

CRITERION 7- Institutional Values and Best Practices

Key Indicator- 7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words.



SHISHURAM DAS COLLEGE

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7.3 INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

Promotion of Extension activities

The institution endeavours to promote an inclusive educational system which will prioritise the needs and interests of the stakeholders specially those belonging to the weaker sections of the society and make them better citizens. At the same time the college is committed to fulfil its duties towards the society at large. The institution wishes the stakeholders to be socially responsible, participatory, and committed in providing service to the people as education is not an end, but a means to accomplish certain noble objectives and transmit fundamental values. Since its inception, the institution has come a long way in providing quality education to a diverse variety of students, many of them being first generation learners and a significant portion belonging to minority community and other weaker sections.

The college has a tradition of promoting institution-neighbourhood community network and students' engagement. The practice is not confined to seminars and awareness campaigns alone, several field work, and practical applications are also undertaken by different departments. To promote holistic development of its students, the institution has taken several initiatives for various extension activities including community development programmes. This can be identified as one of the most distinctive features of our institution. The extension activities are aimed at fostering empathy among the students, and make them aware of their duties towards the society as responsible citizens.

Under the able guidance of the college authority and with active participation of social-welfare sub-committee, a host of community development activities are being carried out in the neighbourhood area. The teaching and non-teaching staff of the college along with the students enthusiastically participate in these initiatives. The institution periodically arranges for distribution of stationaries, copies, and other food items among the neighbourhood primary school children to encourage and help them. Besides awareness campaign against 'Dengue and Malaria' is carried out in villages. The students of the social-welfare sub-committee, come forward with the project of cleanliness in the neighbourhood areas. Frequent field visit to the locality by the students of department of

Geography, accompanied by their teachers have also been conducted in the neighbourhood areas to assess the water quality. The test reports have been shared with the panchayat authorities so that appropriate steps can be taken for the betterment of the farmers.

The college conducts regular campaigns and social outreach programmes in surrounding areas to increase awareness among the parents about the negative consequences of early marriage, motherhood on the health and socio-economic well-being of a girl child. The members of the Women's development Cell, in collaboration with the IQAC of the institution organise awareness campaign in the neighbourhood villages, on "*Beti Bachhao beti padhao*" and a survey shows that we have been successful to minimise the dropouts after completion of the school education.

Awareness programmes about the nutrition and health care of pregnant ladies and the ladies under maternity phase, at the local *Anganwari* centre, has been conducted by the members of the Women's development Cell, in collaboration with the IQAC. The Women Cell has also organised an awareness camp for the lactating children and the nutrition of the children between 1-10 years.

The local women police officer from Kapathat, has attended a workshop, organised by the Women's cell and IQAC of our college regarding the law, related to safety and security of the girls. This programme was organised on the International Women's Day.

The students at the college have organised the 'recycle and reuse' workshop and invited the students of class XI and XII of a local school. The students have also attended a summer internship programme on 'First Aid', in collaboration with local health centre. They have also demonstrated and taught the acquired training to the school students of the locality.

Awareness campaigns and rallies are regularly carried out in the neighbourhood on socially and environmentally relevant issues. The students have actively participated in Vaccination camp for Covid-19, distribution of foods and stationaries to the less fortunate children of the local primary school on Children's Day, celebrating the *Raksha Bandhan* festival in the neighbourhood school and surrounding areas to spread the message of communal harmony, rallies for

awareness regarding dengue and malaria prevention, and anti-plastic campaign, Anti-tobacco awareness programme, 'Save Drive Save Live', 'Promotion of Bicycle as means of transport' etc.

The students from the social welfare sub-committee are also engaged in maintaining the cleanliness of the campus and surrounding areas for a more sustainable environment. Rallies regarding the awareness of tree-plantation on World Environment Day, is organised by the social welfare sub-committee. Tree plantation programme in the campus and distribution of saplings among the students have also been carried out as a part of the environmental awareness. The students are required to send pictures of the saplings and the stages of their development at regular intervals. The aim of this small initiative is to make the locality greener.

The institution has achieved various laurels in recognition to our distinctiveness in carrying out various community development as a part of extension activities. Despite financial constraints, the college wishes to carry out these distinct activities in the future as well with the overwhelming participation of its stakeholders. The institution has been highly successful in sensitising its students regarding the crucial role they can play in dealing with different social and environmental problems. The community service and social work has not only benefitted the target group immensely, but also contributed towards environmental sustainability.