



## Auxilium College (AUTONOMOUS)

(Accredited by NAAC with A\* Grade with a CGPA of 3.55 out of 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle)

Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006,  
Tamil Nadu, South India.

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### INTRODUCTION

Auxilium College, founded in 1954, is the first women's college in the Vellore District. Under the able guidance of Mother Cesira Gallina, the Founder, it began on a small scale with 12 staff members and 67 students in the first-year Intermediate course. The College is meant not merely for instruction, but for integral education. It was affiliated with the University of Madras till May 2002. From June 2002, it is affiliated with the newly constituted Thiruvalluvar University. Auxilium College was granted the status of autonomy, by the UGC and the Thiruvalluvar University, from the academic year 2007-2008. The College was accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), in 2003 with 'A+' status, with an institutional score of 90-95%. In 2010, the College was re-accredited with an 'A' Grade, with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.41 out of 4, and with an 'A+' Grade with a CGPA of 3.55 out of 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle in 2016.

Auxilium College is a minority institution established and administered by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. They are commonly known as the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, belonging to the Catholic Church. The College is primarily meant for the higher education of Catholic, rural, young women, but, members of other communities are also admitted with no reference to caste or creed. Their rights of conscience are respected.

### Vision, Mission, Motto, Emblem, Flag, Anthem and Objectives

**Vision:** The Vision of the College is to educate young women, especially the poorest, to become empowered, efficient leaders of integrity, for society.

**Mission:** This is to impart higher education mostly to the economically weak and socially backward students of Vellore and the neighbouring districts. Admission is also open to students from other districts, states and countries.

**Motto:** The Motto of the College is 'Knowledge and Virtue'. Knowledge is imparted for academic excellence, and Virtue for responsible, active citizenship.

**Emblem:** The College emblem consists of a book, a lily and a lamp. The book signifies for Knowledge and the lily, Virtue. The lamp with a burning flame is a reminder to Auxilians, to keep the light of Knowledge and Virtue always aflame. The hope and prayer of Auxilium is that every Auxilian, while attaining Knowledge, should strive to acquire Virtue. Both Knowledge and Virtue blend to make the perfect model of womanhood.

**Flag:** Pink and Blue are the colours of the College Flag. Pink symbolizes youthful cheerfulness and Blue stands for loyalty and fidelity.

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**Anthem:** The lyrics and music of the College Anthem were given by Sr. Cleofe Fassa, the first Secretary of the College.

1. Hail, Auxilium, round thee shining,  
All the bright joys of our happy youth.  
Eternal laurels for us thou art twining,  
Wreaths unfading of virtue and truth.  
East and West here doth unite,  
Behold our torch that is to light;  
O'er hills and dales Auxilium will dare,  
Knowledge and Virtue to all 't will bear.

### Chorus:

God bless, God bless Auxilium College,  
God bless, this happy abode of Knowledge.  
To our motto true we'll ever be,  
Alma Mater, hail, O hail to thee.

2. Time will call us away from thee,  
Far across life's dreary, rolling foam;  
But in heart, we will be with thee  
Our dear Auxilium Home.  
Other homes may claim our service,  
Far away 'neath distant skies,  
They may stand or they may perish,  
Alma Mater never dies.

**Objective:** The educative objective is to produce in a Salesian atmosphere, intellectually enlightened, spiritually inspired, emotionally balanced, morally upright, socially committed, and accomplished - in a word - integrally formed, young women, who will be agents of social transformation in today's India.

**Intellectually,** it is ensured that the students gain excellent knowledge, the aptitude for diverse skills, and a good character. All these will lead to successful completion of their studies, meaningful and sustainable employment, a yearning for higher education and a deep commitment to lifelong learning. The competence they build through this holistic education gives them the discernment to make proper choices in their lives.

**Spiritually,** inculcating integrated ethical, cultural and political values is aimed at. A sense of the Divine Presence in Nature and the Human Person is created by providing a family atmosphere, Salesian presence-assistance, personal guidance and group activities.

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**Emotionally**, the young are encouraged to find ways to manage their impulses and emotions, even in stressful situations. Developing an emotional balance begins with a strong foundation of Self-Awareness, the heart of Emotional Intelligence. This is the spur to Self-Awareness and Emotional Balance. Inner focus is most essential for the development of Emotional Balance.

**Morally**, the other-centeredness is developed during the process of learning that pays heed to community values such as equal opportunity for all, the principles of distributive and social justice, and the attitude of mind that sees service of others as more self-fulfilling than one's success or prosperity.

**Socially**, there is the commitment to work for the underprivileged and rural, young women, educating them to attain a social consciousness of one's rights and responsibilities, rooting out social evils and building vibrant communities.

**Integrally**, the students are exhorted to do their best and to always strive for excellence in all spheres of life. The most significant aspect of Salesian education is reaching out to the less privileged with love and kindness.

This all-around formation is achieved due to the collaboration of every member of the College – the Management, the Staff, the Students, the Parents, and the various agencies associated with the College and all the well-wishers - in short, the Auxilium Educating Community.

### The Salesian Educative Method

The history of the Salesian Educative Method, commonly known as Preventive System can be traced to the life and mission of Saint John Bosco (1815–1888). It is based on the pedagogical experience of St. John Bosco with poor youngsters in 19th century Turin on three pillars: Reason, Religion and Loving-Kindness.

The educational challenge, faced today is to help young women to discover and realise their own identity and potential and to prepare them for their integral and effective role in society. As Salesian Educators, the need is felt to guide and help young people to discover and realize their life projects.

The Auxilium College Community lives the Educative Project of its Founders, Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. This educative method, known as the Preventive System, has a well-defined aim of educating young people to become God-fearing women and honest citizens. It takes into account the components of daily work, study, games and recreation. Preventive here means helping the young to grow using positive suggestions and experiences, capable of awakening and utilising all their inner resources. In this way, they responsibly blend with the environment in which

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they live. They can face challenges and avoid the path of evil. The experience of a family atmosphere helps young people to find practical ways of sharing and gradually assuming responsibility. The family spirit is experienced in spontaneous and friendly, interpersonal relationships between educators and the youth.

The Preventive System of Education appeals to the inner forces of reason, religion and loving-kindness. The challenge to make a moral and spiritual commitment is made using one's head and heart. Loving-kindness is instilled by reason and religion. One's reason is constantly motivated by exemplary holiness. Personal rapport and friendly presence – presence-assistance – with the students are effective ways by which each young person is helped her to realize the best within her. An educative environment offers plenty of group encounters and the experience provide the young with the possibility of exercising responsible freedom and an opportunity for self-expression, creativity and innovative initiatives.

This implies ample opportunities for young people, especially those coming from the lower social classes, to acquire knowledge in culture, science and technology. The presence of the staff and administrators among the students is crucial for building a family spirit.

In the multi-religious and pluralistic context of India, the features of Salesian Pedagogy are elaborated further as:

### (a) Educational Climate

- The family spirit is characterized by a welcoming attitude and availability for a personal encounter.
- Fraternal relationships where mutual respect, friendliness and readiness for dialogue are evident.
- Individuals and organizations practically reflect the values such as solidarity, justice, freedom, equality.
- An environment rich in educational experience and initiative encourages growth in individuals.
- Promotion and accompaniment of groups and involvement through representative bodies.
- Readiness to make a comfortable place and atmosphere conducive for encounter, communication and good relationship among people.

### (b) Holistic Formation

- Academic activity and the challenging initiatives that make up College life.
- Research, teaching and professional practice are carried out to provide an all-around education for students.

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- Personal growth and cultural, scientific and professional preparation to ensure that the students acquire a well-moulded personality and a commendable place in society.

### (c) Attention and Accompaniment

- Each individual must receive personal attention.
- Programmes of education in faith, possibilities for dialogue and spiritual direction as a means of accompaniment.
- Opportunities for reflection on the situation of youth today and social, intercultural and inter-religious situations.
- Experiences of commitment and solidarity through community or volunteer services, for the poor and needy.

The reason is seen as interpersonal dialogue, in-depth education to a critical evaluation, personal awareness and respect for the individual. This is a means to aid the young person to understand her inner resources. The basis for reasonableness for Don Bosco was the belief in the inner strength of the one being educated and her openness to goodness and truth. Reasonableness is shown through clear ideas and aims. This is accompanied by flexibility towards circumstances and persons, the help given to the young to act with conviction, the calm atmosphere created around them, the importance given to instruction, cultural and technical formation.

Religion is to be understood as the recognition of God as Father and the acceptance of a lifestyle in conformity with this conviction. The ideal of holiness presented to young people by Don Bosco was one of youthful holiness. This demonstrates certain basic attitudes of life to encounter God. Christ, in whom one finds the fullness of meaning - happiness and commitment to others, the experience of Church as communion and service, vocation understood as a human and Christian commitment, Mary, known as Help of Christians, who have experienced our life and already lived it admirably as a way to holiness.

Loving-kindness is a special quality of friendliness on the part of the educator. This inspires cooperation and confidence on the part of the one being educated. Don Bosco based his education on charity: the pedagogy of the heart. The basic feature is that education is a matter of the heart. Confidence and familiarity are basic to the system. A familiar presence is an indispensable element. The environment provides for education as that creates a good rapport between the educator and the one being educated. Jesus Christ is the model for this relationship.

The real situation that young people face today is the spur to putting the Preventive System into action. The Pedagogy of the heart is more than ever needed due to the frequent absence of love. More than a simple one-to-one relationship is required. The Preventive System implies a group of people working for the young.

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For Don Bosco, love translates into assistance: i.e., lively participation amidst the young and a personal interest shown to each one. Therefore, assistance is the fruit of love. It is an educative presence and a realistic appreciation of the possibilities and limitations of personal development. An educator must relate empathetically with them, stress the internalisation of values, inculcate the importance of responsibility in daily life, and seek ever new ways of being available.

Don Bosco insisted on the importance of the environment as a vehicle for values. He saw this environment as a family spirit between educators and ones being educated, a place where happiness and interior calm reign, where the young can express themselves freely, involving teamwork and an educative community. To set up such a climate in a world influenced by so many other agents (for good or for ill), it is necessary to see it as something belonging to the whole community. This involves the young themselves. It is also essential to keep close contact with their families and look out for gospel values in that environment. The educational environment becomes a complete reality involving persons, relationships and organization.

The Educational System of Don Bosco exhorts every Salesian educator to imitate the model of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Jesus goes ahead of His sheep to find them good pasture, and if necessary, to save the sheep even at the cost of living. Jesus is the teacher par excellence. His teaching was never limited to just theory or concepts. He kept the learners interested by providing opportunities for them to apply the principles they had just learned with kindness, compassion and love. Every educator of this institution is expected to transform the young entrusted to them into citizens worthy of God and worthy of the nation. Mother Mary, the Mother of Jesus and the Mother and Queen of Auxilium is the guide of the educator and the educand to achieve the purpose that God has for every student.

The Auxilium College Community of Sisters is the animating force of the entire Educating Community. The Educating Community promotes dialogue and involves the participation and collaboration of all the members who are interested in the education of the young. It is attentive to the formation of parents and educators so that they too can contribute to the educational endeavour. The staff members with their competence and life experience are committed to serving the young, utilizing all the available opportunities. Parents, the prime educators, involve themselves and share in the educational project.

The evaluation is the tool for each member of the Educating Community to assess the educational process in its entirety. It enables comparing what has happened with what was planned. This exercise draws the entire Educating Community to work in unison.

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The Auxilium College Educating Community is part of the educational network of the Salesian Sisters all over the world, whose main concern is the education of young people. Through competent personnel, the General Council of the Salesian Sisters made up of representatives from all over the world animates and encourages educational activities, offering guidelines and help.

The suggestions and helpful ideas offered by this Council regarding women empowerment, media education and reaching out to the youth at risk and on the periphery have been of great help in the integral formation of the young women, according to the signs of the times and the need of the hour.

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