**7.1.1 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Promotion of Gender Equity, and institution’s initiative to celebrate National /International commemorative days, events and festivals in last 5 years:**

There is well acknowledged commitment of the staff and students of Government Bikram College of Commerce, Patiala to follow equality, equity, fairness and probity in all activities. The college is co-educational institution. The college faculty is working with a determined goal to develop core competence of students, to sensitize them about societal issues and to inculcate in them a profound orientation for human values. Gender sensitization which is one of the major priorities of the teachers and college administration is at the centre of the different college activities.

There is provision of” Equal Opportunity Cell” at GBCC that takes care of the needs of all the students coming from different social backgrounds, efforts are made to make them feel comfortable.

The Red Ribbon Club of GBCC organizes programs on Aids Awareness. Blood Donation Camps and National Youth Week are also a part of the programs organized by this club.

The NSS department focuses on gender sensitization through different activities, competitions, extension lectures, workshops, seminars and awareness rallies etc.

An awareness rally against female foeticide was held by NSS volunteers on 14 August 2018.

International Women's Day was celebrated in the college campus on 10.3.2021. Dr. Reetu Lehal , Director of Women Studies Cell ,Punjabi University ,Patiala was the Chief Guest.

The NSS Department celebrated NSS Day with the theme,"Safety of Women" on 24.09.2020.

Sanitary pads were distributed to women of slum areas of Patiala by NSS Department.

Red Cross Club organized a lecture on the theme,"Nutrition, Fitness and Prevention of Anemia." for the female staff and girl students.

Poshan Maah is observed every year . Renowned doctors are called to address the students for creating awareness about the nutritional needs of the body .

Nukkad Nataks are organized by the institution on various issues such as Female Foeticide, Gender Equality and Rights of Women .A Nukkad Natak,' Aakhir Kdon Tak', highlighting social issues was enacted in the college by students of Punjabi university , Patiala.

There is a complete waiver of tuition fees for undergraduate girls so that they can complete their studies without any hindrance. Thus, the college is actively engaged in ensuring gender equitable conditions through various measures.

There is provision of CCTV cameras in the college campus to keep a vigilant eye on the students.

GBC has continued to remain committed in fostering an inclusive environment and to create a fair and equitable space for all staff and students, irrespective of their gender.

Gender balanced leadership results in a greater diversity of thought and better decision making.

This is reflected in the fact that 99 percent staff in GBC is female staff.

The college provides all necessary facilities for ensuring equitable opportunities for studies and personal growth to girl students. Their safety and security in the campus has been ensured by active proctorial duties by the teachers in their vacant periods. A separate lawn has been earmarked for their sitting during the free period. A fully equipped girls’ common room facility is provided to girls. A girls’ hostel with good facilities is provided by the college to take care of dwelling needs of girls coming from far off areas.

The following is the list of National and International Commemorative Days, events and festivals the institute celebrates every year:

**National Voter's Day (25 January**) is observed every year in order to encourage more young voters to take part in the political process.

**Republic Day (26 January**) GBCC celebrates Republic Day. The Principal Hoists the Tricolor Flag and addresses the staff and the students highlighting about the significance of Republic Day.

**International Women's Day (12 March)** is observed each year to celebrate social, economic, cultural and political achievements of Women. Sukhwinder Amrit, a known Punjabi Poetess was invited as the Guest Speaker on 11.03.2020. Dr. Reetu Lehal , Director of women Studies Cell,Punjabi University Patiala was the Chief Guest on 10.3.2021.

**World Earth Day (22 April)** is celebrated by creating awareness among students about protecting our mother earth. A poster making and slogan writing competition was held on 22.04.2022.

**Environment Day (5 June)** GBCC marks this day by planting saplings in the campus. Poster making competition was held on the topic of Global Warming and water feeding pots for the birds were placed on 05.06.2022. A State level function on 'Say No to single Use Plastic ' was held in the college where the Health Minister of Punjab S.Chetan Singh Joramajra was the Chief Guest. A pledge was taken by the Chief Guest, the staff and the students to ban the use of plastic.

**International Yoga Day (21 june) The** NSS Department of the college organizes Yoga camp on this day making the students aware of their physical and mental well being through yoga. A seven day yoga camp was held from 20.05.22 to 26.05.22.

**International Youth Day (12 August)** - also known as Swami Vivekanand Jayanti is observed to spread awareness to the Youth about the issues faced by the Youth.

**Independence Day (15 August)** GBCC celebrates Independence day. The Principal Hoists the Tricolor Flag and addresses the staff and the students highlighting about the significance of Independence day . Azadi ka Mahotsav and Selfie with Tiranga were the main events of 75th Independence Day this year on 15.08.22.

**Teacher's Day(05 September)** A get-together was held on 05.09.22 where the members of the staff are honoured by the Principal for their services to the institution.

**NSS day(24 September)** A program was organised by the NSS department with the theme 'Safety of Women'.The NSS volunteers visited Punjabi University Patiala on 23.09.21 to celebrate NSS foundation day .

**Gandhi Jayanti (2 October)** ASharamdaan Muhim was carried out on 02.10.19. Online Sketch Making, Essay Writing and Slogan Writing Competition was held on the Eve of Gandhi Jayanti on 02.10.2020. Celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 02.10.21. Cleanliness drives are carried out on this day by NSS department.

**Communal Harmony Week (19 Nov-25Nov)** This week is observed every year.

**National Integration Day (19 November )** Also known as Quami Ekta Diwas helps in promoting unity among diverse groups .

**World AIDS Day (1 December)** is observed every year in order to eradicate AIDS from the society. Students made Red Ribbon insignia with the help of Turbans and participated in Slogan Writing and Poster making Competition on 1.12.2022.

**National Flag Day (7 December)** This day is celebrated by distributing Army Flags to the Students.