

# Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati

## Drug Policy

### 1. Background

Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam being a women's university make a commitment to the health and wellbeing of women students and recognises the alcohol, tobacco and drug use among adolescents is one of the most detrimental risk behaviours affecting academic achievement, student health and safety. With this in mind, a Drug Policy has been formulated, with emphasis on prevention through safe and supportive education environment, intervention and support for students who may be involved in substance misuse.

### 2. Scope of the Policy

The Drugs policy covers

- The possession and use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco in university and also in functions, sporting events, picnics, study hours and industrial visits, by:
  - Students
  - Parents
  - Teaching staff
  - Non-teaching staff
  - Outsourced staff and
  - Visitors
- Therapy and Rehabilitation
- Counselling and Treatment.

### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To support all stakeholders of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam by providing clear guidance and procedure on drug related issues.
- To respond supportively to those whose use of drugs and other addictive substances which interferes with their academic performance.
- To promote a climate in which students can seek help if they are in distress from their own or others use of drugs and alcohol.
- To develop a referral system which includes response to self-referrals and suspected users and in case of emergencies related to drug abuse or possession of drugs.
- To develop and implement guidelines and sanctions, which are clear and articulated to staff, parents and students.
- To develop an institution an action as an integral part of the student's health and personal and social development.

- To train stakeholders of SPMVV about the guidelines related to drugs and alcohol.

## 4. Legal Context

In this Policy, the term “Drug” includes tobacco and alcohol and illegal drugs, as mentioned under the NDPS Act, such as cannabis, opiates, ecstasy, and methamphetamines, volatile substances such as petrol, solvents and inhalants and other substances used for psychoactive effects, recreation or enhancement, as well as prescription drugs used outside medical or pharmaceutical advice.

Under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and subsequent NDPS (Amendment) Act, 2014**, it is illegal for a person to produce/ manufacture/cultivate/, possess, sell, purchase, transport, store and/or consume any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance. In the NDPS Act, the term ‘narcotics’ is used to mean ‘opioids. Opioids are derivatives of opium like morphine, which are used to relieve pain. Psychotropic substances are amphetamines, which are stimulant drugs. Thus Possession of drugs is itself an offence under the NDPS Act as much as sale, purchase, production etc. The punishment does not depend on whether the possession or purchase is for personal use or for resale but depends on the quantity of the drug.

The NDPS Act describes punishment according to seized drugs. Depending on the severity of the offence, the degree of punishment will vary. Particularly Sec 27 of the Act deals with the punishment for the consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substance which reads as follows:

Section 27: Punishment for consuming of any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance -  
Whoever consumes any narcotic drug psychotropic substance shall be punishable, ----

a) where the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance consumed is cocaine, morphine, diacetyl- morphine or any other narcotic drug or any psychotropic substance as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to twenty thousand rupees; or with both; and

b) where the narcotic drug or psychotropic substance consumed is other than those specified in or under clause(a), with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees, or with both.

## 5. Prohibited Actions in the Campus and its extended places

1. Alcohol must not be consumed or brought to the University premises during University hours by students, employees or visitors.
2. Possession of alcohol in the SPMVV transport, by students or employees is strictly prohibited.

3. The consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any function, whether conducted within or outside the University premises. This applies to all types of functions, sporting events, picnics, study tours and industrial visits.

4. In cases where the student is in possession of or under the influence of alcohol /drugs an action of immediate temporary suspension without notice will be initiated. Then she will be referred for counselling and other supportive measures in the first instance and if necessary, could be referred for rehabilitation services.

5. Parents and visitors under the influence of alcohol/drugs, will be asked to leave the premises immediately in the interest of safety of the whole University.

6. The Students of SPMVV who under the effects of alcohol/drugs, will receive a warning and counselling in the first instance and could face disciplinary action and suspension if necessary.

7. The Institution is a No-Smoking site. Smoking anywhere in premises is strictly prohibited.

8. Students are not permitted to bring smoking materials, including matches and lighters to campus

9. In the event that a student is found possessing any smoking materials, they will be confiscated in the interests of health and safety of all and action will be initiated.

10. Any prescription drug for purposes of medication, brought to the campus, must be accompanied by a registered doctor's prescription. Parents must provide written notification of the same to the concerned authorities in advance and the prescription be verified by the medical officers in the health centre of the university.

11. No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used in the premises or university related functions or events, by students, parents, employees or visitors.

12. Drug related incidents will be dealt with by the concerned authorities in a manner appropriate and corresponding to the incident.

13. Drug related incident may include any of the following:

A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug

- Finding drugs or related paraphernalia (i.e. foil, needles) in university premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on university premises
- Use of drugs by an individual in the campus
- Supply of drugs into campus
- Reports of drug possession, supply or drug use
- Individuals (students, parents, teachers, employees) disclosing information about their drug use.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and reported to the Concerned authority

- Appropriate support, in the form of counselling and/or referral to psychiatric support, or rehabilitation services, will be offered to those with substance misuse problems
- Evidence of drug use or possession, despite warning and support services, could result in suspension of the student immediately.

## **6. Disciplinary Action in Drug Related Incidents**

The institution will consider each substance-incident individually and will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interest of the student involved, with the interests of the other members of the University.

Where disciplinary action is appropriate, this might include

- Warning
- Discussing with parents their role in promoting acceptable student behaviour
- Suspension, where the circumstances warrant it.
- In extreme cases resorting for intervention of state law enforcement agencies.

## **7. Procedures**

1. Any member of the concerned university finds student's involvement with alcohol, tobacco or drugs should speak to the authority and the medical officer at the Health Centre as soon as possible.
2. Intervention from the Counsellor/Medical officer may progress to referral to psychiatric evaluation and rehabilitation services.
3. Self-referral: If a student recognizes that she has a problem with alcohol, tobacco, drugs and other impairing substances and chooses to do something about this problem, the educational institution will co-operate as fully as possible with the students.
4. If any student or adult (parent, visitor or employee) is found possessing an illegal drug, or alcohol, or related paraphernalia, it will be confiscated. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of, it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. The concerned head and medical officer / counsellor will be consulted.
5. The immediate priority in any drug related incident is to ensure the safety and welfare of the students and the staff. Immediate action might include establishing the basic facts: what type of drug was taken; how much was taken, when and how it was taken; whether more than one type of drug was taken; whether anyone else was involved.
6. If a student is found to be disoriented, having trouble breathing, or is unconscious as a result of harmful toxic substance, or is at immediate risk of harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the student's safety.

7. Upon ensuring immediate safety, if a student is showing signs which indicate particular risk of, or from, involvement with drugs, the emotional needs and mental health of the student will be considered and referral be made to the medical officer and counsellor.

8. In general, parents or guardians should be informed about and involved in the management of drug related incidents. Their support may be vital in helping their children overcome drug related problems. However, a decision must be made about informing the student's parents keeping in mind the student's psychological well-being.

9. Parents will be expected to co-operate with the support services offered by the university.

10. Inspection of personal property, including and not limited to clothing pockets ,backpacks, personal vehicles, may be conducted by the concerned authority or a designated person at any time, without notice and without student or parent consent for reasons of security and for protecting the rights of other students in the institution.

11. If a student under 18 years of age, is found carrying drugs as listed in the NDPS Act, they will be handed over to the Special Juvenile Police Unit (SJPU) of the local police as mandated by the Juvenile Justice Act 2015. If the student above 18 years of age, the local police station will be informed and the student handed over

12. All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours, the records will be stored securely in the student's/staff's file, held by the educational institution.

## **8. DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

The Drug Education Programme is a vital component of the Drug Policy. Drug education in our institution will be aimed at enabling students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practicing decision making skills. Drug education needs to take place as part of student learning about mental health, body and physical safety.

The Drug Education Programme will consist of:

1) Regular age-appropriate awareness drives at University level, to include interactive sessions that engage students in problem solving and critical thinking and to focus on mental health issues such as stress and coping mechanisms.

2) Sensitization and training of teachers to identify signs of drugs use among students

3) Engaging parents where ever necessary

4) Visit to a rehabilitation centre (proposed)

5) Evaluation and reflection of current education programmes and practices and include goals and strategies for the future.

Effective drug education will place students at the centre of the teaching and learning process. It will assist students to

- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the complex issues involved in drug use, including accurate information about drugs and their effects
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Develop skills to communicate assertively, including how to say no, and the skills to make informed decisions, solve problems and seek relevant support and information services
- Develop attitudes and values that promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Students who have begun to use drugs need safety messages about risks and how to reduce or stop use. The Drug Education programme will be student-sensitive, responding to and inclusive of student voice in the process. The values of self-worth, sense of personal identity, integrity and respect for oneself and others will be at the core of the Drug Education Programme.

## **9. Confidentiality**

1. If a student discloses that she is using a drug without medical authorization. action will be taken to first ensure that the student comes to no serious harm.
2. If this disclosure is to a member of staff, it is the responsibility of the staff to inform the student of disclosure of this information to significant others (Counsellor or teacher or co-ordinator) and wherever possible, encourage the student to be involved in the process.
3. All records will be held securely in the student's file; staff file and strict confidentiality will be observed.
4. The Staff are committed to protect the student's anonymity where her disclosure may implicate others.
5. Confidentiality and privacy of the student who returns to the university will be respected and strict monitoring of her behaviour & progress is ensured.

## **10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION:**

The Policy is designed to be preventative in nature and is intended to help any student having problems with alcohol or drugs. The Drugs Policy will be monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis to include feedback from the stakeholders on its implementation and suggestions to strengthen the effectiveness of the policy.

Parents are required cooperate with the procedures initiated under this policy as they have a critical role to play in building the resilience of their children and helping them to become healthy and active members of the society.

**AFFIDAVIT BY PARENT/GUARDIAN**

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr./Mrs./ (full name of parent/guardian) father / mother/guardian of \_\_\_\_\_ (full name of student) having been admitted in \_\_\_\_\_ Course to \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of the Department) have received a copy of the ANTI-ALCOHOL/ANTI DRUG Policy of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati (hereinafter called the "Policy") and have and carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said Policy.

2) I have, in particular, perused and fully understood the Policy and am fully aware of the penal and administrative action that is liable to be taken against my ward in case she is found guilty of the purchase, possession, use, consumption, sale, distribution or storage of any alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, smoking or illegal drug on university campus, training sites or at any of the UNIVERSITY sponsored students' events, conferences and activities actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote such activities on the University campus.

3) I hereby affirm that, if my ward is found guilty as mentioned in the policy above, she is liable for punishment according to the Clause 6 of the Policy, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against her under any penal law or any law for the time being in force.

Declared this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ month of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Address -----  
-----

Telephone/Mobile No .....

Aaadhar card no .....

**VERIFICATION**

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Place:

Parent/Guardian

**AFFIDAVIT BY THE STUDENT**

- 1) I, \_\_\_\_\_ (full Name of the student) s/o-d/o Mr./Mrs. having been admitted in \_\_\_\_\_ Course to \_\_\_\_\_(Name of the Department ) have received a copy of the ANTI ALCOHOL/ANTI DRUG Policy of Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam,Tirupati (hereinafter called the "Policy") and have carefully read and fully understood the provisions contained in the said Policy.
- 2) I have, in particular, perused and fully understood the Policy and am fully aware of the penal and administrative action that is liable to be taken against me in case I am found guilty of the purchase, possession, use, consumption, sale, distribution or storage of any alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, smoking or illegal drug on university campus, training sites or at any of the UNIVERSITY sponsored students' events, conferences and activities actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote such activities on the University Campus.
- 3) I hereby affirm that, if found guilty as mentioned above, I am liable for punishment according to stipulation mentioned in the Clause 6 of the Policy, without prejudice to any other criminal action that may be taken against me under any penal law or any law for the time being in force.

Declared this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ month of \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_

Student

Mobile No : \_\_\_\_\_

Aadhaar No:

**VERIFICATION**

Verified that the contents of this affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and no part of the affidavit is false and nothing has been concealed or misstated therein.

Place:

Student

Date: