

## 7.3.1 INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

### **Title: Providing Freeships to Deserving Students:**

In a situation where access to quality education is often obstructed by financial constraints, the distinctiveness of KNS Institute of Technology (KNSIT) lies in its unwavering commitment to providing free scholarships to deserving students, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. This practice is rooted in the institution's core objective of ensuring that financial disability does not affect a student's pursuit of higher education. KNSIT stands out through its dedicated efforts to empower academically bright yet economically weak students, a mission that sets it apart and serves as an inspiration to many.


### **Background:**

KNSIT caters to students hailing from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, including those from both rural and urban areas beyond Bangalore. These students, mostly from rural backgrounds, struggle financially. Despite their technical expertise and passion for learning, their families cannot consistently cover the costs. KNSIT offers these students a lifeline, enabling their pursuit of academic and professional goals. The institution is dedicated to providing affordable technical education at its core.

### **Objectives of the Practice:**

- To provide financial aid to impoverished students, particularly those from rural backgrounds, to keep them enrolled in their education.
- To finance all economically disadvantaged students, regardless of caste, creed, or gender.
- To offer quality career opportunities to deserving students.



  
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## The Practice:

The institution's practice begins at the beginning of each academic year. The institution issues a circular to eligible students, to apply for scholarships. A knowledgeable and dedicated committee carefully scrutinizes each application according to established criteria. Equipped with the applications and accompanying documents, the scholarship committee forwards its final recommendations to the Head of the Institution (HoI). Once granted approval from the governing body, the HoI sets scholarship amounts and informs the selected students. The Freeships awarded for the students can be adjusted in any of the fees like, admission fees, hostel fees, etc.


For example in Academic Year 2020-21 a total of 295 number of students were provided with a scholarship of Rupees 19,09,081 Rs under Economically Backward Scholarship category, during the same academic year considering devastation done by Covid-19 pandemic as a helping hand to needy an amount of rupees 20,78,504 Rs is provided to students under Corona Virus effect scholarship scheme for a total 331 number of students, to reduce the financial burden to the families of students during such crucial time.

Importantly, the students who receive these Freeships are not left to fend for themselves; rather, they are continuously monitored and supported by mentors, heads of departments, and the HoI. This support extends to academic performance, participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, and guidance to help them pursue their career aspirations.

## Evidence of Success:

Since the beginning of the scheme from academic year 2018-19, till the academic year 2022-23 the institution offered Freeships to more than 2400 students, during last 5 Academic years the success of KNSIT's distinctive practice is evident through multiple indicators. This support allowed students from economically weaker backgrounds to access and continue their education, significantly reducing the financial burden on their families. Especially during Covid-19 pandemic as many as around 600 number of students were provide with Corona virus effect scholarship which was definitely a boon for families of those students during such difficult time. All the students who received Freeships showed very good performance



  
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in terms of pass percentage and in co curricular and extra-curricular activities. Most of the freeships recipients are working with MNCs at leadership roles.

## **Challenges/Problems Encountered:**

- Although many students apply for the scholarship, it becomes difficult to award Scholarships/freeships to the needy student.
- As the free scholarships are limited some students get disappointed for not getting a scholarship despite being eligible.
- Keeping the student motivated throughout the duration of the program is a challenging task for the institution.



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