

7.2

7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual.

Best practice-1

1. Title of the Practice: Promoting & Preserving Indigenous Culture and Heritage of the Ethnic Communities: A Unique Initiative of Chilarai College.

2. Objectives of the Practice: i. To make continuous efforts for protection, promotion and preservation of the Indigenous Culture and Heritage of the ethnic communities

ii. To bridge the gap between the younger generation and the colourful cultural traditions and heritage of diverse communities

iii. To educate the students and the masses towards maintaining cross-cultural negotiations and exchange for the ideal of India's unity in diversity.

iv. To carry out research projects on indigenous folk and performing tradition

v. To explore myths, legends, folk tales of diverse communities in the region

vi. To train up the students in skill oriented courses

vii. To take a pro-active role in promoting rural tourism

3. The Context: It has been noticed for the last few decades that students are not interested or do not have proper platforms to understand the knowhow of their indigenous cultural traditions and heritage of their own. To materialize the vision of Atmanirvarsil Bharat, it is need of the hour to look back to the potentials rooted in own soil. Chilarai College has been imparting higher education to diverse communities of western Assam and the geographical location is rich with cultural repositories of various communities and the diversity of students enrolment is a strength. The college is a melting pot for diverse ethnic narratives, language, performing traditions, and culture. Hence the college taking initiatives to sensitise the students about the richness of various indigenous cultures and heritage of Western Assam.

4. The Practice: The college has been adopting some remarkable initiatives for years together to reach at the objectives cited above.

i. The college has a folk museum with ethnic collections. The museum also provides the local artists to sell their art works to the museum visitors at reasonable price. It promotes selling of handloom products of the local weavers.

ii. The college has already signed a MoU with the Terracotta Craft and Pottery Industry in Asharikandi, Gauripur and the college co-operates with the industry to strengthen rural economy

iii. The college has a Centre for Ethnic Studies and Research (CESR) with a number of published/edited books by faculties. In the past, Some of the faculties carried out Research Projects based on indigenous cultural traditions of the Rajbangsi community under sponsorship of funding agencies (e.g Folk Theatre Beyond Boundaries: A Study of Kushan Gan (Western Assam and Prahalad Natak (South Odisha) , Dialects of Rajbanshi language, and Terrakota handicraft . Translation works were done. One faculty is pursuing PhD Projects on Rajbangsi language and there is another who is undertaking research on Sankardeva and Chaitanyadev. The college conducted Seminars (State & National level) on **Folk Tradition of Northeast: An Interdisciplinary Study** and “Myth and Tales of Koch-Rajbanshis of Western Assam” (27th-28th September 2016) Rajbanshi in collaboration with Sahitya Akademi. The IQAC & CESR also organized a National Seminar on “State Formation & Nation Building: Revisiting the Legacy and Contribution of Biswa Mahabir Chilarai.” Dtd 16th ,2022. The college has signed a MoU with Rajbanshi Sahitya Sabha and under the MoU, and the college is running one year self financed course in Rajbanshi language. Faculties and scholars have designed the syllabus and prepared study materials. Guest faculties are also invited to take classes.

iv) The CESR also provides financial assistance to the faculties (in-service & retired) of the college for publication of quality books based on local cultural traditions.

v. The folk museum has a number of folk musical instruments and it has preserved folk songs of some eminent folk artists of the region.

vi. Students are frequently motivated by the faculties to collect local artefacts for enrichment of the museum.

vii) The TTM department in the college take initiatives to familiarize the students with local tourist destinations of the region.

viii) Faculties of the college design and develop syllabus for Skill Courses of FYUGP 1st & 3rd Semester and the same has been submitted to the affiliating University for approval.

The college central library has purchased a good number of books on local Rajbanshi language and culture written by various scholars as a policy for promotion and preservation.

5. Evidence of Success: Majority of the students in the college belong to Rajbanshi community and they actively participate in cultural programmes and bag prizes and honour for the college. The annual college magazine " Chilarian" has sections in Assamese, Rajbanshi, Bengali and Sanskrit apart from English. Students showcase their creative talent in indigenous language. Two faculty in Assamese dept have successfully completed Certificate

course in Museum Studies. The college is running one year Certificate Course in Rajbanshi language. Faculties are pursuing PhD in indigenous knowledge tradition. Faculties also have published quality articles on indigenous knowledge system.

6. Obstacles/problems encountered: The college has already submitted proposal (dtd 09-11-2020) for approval from affiliating university to introduce Certificate Course in Performing Arts of the Rajbanshis but it has not been approved till date. As the college is named after 16th century warrior -scholar Biswa Mahabir Chilarai, the progenitor of Rajbanshi community, due academic attention has not been given till date by Government and affiliating university to explore the contributions and legacy of the scholar-warrior. Students have little knowledge on the cultural contributions of the Rajbanshi towards greater Assamese society as units/contents about the community are not incorporated in the syllabi. Students of the community often use their mother tongue (Rajbangsi) in their everyday life and this affects their writing skill in Assamese as the latter is one of the mediums of teaching-learning.

7. Resources required (a) Requirement of fund for construction of dedicated Room and upgradation of the infrastructural facility for Folk Museum and procurement of shelf for CESR are of urgent need . For renewal of the registration of CESR in Society Registration Act, fund is required. For greater involvement of the communities more serious efforts from the college are of immediate need to develop the museum and CESR. Fund is required for honorarium of the craftsmen, artisans to be hired for conducting Skill Courses, training programmes and workshops. A detailed action plan (short term & long term) is of immediate requirement to upgrade the two.

8. Notes (Optional) : NA

BEST PRACTICE -2

1. Title of the Practice : Engagements of Students in Co-Curricular Activities within and beyond the College Campus: A Roadmap to Holistic Development.

- 2. Objectives of the Practice:**
- i. To contribute to the holistic development of the learners.
 - ii. To engage the students in community service
 - iii. To enhance students participation in co-curricular activities
 - iv. To build up better career prospects of the students.
 - v. To inculcate spirit of solidarity, team spirit and social responsibility
 - vi. To spread of cultivate spirit of unity in diversity.

3. Context: Co-curricular activities are understood as events that students participate outside their regular academic coursework. These activities include sports events, volunteering, community services & community outreach, performance of songs, dance, music, debates, and extempore speech, public speaking art. It is understood that students who participate in activities beyond their courses tend to have higher exam scores and more positive educational experiences in general. Non-academic pursuits can help to improve the mental and physical health by reducing stress, improving mood and energy. Engagement of the students in Co-curricular activities along while pursuing regular course of study has been adopted as a best practice in the college. These activities help channelize the hidden potentials of the Chilarians and contribute to their holistic development. With a view to creating a productive youth workforce, it is essential that the youth of the country have access to the right set of tools and opportunities in order to make substantial contribution. Domains like social, academic, intellectual, cultural, democratic, civic and aesthetic get enriched by participation in these activities. These activities help in realizing the importance of education and develop the spirit of healthy competition. In addition to that it supports students practically and professionally for a better future. Finally, it enhances students experience, understanding and ability for rational analysis of issues real importance and brings benefits beyond students and parents expectation. The students may be encouraged to take part in various club activities which shall enhance their management skills. This experience will help them when they are given the task to manage an organization in future. While taking part in the club events, the students get a chance to participate in various activities like drama, singing, editing, dancing, anchoring etc. Taking part in such activities will not only improve the soft skills of the students but also will increase their confidence level. As a student, even if he/she spends more time on the academics, does not forget to allot some time everyday to sharpen his/her individual skills. From school life to college education, it is important for the students to keep trying to discover their interests apart from the normal academic pursuit and to develop them to perfection. This is where the need for extra-curricular activities comes into picture. As the institution encourage the students to take part in various activities that ignites their passion,

they tend to evolve much faster. It is important for the institution to nurture the sporting talents of the students by conducting athletic events as well as the sporting events like Cricket, Football etc. Both boys and girls should be encouraged to take part in different games as it will enhance their physical and mental fitness.

4. Practice: The college makes conscious and substantial effort on a regular basis on community services, given the geo-cultural location of our campus. Accordingly, we have developed our National Service Scheme units in our College. Under the National Service Scheme, the college has taken up several programmes and campaigns like social awareness, mass education, campus cleaning, blood donation camp, etc. The first NSS Unit of the college started its journey in the year of 2008. At present, there are two NSS units which are actively participating in the functionalities of NSS, under the leadership of the Programme Officer (a) Anorual Alom Sarkar. Students may develop through these extra-curricular activities and the kind of skills involved there can help improve academic performance of the students. For instance, the ability to work with others, negotiate a way forward from different perspectives, and effective or diverse communication approaches are likely to be useful skills in the study context. The college follows Govt reservation system under Sports, NCC and other co-curricular activities.

5. Evidence of Success

i) The following students excelled in 3rd Indo-Nepal Youth Games International Championship 2023(10th April-14th April) organized by Youth & Sports Development Organization, Nepal. and bagged Gold Medal in Handball event (Senior): a. Debojit Roy, B.A 6th Sem, 2022-2023 b. Jyoti Bikash Ray, 2021, B.A 1st Sem & c. Chanakya Roy, 2018-2019, B.A 3rd year

ii) Satyajit Mondal, B.A English Honours/2022-23 was the 2nd Best Debator at G20 Y20 SUMMIT (District level) and selected for Y20 group of delegates in G20 SUMMIT in IIT, Guwahati. He has published one article in E-Magazine, RUSA, Assam. He was the 2nd Best Speaker at Lachit Borphukon Birth Celebration organized by District Administration, Dhubri, 2022.

iii) NSS volunteers, NCC cadets and other students have taken part actively in celebration of Special Days at college. Students also participated in 9th International Yoga Day with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in the district H/Q Dhubri.

iv) Students' Union Secretaries time to time take initiatives for door to door collection of voluntary donations from the students/faculties & non-teaching staff and other philanthropic persons to financially assist the students undergoing treatment in hospitals.

v) Special Camp of NSS is organized by NSS Unit, Chilarai College, Golakganj held on 18.03.2023 to 24.03.2023 at college premises. The NSS Unit also adopted a village namely Lakhimari Pt-3, PO: Lakhimari.

v) Faculties and students of Assamese department visited a village (Karmakar Para in Bisondoi) on 25-04-2023 to understand the socio-economic & cultural traditions of the

Karmakar community and also visited Bishkhowa Village, Near Bangladesh Border 10th April 2022.

- vi) World Environment Day celebration by NCC, NSS and Students' Union.
- vii) Students participated in Saha-Yaga Shikshak Prashikshan Shibir held in the college
- viii) Students and faculties actively participated in Covid-19 Vaccination Drive-An initiative aimed to accelerate vaccination efforts within the local community
- ix) Students participated in Anti-Drug Sensitization Program to promote A drug-free lifestyle among youth of the surrounding area of Golakganj dtd 9/2/2022
- x) Sapling distribution programme among the community to spread environment sensitivity.
- xi) Participated in Unity Run (Rashtriya Ekta Divas) and in Cultural Exchange programmes
- xii) Students and faculties of Assamese departments visited Alokjhari Mohamaya Dham and Paglahat Village On March 20, 2021
- xiii) Students participated Cleanliness drives & Plastic Waste Awareness and Management.
- xiv) Students' union and faculties distributed masks among the people of Golakganj area.
- xv) Students bagged 1st & 2nd positions in events (Bhupendra Sangeet, Chorus, Collage Art, Clay Modelling Cartooning Art) in Gauhati University Inter-College Zonal Youth Festival during 2018-19, West Zone, Dhubri.

The college takes into account all the co-curricular activities while they are evaluated for Internal Examinations. The college is planning to publish the first hand report of various activities in reputed journals and the reports/findings will also be forwarded to Government through proper channels. Empathy, equal opportunities, respect for environment, care for community health, mental and physical well being, critical thinking are the values inculcated in the young minds. Students actively take part in all the events in college week and girls perform better in comparison to the boys. Most of the students from NCC have already been engaged in various State & Central governments jobs.

6. Problems encountered : There is an urgent need of a regular physical instructor as a good number of students are very passionate to build up their career other than academic. In proportion to the students enrolled in an academic year, there are small number of sports and gym equipment. The college does not have its self-fund generation sources and it has to depend upon Govt. funds. Lack of Strong motivation to the students from all the faculties is another obstacle at institutional level. Parents/guardians of the girl students are not willing to send their daughters to far of places for participation in sports events & other extra-curricular activities. The college does not have separate fund to invest on students' participation in State/National level programmes and they are unable to expend from their own and

ultimately they fail to participate due to their poor economic conditions. Physical education is not integrated in the curriculum developed by the affiliating university.

7. Resources Required: Physical Instructors in sanctioned position is the immediate need in the institution. Allocation of funds from Govt and other funding agency is required to set up an indoor stadium, college playground, handball court etc. Special programmes in coaching and training for sports & extra-curricular activities are required. Efforts are also required to make co-curricular activities as regular activities in daily class routine. Proper information regarding the schedule of events/competitions under sports & co-curricular activities should be immediately disseminated among the students. Free transportation and accommodation facility for intending students for participation in sports events at regional/national level is required.

8. Notes (optional): NA