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7.3: Institutional Distinctiveness

We are pretty often in the habit of mentioning that Tagore the visionary provided us the aspiration of Higher Education with his Grand, Cosmopolitan dream of an essentially inclusive and assimilative learning which is continuing to sustain us. Lucky, the lush and verdurous rural campus in the lap of Mother Nature remains to be a perfect setting within which the growth of mind and body coordination takes place while working it's way through a curricular framework. The college buildings are mainly situated surrounding a centrally located pond lending both ecological health and optical delight for all stakeholders. The main Gangetic tributary of Damodar in Hooghly flows through Champadanga and nurtures the locale of Champadanga with its alluvial fecundity. The agricultural character of the place thus allows for a spirit of nurture to overlay its atmosphere which we consciously inculcate and practice in our college. We adapt and gear up many of our institutional policies with a view to sustaining our campus life that pulsates within the embrace of Nature. Environmental sustenance that promotes the overall health of the stakeholders defines our distinct thrust and we tend to do it in ways that act as a buffer against depletion of sustainable resources. For example, the college has a Green sub-committee and under it, a Nature club, especially assigned with the task of acting as a Nodal Font that devices plans and programs from time to time so that continual improvement keeps on taking place as far as the inner and adjacent environments of our Institution are concerned. We believe in the process of augmentation and thus we encourage our NSS, NCC and even some departmental wings to put gardening into practice. Purbasha Eco Helpline Society (PEHS) of Sundarbans, with whom we already enjoy a MOU, has gifted us some mangrove saplings which we plan to use as an experimental patch for future sustenance and possible revenue generation. Following advises from our Academic Audit, we already have dug two wells in a lowland parcel so that groundwater gets recharge, especially during the rainy season. Taking a cue from PEHS, we have set up some earthen nests in the branch of some trees within the campus, and it is made sure that students of various departments take part in setting it up. A request has already been send to a local bank (PNB) for setting up an urban garden adjacent to our Auditorium-Cum-Smart-Class building as part of the bank's ongoing social extension project. This marks our commitment to strengthen our ecological health that we have as a natural gift. Additionally, a Government plantation program with a social message, "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (one tree in the name of the mother) through the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), Shibpur, Howrah has been initiated. This is aimed at improving campus and local environment. Participating students are to bring and dedicate the well being of the planted sapling in the name of their mother and aim to prevent mindless developmental works that go on in the name of urbanization. The rising need of organic farming has encouraged the college to construct a pit for storage natural waste produce organic


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manure by vermicomposting. The medicinal garden of our college has a number of rare and big trees. We believe this garden would act as a reservoir and help in sustainable research of medicinal properties of these plants and add to human welfare in near future. Other than our distinctive attempt in maintaining this environmental order, we highlight some other distinguishing features that lend a special character to our institution:

1. From the days of its inception our college situated in an agricultural area started with a handful of students enrolled for the general course in commerce, we came a long way and have introduced Arts and Science streams as well. Other than basic subjects with Honours and general, now 4 year and 3 year major respectively, we boast of as applied subject like Microbiology as a major subject that came into currency and popularity pretty late.
2. The college has been conducting several initiation programs. Women's cell has initiated many programmes aimed at generating gender sensitivity and gender equity including setting up of food stall or displaying and selling home-made articles and wares as a possible means of empowerment among girl students and women stakeholders. Events for financial literacy has been arranged for both staff and students where girls were especially encouraged in understanding about proper budgeting and investing as a stepping stone to their future growth. Many students have got jobs through the timely initiative of our placement cell.
3. Covid2019 has left its indelible mark on the student psyche. Added to it, the stress of daily life and its uncertainty have masked young minds with psychological problems, which are quite correctable through counselling. The Women's / Wellness cell of the college has been arranging for counselling sessions, especially for the students, for providing mental healing. A NGO had been roped in for conducting those professional sessions through online mode. The responses were more than satisfactory.
4. Apart from above our institution consciously attempt to preserve local heritage of the intangible kind. Our Heritage Cell comprises of dedicated team members who keep on guiding and encouraging students about the need of preserving the old as also the contemporary that have a lasting value. Recently a girl student of ours was awarded with the winner's prize at the national level (prize received at Delhi) by INTACH a NGO based in India but with an international acclamation. So localized culture and its heritage endows us with an opportunity for broader linkage.

Hence, we try our best to transcend our usual rural disadvantage and take thereby the best possible measures with our best intent for healthy, ameliorative growth of our stakeholders. We thus incorporate that 'World is a grain of sand' where we try to go for the macrocosmic possibilities within the microcosmic space of the college.


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