



An Institution of  
the Society for the Higher Education  
of Women in India

Office of the Principal

Sophia College (Autonomous)

Bhulabhai Desai Road

Mumbai – 400026

Ph: 022-23512642 / 23523304

sophiacollegemumbai.com



# Sophia College for Women

(Autonomous)

**PERSPECTIVE PLAN**

**2018 - 2023**

**Issued by the IQAC**

**Sophia College for Women**





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**Perspective Plan**  
**2018 – 2023**

**Effective date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

*A.P. Patil*

**Dr. Anagha Tendulkar Patil**  
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**Dr. (Sr.) Ananda Amritmahal**  
**Principal**  
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## Introduction

Sophia College (autonomous), founded in 1940, is affiliated to the University of Mumbai. The Governing Body of the Society for the Higher Education of Women in India runs the College. The Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and lay staff form the staff of the College.

The Society of the Sacred Heart was founded in France in 1800, by St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. It is dedicated mainly to the all-round education of youth. There are now a number of schools and colleges of the Society all over the world, besides widespread innovative non-formal involvements. According to a long-standing tradition, the staff takes a personal interest in the harmonious growth of each student entrusted to their care.

Sophia College (autonomous) is a Christian Minority Institution. Students of all denominations are welcome. The main goal of Sophia is the relentless search for Wisdom, through an education that is holistic and transformative.

## Vision

The VISION of the college is the empowerment of women through a holistic education which fosters independent thought and responsible action.

## Mission

The MISSION of the College from its very inception has been to provide women with higher education of an excellent quality together with opportunities for self-growth through an academic experience combining curricular and extra-curricular activities.







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## Goals

1. To enable each student to develop her full intellectual potential through a focussed academic experience that is simultaneously rich, extensive and collaborative.
2. To offer students scope for critical thinking and discernment, leading to the development of value-based convictions.
3. To help students develop a degree of self-reliance and determination to respond with courage and sensitivity to personal and social issues.
4. To generate among students an awareness of women's issues, human rights and environmental issues, so that they understand and respond constructively to these.
5. To sensitize students to look at the world from the perspective of the less privileged and to respond with concern and in a humane manner.
6. In the context of globalization, to foster in students a sense of national identity that is secular and multicultural, with respect and tolerance of all cultures and religions.
7. To encourage Christian students to develop their religious convictions in an atmosphere of respect for other faiths and for each individual's personal beliefs."

## Objectives

1. **Enhance Student Experience:** Improve student support services, extracurricular activities, and campus life.
2. **Promote Research and Innovation:** Encourage faculty-student research collaborations, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
3. **Foster Diversity and Inclusion:** Create an inclusive environment, celebrating diversity and promoting social justice.
4. **Strengthen Alumni Network:** Engage alumni in mentorship, networking, and college development initiatives.





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## **Milestones in the History of Our College**

During its 80 years Sophia has been committed to responding to the changing needs of women in our society: During the 1940s, the period of the Freedom Struggle and the early years of Independence, the College focussed on Home Science as well as on the Arts and the Humanities. Stress was also laid on inculcating pride in our national identity. (The motto of this College, Urdhva Mula, and the crest highlight this). In the 1950s, as post-independent India was making her entry into the technological world, education in Science was first introduced (initially up to the Inter Science level and from 1967 up to the B.Sc. level, later extended to the M.Sc. level in three subjects). In the 1960s a thrust was given to the social dimension of education. During the 1970s importance was given to vocational education. In the 1980s research was given a boost. Excellence and 'Quality Assurance' were the in-words in the 1990s. In the first two decades of the 21st Century our focus is on transformative education through networking and collaboration as well as through outreach work and extension of educational services to the community with special emphasis on the needs of women. Through it all, our commitment to women's empowerment, to excellence and to integrity have grown deeper and stronger.

## **Down the corridors of time, - A brief history of the Sophia College for Women (Empowered Autonomous)**

1. The campus and land in the vicinity belonged to the erstwhile East India Company. A part of the vast property was given to the Parsi family of Ashburner in the early 19th Century
2. The main building was named SOMERSET HOUSE after Sir Henry Somerset one of the Commanders-in-chief of the Bombay Presidency.
3. 1800 -The Society of the Sacred Heart is founded by Madeleine Sophie Barat.
4. 1882 - The property was acquired by the Honorable Badruddin Tyabi. He built Somerset Annexe the nucleus of the present science building.







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5. 1917 – Mr. Hormusji Noshervanjee Vakeel bought the property and added the east-west wing.
6. 1923 – The house was purchased by the Maharaja of Indore, who used it as a winter residence.
7. 1937 – The Maharaja of Bhavnagar bought the house.
8. 1939 – His Grace Archbishop Roberts S. J. of Bombay invites the Sacred Heart nuns to start a women's college in Bombay.
9. 1940 – The Society of the Sacred Heart bought the Somerset House, Somerset Annexe, some out-houses and the grounds.
10. 1940 – The Home and Social Culture centre is formally declared open by His Grace Archbishop Roberts and the name Sophia College (autonomous) (AUTONOMOUS) is adopted; Mother Andersson is the first principal.
11. 1941 – The ARTS FACULTY is started. The University of Bombay grants temporary affiliation to the college for First year and Intermediate classes.
12. 1942 – Extension of affiliation is granted for Bachelor of Arts classes.
13. 1945 – Sophia motto, crest and colours adopted.
14. 1950 – The University of Bombay grants permanent affiliation to the college.
15. 1952 – THE SCIENCE FACULTY is started with classes upto the Intermediate Science level.
16. 1966 – THE SILVER JUBILEE YEAR : The Intermediate Science course is extended upto the Bachelor of Science degree
17. 1975 – Junior college is introduced.
18. 1978 – The Post graduate Diploma Course in Clinical Analysis is started.
19. 1990-91 – THE GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR





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20. 1993 – The Post graduate Diploma course in Quality Assurance in the Food and Pharmaceutical Industries is introduced.
21. 2001 – The Sophia Centre for Women's Studies and Development is inaugurated.
22. 2003 – The Bachelor of MASS MEDIA Course is introduced.
23. 2011 - Certificate Course in Bioinformatics is introduced.
24. 2011 - PhD Programme in Applied Biology is introduced.
25. 2013 - Bachelor of Science - Information Technology is introduced.
26. 2018 – College was granted status of Autonomy.

### Strategies

1. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Involve students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners in planning and decision-making.
2. **Capacity Building:** Provide training and development opportunities for faculty and staff.
3. **Resource Mobilization:** Explore funding opportunities, grants, and partnerships to support college initiatives.
4. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regularly assess progress, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions.





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### **A perspective plan for Sophia College for Women**

The College is granted Autonomy Status on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Hence Autonomy is the focal point of the long term perspective plan. By implementing this perspective plan, Sophia College for Women can continue to empower women, foster academic excellence, and make a positive impact in the community.

1. The College will ensure flexibility and relevance in curriculum by developing rich and strong connections with the external academic and industry experts to develop robust curriculum framework.
2. The College will conduct different types of audits on an annual basis for quality assurance.
3. The College will initiate planning programmes, seminars, workshops and conferences to enhance faculty experience and skill sets.
4. The College will initiate digitization of administrative processes.
5. The College will augment the wifi network covering classrooms, seminar halls and conference rooms.
6. To plan and implement green initiatives on campus.

