

Best Practice I:

1. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE -- Social Responsibility and Community Service

2. Objective of the Practice:

Dhamdhama Anchalik College, situated almost 13 kilometers away from the district headquarters of Nalbari is a premiere institution of higher education. Comprised of diverse communities mostly of Scheduled castes and tribes, 95% of the total population of the villages that surrounds the College are economically backward. Role of an institution of higher education in the adjacent society is always expected. Dhamdhama Anchalik College has been playing an important role in solving the socio-economic issues of this underdeveloped Dhamdhama locality and has been extending its helping hand to the villagers of greater Dhamdhama locality like Phulguri, Ratanpur, Goalbil etc. and specially in Barakhat (Uttar Bar Siral, the adopted village of the college) in respect of health and hygiene, education and during the time of natural calamities. In this connection, teachers, employees and students altogether have undertaken many programmes to ensure establishment of complimentary relationship with the villagers of this locality by directly getting involved to understand such challenges and to mitigate them.

3. The Context:

Besides trying to develop physical, mental and intellectual development of the students of the institution, the IQAC, the women's forum "Annanya" and other associations of Dhamdhama Anchalik College have undertaken many programmes for all round development of the society.

1. Try to establish relationship with the neighbouring villages of Dhamdhama like Phulguri, Ratanpur, Barakhat, Goalbil and to try to mitigate socio-economic and environmental issues.

2. To invite the villagers to take part in various awareness programmes held in the college and thereby establish strong relationship with the neighbouring areas.

3. To establish coordination with the nearby villagers and thereby open up scope of research for the teachers as well as the students.

4. To diminish various issues of social and educational challenges by adopting programmes of rural development and to develop the greater Dhamdhama locality.

4. The Practice:

The authorities of Dhamdhama Anchalik College have adopted various programmes to eliminate various issues of the neighbouring villages. In terms with the development of the neighbouring villages, the College has been organising various awareness programmes like education, health, hygiene, consciousness about the environment, skill development, superstition and menace of prejudiced culture etc. By organising a seminar on “Ekabingsha Satikar Nari, Pratyahban aru Pratyasha – Arthanaitik Swabalambitat Narir Bhumika” (Women in the 21st Century: Challenges and Expectations – Role of Women in Economic Development) on 07/08/2018, the women’s cell of the college, Annanya has tried to carry forward the women of the villages Phulguri, Ratanpur by unifying them. The Women’s cell of the college is also trying to give emphasis on Women Empowerment by organising meetings and seminars on women education and gender equality by celebrating International Women’s Day on 8th March and International Girl Child’s Day on 5th September every year. On The women’s cell Annanya also conducts a 3 day survey on women consciousness and women empowerment in connection with International Women’s Day and thus tried to create awareness among people. In addition to women empowerment the women’s cell of the college Annanya in collaboration with DAC Drama and Dance Academy also performs a street play on 14th November, 2021 on the occasion of Children’s Day and a short film on 9th August, 2022 to make people aware about health, education and rights of Children.

With this notion of health is wealth and keeping in view of the health of the people of neighbouring villages of Phulguri and Ratanpur, a free health check up camp is organised on 10/06/2019. Dr. Pranjal Hazarika, the renowned physician took part in the health check up camp. About hundreds of people of these villages check their health in presence of the health workers of Dhamdhama Mini Primary Health Centre (MPHC).

To create awareness among people of the locality regarding precautionary measures to be taken during post covid-19 pandemic situation and to make people aware regarding health and hygiene in this flood stricken area caused by rivulet Cheng and Pagladiya river, public awareness meeting has been organised. Extending the helping hand towards these economically backward inhabitants the College family distributed food materials, drinking water, disinfectants, soap etc. among the flood affected people. Sanitary napkins were also distributed among the females after the flood.

Progression of a society is dependent on the youths. To keep the youths away from the bad effects of tobacco, Dhamdhama Anchalik College organised an awareness programme on the ‘Harmful Effects of Tobacco’ which took place on 31/05/2022. Dr. Mukul Chandra Bhagabati, was the chief guest of the programme and students of the college as well as youths from these locality took part in the awareness programme.

The college also conducts an awareness programme to protect the environment and biodiversity of the rivulet Cheng which runs through Dhamdhama Anchalik College. An

agreement has been signed by the Dhamdhama Market Committee and the Dhamdhama Anchalik College teacher association to solve these issues.

A Cake Baking workshop was organised by Dhamdhama Anchalik College to make the girl students as well as females of the neighbouring villages economically independent. Many of the students and local females were also benefitted by the USHA Sewing School of the college where they were trained in knitting and cutting and established their own knitting and cutting centre.

Dhamdhama Anchalik College also organised Awareness on use of Mobile Applications for Digital Payment, e – Governance Services, IT Applications and Cyber Security for Women with the help of NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and information Technology), Guwahati. In this programme almost 200 females, students and farmers are trained about the use of mobile phones for three days regarding cultivation, market and digital transaction.

In one of the neighbouring villages namely Uttar Bar Siral an awareness programme on the rights of women was organised to make the village women aware about their rights and about domestic violence.

Dhamdhama Anchalik College provides financial assistance to students belonging to economically backward families not only for the purpose of education and higher studies but also to ailing students for their treatment.

Dhamdhama Anchalik College family is always responsible towards the society. The people of the neighbouring villages of Dhamdhama were facing the problem of a modernised public crematory. The college family constructed a crematory for public including a garden, a rest shed. Walls were also constructed in the surrounding areas. Construction of the public crematory has solved a long lasting issue of doing the cremation rituals after death. In this connection a committee has been formed to look after the crematory.

5. Evidence of Success:

The awareness program undertaken by Dhamdhama Anchalik College has affected the villagers. They are health conscious compared to the past and the incidence of diseases like diarrhoea has decreased. Mothers are paying attention to child nutrition.

They have started their businesses through cake baking training and cutting knitting training. Housewives have become financially self-sufficient through weaving, self-help groups etc.

People are becoming health conscious and treating according to doctor's advice instead of medicines and infusions. Awareness meetings held in colleges have made villages aware of the increasing rate of cyber crime and the number of victims has decreased.

Women have become aware of their rights, equality and sense of duty. Farmers have benefited from technology as well as agricultural practices. The museum preserved at Dhamdhama Anchalik College reflects the cultural characteristics of the entire region.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

1. The villagers are illiterate and indifferent to their problems and it is difficult to get their response easily. They can only be influenced through continuous efforts.

2. Lack of funds for economic self-reliance. Government and private assistance can be used to solve this problem

3. Housewives are busy with their lives and forget about self-reliance. More cooperation of men can help women in this regard.

7. Notes:

The success of an institution depends upon the success and development of the surroundings. Therefore, "community service" this best practice is relevant for the college to coordinate with the community and for the joint development and fulfilment of the needs of each other.