BON SECOURS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (AUTONOMOUS)

Vilar Bypass, Thanjavur – 613006.

Accessibility and Inclusion Policy for the students with disabilities

2025

BON SECOURS COLLEGE FOR WOMEN (AUTONOMOUS)

NAAC Accredited with A++ Grade in Cycle II
UGC Recognized 2(f) and 12(B) Institution
Affiliated with Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli
Vilar Bypass, Thanjavur – 613006.

Accessibility and Inclusion Policy for the students with disabilities

1. Preamble

Bon Secours College for Women (Autonomous) is committed to creating an **inclusive, accessible, and barrier-free environment** for all students, faculty, and staff, including persons with disabilities (PwDs), transgender persons, and individuals from socially or educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. This policy aligns with:

- The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016
- Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan
- Relevant UGC guidelines and BIS standards (IS 17802)

Our goal is to ensure equal participation, independence, and opportunity for everyone in academic, administrative, and campus life.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Admissions, academic programs, assessments, and extracurricular activities
- Campus infrastructure, mobility, and digital environments
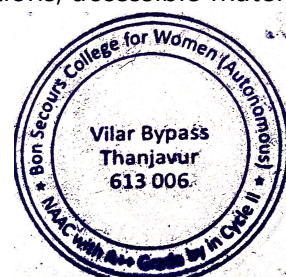- Faculty, staff, and student support services

It covers all types of disabilities, including physical, visual, hearing, speech, intellectual, learning, neurological, mental illness, multiple disabilities, and gender-specific needs.

3. Guiding Principles

3.1. Universal Accessibility: All campus infrastructure, ICT, and services are designed for universal access.

3.2. Reasonable Accommodation: Individual needs are assessed and appropriate support provided.

3.3. Inclusive Curriculum and Assessment: Flexible learning options, accessible materials, and equitable evaluation methods.

3.4. Participation and Engagement: Equal opportunities in extracurricular, residential, and community activities.

3.5. Respect and Confidentiality: Personal and medical information will be handled sensitively.

4. Institutional Mechanisms

4.1 Disability / Equal Opportunity Cell

- Responsible for need assessment, coordination, and monitoring of accessibility measures.

- Provides guidance on reasonable accommodations, including academic, residential, and campus facilities.

4.2 Need Assessment Board

- Conducts initial assessment at admission and ongoing evaluations for academic, therapeutic, or social support.

- Collaborates with external agencies such as CRCs, DDRCs, and NGOs when required.
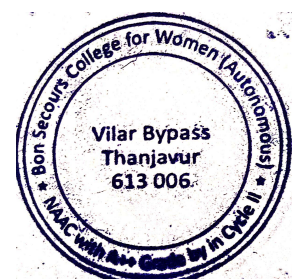
5. Admissions and Academic Support

- Admission forms and information will be available in accessible formats (braille, large print, digital, ISL).

- Flexibility in course load, attendance, schedules, and assessment will be provided.

- Students will have access to assistive technologies and adapted learning materials.

- Faculty will receive training on inclusive pedagogy and teaching strategies.

6. Campus Infrastructure

- **Built Environment:** Ramps, elevators, accessible toilets, signage, and emergency preparedness.

- **Mobility:** Accessible transportation, pathways, and GPS/bluetooth navigation aids.

- **ICT Infrastructure:** Websites, apps, LMS platforms, and software compliant with WCAG and BIS standards (IS 17802).

7. Teaching, Learning, and Assessment

- Curriculum design will follow Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles.

- Learning materials and library resources must be accessible.

- Assessment modifications include:

- o Extended time

- o Alternate formats (braille, audio, digital, sign language)

- o Scribes or assistive technology support

- Continuous monitoring of learning outcomes and satisfaction surveys.

8. Health, Wellness, and Psycho-social Support

- Provision of counselling, therapy, and mental health support.

- Access to medical, physiotherapy, and other healthcare services on campus.

- Special provisions during emergencies, pandemics, or disasters.

9. Inclusive Campus Life

- Equal participation in:

  - o Student councils and clubs

  - o Sports, cultural, and social activities

  - o International exchange programs

- Gender-sensitive facilities for transgender persons.

- Promotion of peer support, mentorship, and self-advocacy programs.

10. Governance and Monitoring

- Regular audits and reviews of accessibility measures.

- Integration of accessibility in accreditation and ranking processes.

- Annual reporting of enrolment, retention, and success rates of students with diverse needs.

11. Accountability

All members of the institution-administration, faculty, and staff are responsible for implementing and adhering to this policy. Violations of this policy may lead to administrative action and remediation.

Policy Review: This policy will be reviewed every **3 years** or earlier as per regulatory updates and evolving best practices.