

VD College students protest teacher shortage

JEYPORE: SHORTAGE of faculty members has hit education in the prestigious Vikramdev Autonomous College in Jeypore. While yet another academic session is set to start in the college, the vacant teaching posts have not been filled up. Although the college administration has recruited guest faculty members, the arrangement does not suffice in wake of change in course pattern.

The college currently offers teaching in Arts, Science and Commerce streams at both Plus Three and PG levels. In Arts, there is a provision for honours teaching in subjects like English, Odia, History, Political Science, Economics, Sociology and Mathematics. In Science, there are two branches-Physics-Chemistry-Mathematics and Chemistry -Biology-Zoology - with honours teaching facilities in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics and Computer Science. The college provides PG teaching in History, Political Science, Economics, Commerce and Chemistry.

However, the college has just 15 faculty members now against the sanctioned strength of 55. As far as non-teaching staff are concerned, there are 40 employees against the requirement of 75. The posts have been lying vacant for the last two years and guest faculties are managing the situation.

Protesting the delay in recruitment of teachers, students of the college on Monday locked the college gate and staged demonstration outside the principal's office. They demanded immediate appointment of permanent faculty members to the college.

Shouting slogans against the Higher Education Department for not filling up the vacancies for a long time, the irate students boycotted classes. While the existing teachers tried to pacify them, the students refused to budge. Later, Jeypore MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati rushed to the spot and pacified the students by assuring them to take up the matter with the Higher Education Department authorities immediately.