Medicine continues giving us hope in the form of vaccines. Technology induced creativity and innovation is thriving. If you can think it, you can do it - has never before been more true!

While last year was about hope, this year persistence and resilience were our super powers and they saw us through. We are sure we will rise once again, like the proverbial Phoenix. Life was never meant to be perfect, its imperfections - an opportunity to learn. While we continue to learn and to grow amidst despair, we sign off with a quote by Haruki Murakami:

*'And once the storm is over, you won't remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won't even be sure whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won't be the same person who walked in. That's what this storm is all about.'*

We look forward to meeting the new you on the other side of the storm. Keep learning. Keep growing. Till we meet again.

**Ms. Ummema Suterwala**  
**Ms. Jinal Baxi**  
**Dr. Ruchi Mittal**

