

BEST PRACTICES

B N COLLEGE, DHUBRI



Best Practice : I

1. Title of the Practice: Gender Equity: A step towards a Better Society

2. Objectives of the Practice:

B N College believes in the simultaneous development and progress of all the genders: male, female as well as third gender, which is of utmost importance for inclusiveness and the overall development of the institute as well as the society.

- The objective or intended outcome of the practice is to ensure sensitization for all in the campus on gender-identity issues and its inclusion in all aspects.
- Also to facilitate equal access and opportunity to all the stakeholders irrespective of their gender in learning and exposure to develop individually as well as socially in order to contribute to the nation building.

3. The Context:

- Females are lagging behind in education in the region. The female literacy rate of the district is very low (53.33%) in comparison with the national (70.3%) and state rate (66.27%) (Census 2011). The higher education institutions in the region face impediments to increase Female Enrollment in the region. In view of the current situation of the district, the college tries to provide every opportunity to all the genders in the campus.
- In the context of the prevailing feeling of insecurity and discrimination in the society and the workplaces by genders, especially the Females and Transgender, the college endeavors to set examples by its positive actions and gestures in the campus rather than to show repentance and condemnation only for any such social biasness and injustice.

4. The Practice:

- B N College is open for all genders and thus offering options to all the Genders (Male/Female/Transgender) in the students' Admission form.
- The college has a Gender Sensitization Action Plan to guide in implementing the gender equity practice in every stratum in the campus.
- Constitution and active working of social units of the college namely, Women Forum, Women Cell of BNCTA for taking up "Gender Equity" and "Right to Life with Dignity and Equal Opportunity" promotional programmes and awareness through various programmes on the cross-cutting issues.

- Constitution and active working of Anti Sexual Harassment Committee, Anti Ragging Committee, Grievance Redressal Cell to ensure the campus environment is free from violence and discrimination.
- Signing MoU with Counselor for undertaking counseling sessions and for mitigating mental issues; appointing lady doctor to address the female related health consultation.
- To ensure equal opportunity to all irrespective of gender in the college campus, encouragement to live with dignity and contribute to the institute as well as in the nation building in a broad sense, the college organizes yearlong continuity of awareness programmes on gender equity and women empowerment in the campus and beyond.
- Ensuring infrastructural facilities, safety and security, menstrual hygiene by sanitary napkin auto vending facility inside the campus.
- The women forum of the college conducts periodic audit of Female Safety in the campus by way of Students survey, analyze it to recommend appropriate measure to the Governing Authority.
- The college has active Memorandums of Understanding with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), *Mahila Samata Society*, *Samagra Shiksha*, Dhubri, Assam, Pathikrit-an NGO, Assam to jointly carry out activities related to social problems like Child Marriage, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dowry Process etc.
- Undertakes Gender audit every 5 years to identify and understand gender patterns within their composition, structures, processes and appropriate planning to design and deliver policies and services thereto.
- Besides dealing with the gender related cross cutting issues incorporated in the Affiliating University Syllabus, the college offers Add on courses on “Human Rights” and “Women in Leadership” to sensitize and practice gender equality among the students (Doc Add on course).
- To extend the concept of Gender equity in the community, B N College undertook ‘Women Literacy Programme’ in one of the adopted villages.

Constraints:

- The college being a Government Provincialized institution, it is bound to follow the government rules and regulations in the process of admission and appointments, where preference to a particular gender is not applicable. However, the institution has the ‘Gender Sensitization Action Plan’ authorizing the administration to confer leadership duty to the students as well as staffs irrespective of their gender.

5. Evidence of Success:

- Female student enrolment data of last five years show gradual increase in female enrolment [Academic session: 2016-2017 → Male = 62.67%, Female = 32.33%; Academic session: 2020-2021 → Male = 56.27%, Female = 43.73%].
- Staff position (Non-Teaching staff), last five years show gradual increase in female appointment [Academic session: 2016-2017 → Male: 84.61%, Female: 15.38%; Academic session: 2020-2021 → Male: 79.16%, Female: 17.39%]
- Staff position (Teaching staff), last five years show gradual increase in female appointment [Academic session: 2016-2017 → Male: 72.13%, Female: 27.87%; Academic session: 2020-2021 → Male: 69.23%, Female: 30.67%
- The female student enrolment increased from 10 (year: 2016-2017) to 17 (year: 2020-2021) in the college NCC Platoon. Similar trend of achievement is observed in NSS enrolment, where number of female enrolment is gradually increased from 47 in 2016-2017 to 56 in 2020-2021.
- Our students are highly conscious and take initiatives to aware their peers in Anti-Sexual harassment and Anti-ragging activities by wall paintings
- To expand the Gender equity initiative beyond the campus, a 'Women Literacy Programme' has been undertaken in one of the adopted villages. The attempt could increase the literacy rate of the village to the mark of 72.14% from the erstwhile 61.4%.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

- Female staff position cannot be increased due to limitations in appointment guideline. The placement guideline does not permit preference of appointment on the basis of gender.
- Admission process of the college is strictly on merit and does not have any criteria of female preference or reservation.
- Shortage of Resources to increase the number of hostel accommodations for both the genders in the college.

Best Practice : II

1. Title of the Practice: Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Teaching and Learning with Special Reference to Learning Management System (LMS)

2. Objectives of the Practice:

- To make the teaching and learning process more accessible and student-centric.
- To facilitate round the clock (24 x 7) teaching and learning through blended mode i.e. physical/offline and online systems in the college.
- To encourage use of information and communication technology in teaching and learning process thereby reducing digital gap among the students.
- To encourage students to minimise the use of paper thereby reducing the Carbon Footprint.

3. The Context:

B. N. College, Dhubri is located in a semi-urban area of Dhubri – an aspirational district as per the NITI Ayog in Assam. It is a peripheral district with low literacy rate (58.3% against state average 73.18% and national average 74%, **Census Report 2011**), poor socio-economic conditions, inadequate infrastructure and communication facilities and so on. The college attracts most of its students from surrounding villages and riverine areas of Dhubri and the neighboring districts and states. Access to high speed internet is a major challenge before the College in implementing the learning management portal.

4. The Practice

By adopting various means, college strengthen the use of ICT in teaching-learning process, which are highlighted below,

- Up-gradation of college website by increasing hosting capacity of the server in order to maximize the uploading of data.
- Increase of lease line bandwidth from 4 mbps to 12 mbps and additional 200 mbps bandwidth of broadband connection and establishment of MoU with service provider.
- 30 nos of classrooms with LCD projectors, wi-fi facilities
- Use of ‘G-Suite’, ‘Easy Class’ in teaching-learning process
- Establishment of Video-Conferencing Room for remote classes with experts of various fields
- Establishment of ‘Online E-Language Cum Multimedia Lab’

- Procurement of N-List provided by INFLIBNET and DELNET for online access of resources and World E-Book Library to access E-books online
- Establishment of D-Space (cloud based institutional digital repository) for online access of resources including study materials.
- Development of 'B N College Learning Management System (LMS)' in teaching-learning process.

The LMS is a fully functional portal used by faculty members and students of the college. All users have their individual registered ID to login into the portal. The faculty members regularly upload study materials in the form of class notes/soft copies/videos etc. The faculty members have also conducted internal evaluations through the portal to make teaching-learning process more engaging and interactive. The students have full access to the portal which enables them to download, make notes, listen to the video classes and so on. An orientation programme on – **How to use Learning Management System** has also been organized by college in order to guide the faculty members in uploading study materials. In addition, an instructional video on **How to use Learning Management System** has also been circulated among the students to train them in using the portal conveniently.

Uniqueness in the context of Indian higher education

ICT has become imperative in the higher education system across the globe. Use of scientific tools and equipments in teaching and learning process motivate/encourage students to a great extent unlike traditional methods of teaching. Therefore, it is prudent for students of a peripheral district like Dhubri to cope up with changing pattern of teaching and learning process.

Keeping this in mind, college has initiated to impart education through the use ICT along with conventional teaching methods. Apart from using available resources from different vendors, the college has developed its own LMS, which is a tailor-made portal as per the requirement of the stakeholders.

Constraints/limitations

- A section of the students do not have access to android mobile handset/ laptop/computer as they are from economically challenged sections of the society.
- Higher cost of bandwidth.
- In some of the adjoining areas of the college, penetration of internet facility is not up to the mark.

5. Evidence of Success:

- Not less than 95% of the students registered in the portal and actively using it.
- Optimum use of the portal in uploading and downloading of study materials (video -379 and soft copy or class note – 4023).
- During the Covid-19 induced pandemic while the online mode of teaching and learning process was the only option available; the online portal as well as the G-Suite and Zoom platform have extensively been used by the faculty members and the students to continue the teaching and learning process without interruption.
- Optimum use of the portal will help to reduce digital divide.
- Organising webinars through G-suite and Zoom platform provide exposure to the students to interact with resource persons of various national and international level.
- In order to evaluate the extent of success of the use of ICT along with LMS in the teaching-learning process of the college, feedback from the students has been collected and analysed. The analysis indicates that almost 87% of students find it helpful in their studies while using ICT in the classrooms and 61% of students regularly use the facilities of LMS.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required:

Problems Encountered

- Low bandwidth problem or poor internet facility
- Need to strengthen technical knowledge of the teachers and the students

Resources Required

- In order to make the learning management portal fully functional, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with a service provider – Jeet Tech, Assam.
- Maintenance and upgradation of the portal from time to time is done by the Jeet Tech, Assam in the following ways -
 - Domain and hosting renewal
 - Time to time feature update
 - Penetrating XSS, SQL injection testing in every 30 days
 - Malicious or malware checking in every 15 days
 - Enhancing bandwidth (depends on site traffic)
 - Keep backup in every 30 days
 - Apart from these, regular technical supports required by the stakeholders are also addressed by the service provider.