

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

Promotion of Traditional Rural Games and Sports

J V College Baraut is situated in the rural area of the Western Uttar Pradesh, quite visible on the agricultural map of India for its contribution to the Green Revolution in the 1960s. Besides, Baraut is a part of the *Mahabharta* Circuit, having rich cultural heritage. Games and sports form a basic part of the cultural activities in the area. So, though the college provides all requisite facilities of popular indoor and outdoor games and sports to the students, it lays maximum emphasis on the promotion of rural games and sports popular in this area.

Shooting: This area has achieved name and fame in the game of shooting. Chandro Tomar alias 'Shooter Dadi' and Prakash Tomar alias 'Revolver Dadi' from the village of Johri in this district, who learnt shooting in their 60s and earned national fame leading to the making of famous biopic titled *Sandh Ki Aankh* on their life and career, are highly inspiring for the girls. A limited number of shooting clubs and ranges are operating in the area for training and practice of shooting. The college seeks the services of the professional shooters available in the area and provides necessary facilities to the aspiring youth to enable them to make their marks on university, state and national levels.

Kabaddi: This is a very old and traditional but very popular rural game. The college tries its level best to develop this game at the grass-root level. Our college has a good *kabaddi* team which takes part in inter-college, inter-university and state level tournaments and championships and earns laurels for the college.

Kho-Kho: Like *kabaddi*, it is one of the oldest traditional outdoor games in this area quite popular at grass-root level. The college has many players having passion for this game. Our college has a very performing team of Kho-Kho players. Our Kho-Kho team has been university champion for many years.

Wrestling: Wrestling is a grass-root level game and the catchment areas of the college have a history of professional wrestlers. Wrestling matches are organized and watched with much fanfare. The college gymnasium has adequate facilities for wrestling practices and matches. The college encourages the young wrestlers of the college to take part in local wrestling matches and perfect their art of wrestling for national and international competitions.

Archery: Archery which is prevalent among the rural folks as an art, skill, sport and practice is regarded as one of the pre-historic sports, prevalent since the time of the cave man. Archery was considered to be a martial art in the ancient civilization and mythologies as we find the mention of the fame of several archers in the *Mahabharata* but even in modern time, it is still one of the popular sports. The college provides all possible facilities to the budding archers and encourages and supports them in their active participation in state and national level competitions.

Our main purpose behind extending all facilities for the rural sports is to preserve and promote our traditional games and sports and bring them and keep them in national mainstream. We want to nurture rural talent in games and sports and help them build their career in games and sports.

