

## **CRITERION 7- INSTITUTIONAL VALUES AND BEST PRACTICES**

### **7.2 Best Practices**

**A] Title of the Practice:** Extending the ambit of student support to promote holistic development

**Goal:** To provide all kinds of support to students to ensure their physical and mental well being as well as skill development.

**The Context:** In current scenario mental well being has become as important as physical well being because mental health issues are becoming very frequent among students. Along with this, skill development is another area which needs to be focused on to ensure that students graduating from the college are equipped to deal with challenges that await them in the future.

**The Practice:** To address the issue of mental well being, our faculty members have one-to-one interactions with the students of their department so that they can share the problems that they face in their academic as well as personal life. Rather than having just one counsellor, the faculty members take the initiative of counselling and mentoring the students. The Women's cell of the college also organises various awareness programs related to mental and physical well being for the students. One such event was on 'Comprehensive Well-being of Women' where experts came and discussed the impact of psychological disorders as well as physical diseases like Cervical cancer and PCOS which are very common nowadays.

Along with this kind of support, the college also provides conveyance support to the students in the form of free bus service to and from the nearest auto stand, bus stand and metro station. This bus service is also provided for educational tours, field trips, industrial visits and excursions organised by various departments of the college for their students. The college also provides access to ferry service as it is located close to the river bank. This ferry service was revived after the college repeatedly communicated with the Transport Department to repair it and make it operational for the benefit of the students.

Coming to skill development, the college ensures that students develop leadership qualities, ability to work in teams, communicate with students of other colleges and organise large-scale events like annual fests and other cultural and interactive programmes. They are encouraged to participate in intra as well as inter college events of academic and non-academic nature to facilitate their holistic development. Students of other colleges are invited to participate in events organised by the institution to increase interpersonal interaction and exposure. The college also offers certificate courses like Personality Development and foreign language courses so that students can learn new skills and get a better chance of gaining employment in the future.

**Evidence of Success:** So far the efforts of our faculty members to connect with the students on a personal level has proved successful as the students contact their teachers through mediums like Whatsapp and email to discuss their problems and are given sound advice and

guidance. They are also encouraged to approach the teachers after class hours in college for the same.

The Bus service is availed by hundreds of students. Given the popularity of this service, several trips are conducted in the morning and the evening so that maximum students of both the shifts can get the benefit of this service. All the departments of the college regularly avail the bus service for taking their students for field trips, educational excursions and industrial visits. Because of this facility, increased numbers of initiatives are taken by the department to plan more such visits.

In terms of skill development, the college has a student committee which organises the annual fest Ripples with the support of the administration. They look after all the aspects like arranging sponsors, inviting other colleges to participate, finalising events, carrying out preliminary selections and inviting judges and guest artists. Students have successfully organised this annual extravaganza along with other events of the college this year. They have also won various inter-college Sports tournaments and have secured good positions in inter-college fests and programmes.

**Problems encountered and resources required:** In order to ensure that more number of students can avail the bus service, the college needs to arrange for an additional bus. To encourage students to develop a diverse skill set, more certificate courses need to be introduced for the students in the upcoming academic session.

#### **Notes (optional)**

#### **Contact details:**

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**B] Title of the Practice:** Making student admission process and financial support schemes more inclusive

**Goal:** To ensure that meritorious students from different social, economic and religious backgrounds are provided admission to the college, especially first generation learners.

**The Context:** Although the college is a Jain minority institution functioning under the aegis of Shree S.S. Jain Sabha, the admission process is an inclusive one. The institution believes in providing all meritorious students access to high quality education and a conducive environment for gaining knowledge irrespective of their caste, class or economic background. Shree S.S. Jain Sabha has taken this initiative to make it easier for students especially from Howrah, Hooghly and North 24 Parganas to get access to higher education in an affiliated degree college so that they have a better chance of gaining employment in the future.

**The Practice:** Students from all economic, social and religious backgrounds are allowed to apply for admission and the final selection is done on the basis of academic merit. A distinctive feature of the college is that it has attracted several first generation learners over the years who have become rank holders in different departments.

Another aspect that the college focuses on to make the admission process inclusive is by providing financial support in the form of concessions to students who are not so privileged and scholarships to those students who have secured a high percentage in their class 12 board examinations and University examinations. Students are also given access to government sponsored scholarships like Kanyashree and Aikyashree based on their eligibility. This type of support is meant for giving an incentive to students to excel in their studies at the undergraduate level and become equipped to pursue post graduation or join the professional world after graduation.

**Evidence of Success:** It is very evident from the student database that the college attracts students from General as well as reserved category, privileged as well as underprivileged milieu and Hindus as well as Muslims. As mentioned earlier, first generation learners are also a part of the student strength. One such student from the Department of Commerce who is a first generation learner and is a college topper of all departments in the University Examination scoring 75% marks. He is now preparing for civil service examinations. This shows that the college has managed to make its mark in achieving its goal of providing high quality education to all categories of students.

**Problems encountered and resources required:** As the institution is a self-financed one and does not receive any grant from either the central or state government, concessions in admission fee are provided to students selectively based on their economic background or merit. However, the college is in the process of applying for 12 (b) and 2 (f) status under the UGC Act, 1956 so that more financial aid can be given to the students by utilising the grant from the government to make higher education more affordable for all.

**Notes (optional)**

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