**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL**

DIKHOWMUKH COLLEGE: MOGLOW

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**Best Practices of the College**

**1.Student is the King**

**2. Objectives of the Practice**

1.To ensure an optimal and seamless teaching learning evaluation boosting eco system that thrives on and  performs consistently in the college established to cater to the  higher educational needs of a remote rural society  economically backward , flood affected, tribal dominated society .

2. To ensure that the focus on all the vital affairs of the Dikhowmukh College is solely and solely guided and propelled by the welfare of the students on all fronts.

3.To equally  encourage , recognise and integrate both formal and informal efforts and means of the stakeholders, specially teachers and office staff,  that they undertake for  the welfare of the student community and their upliftment  in academic, vocational, ethical, social, spiritual spheres

 4.To create a strong base for holistic development of young students.

5.To effectively go beyond conventional classroom instruction and instil life skills that may aid them in achieving self-sufficiency.

6.To inform the student population of their rights and obligations.

7.To cooperate for the improvement of everyone's educational, moral, social, and spiritual standing through higher education that is based on values of social responsibility and human compassion.

 8.To develop a community that is psychologically healthy, industrious, and educated.

 9.To help students liberating themselves   from all kinds of physical and psychological restrictions.

10.To promote learning through community participation in order to give students from various socioeconomic backgrounds more opportunities for socialisation and social commitments.

11. To promote gender  equity through practice-based  activity ,learning and curriculum with added value.

12.To develop among the students the ideals and strategies for encouraging environmental sensitivity for a sustainable future.

**The Context**

There is definitely not a single institution of higher education anywhere where the student does not occupy the centre stage.  But what makes our ‘ Student is the King’ approach stand out is perhaps the deep-rooted intrinsic value that it epitomises. We go not just an extra mile to help, guide , benefit our students in their pursuit of higher education, but often go beyond all conceivable limits to guide , aid and help them do well virtually on all fronts . The internal work culture and the mindset that  both teaching and non teaching  staffs  imbibe in Dikhowmukh College motivate them and boost their morale to work tirelessly for the student community. Many a time they do so informally without bothering about any kind of recognition and documentation. The founder Principal and the Chief Academic Advisor of the college Haren Bhuyan, an octogenarian and a cancer survivor  and sort of a living legend in this part of the state still comes to college , guides and motivates the students and the staff, and even takes some extra classes out of the scheduled routine . And he does that absolutely in a philanthropic way. His is the spirit that is still pervasive in the Dikhowmukh College. Our best practice of ‘Student is the King’ assumes profound significance in a college like ours  for a number of reasons. In this institution of higher education majority of the students hail from economically backward families (most of them BPL category). The area which houses our college is a perennially flood-prone area and a sizeable section of our students are from tribal communities( primarily Mishing Community). The area is still marred by poor public and digital infrastructures . The college, which has sprung from and tided over the gory history of political unrest and insurgency that plagued the area till the recent past, is the only institution of higher education catering to the heterogeneous population of the entire Dikhowmukh . Thus developing and sustaining a productive and highly efficient Teaching-Learning and Evaluation mechanism in our college has always been one of our best practices.  Given the extremely poor  economic background  of our prospective students  and the geographical remoteness of the area ,most of our prospective students would not be in a position to avail and afford higher education if the Dikhowmukh College were not there. As such, our college’s think tank plans, contrives and focuses solely and wholeheartedly to ensure a healthy and fruitful academic and holistic experience for its students.

**Practice:**

1. Everything that we do as a college is so intended, designed and streamlined as to be effective and productive in our above mission of delivering optimal benefits to our students, the offspring of an economically and otherwise challenging and underprivileged milieu.
2. We offer one of the most competitive and cost effective fee structures in the state without compromising on quality education  and healthy practices pertaining to contemporary higher education. It is definitely the lowest in the district.
3. While we always encourage and  persuade the students for admission to our college, we see to it that no student turns away due to financial crunches. The admission fee is either waved under certain special circumstances or borne by the college through some teaching faculty’s informal contribution or Staff Welfare Fund initiative. The same applies to examination fees.
4. While the Academic Calendar of the affiliating university is always given due respect and the formal daily class routine prepared accordingly, both are always tweaked and modified as and when the interests of the students call for that . During cultivation and harvesting seasons and again during floods, such tweaks enable us to help and motivate our students who are mostly from such backgrounds.
5. Teachers always strive to faithfully adhere to the Academic Calendar and  class routine . But at the same time, many of the teachers often take extra classes in hours beyond the routine hours. Although such classes  can hardly be documented , the college encourages its faculties to carry  on with their mission in concordance with the aforesaid mission and objective of the  college. The  IQAC and the authorities , however, take cognizance of such well-meaning, student-centric initiatives as far as practicable and integrate them into the college’s overall assessment mechanism of teaching learning and evaluation matrix.
6. Just as students are offered enough room for extra classes out of routine hours for their convenience, they are also granted enough flexibility to appear in their sessional exams depending on their situations, A student who fails to turn up for sessional exam is given two more chances to take the exam on production of valid reason.
7. The IQAC-initiated and -supported Student Mentoring Program has been developed by the college. The cell appoints each teacher to serve as a student mentor. Each teacher is assigned a specific number of newly admitted students at the beginning of the new academic year. This also operates on both formal and informal ways with focus on its outcome.
8. The College has adequate provision to support meritorious  students who  hail from the economically weaker sections of the society. Apart of various Govt sponsored scholarships, the college aids poor students financially mostly through teachers individual and collective donations. Staff Welfare Fund comes in handy in this respect.
9. The best students are felicitated and even awarded cash prizes thanks to the contributions of an alumni.
10. During an academic session, the college regularly schedules  Counselling programmes  to cater to the needs of every individual learner with regard to his career prospects and mental health. Interactive sessions with professionals  are arranged to help the young learners appropriately. Quite a few of the teachers do that as an integral part of their teaching process.
11. Similarly student centric programmes/ workshops on soft skills and life skills are often organised in the college.
12. Students get a lot of opportunities to plan, take part and implement many extension activities of the college through the Student Union and NSS and even departmentally. These activities including flood relief drive, environmental awareness initiatives, gender awareness programmes are intended to help the local communities and help the college cement a mutually fruitful bond with them and at the same time inculcate a sense of social responsibility and social commitment among the students.
13. Students are given a plenty of opportunities to hone their skills in different games and sports. Girls are offered equal opportunities and motivations to be part of such endeavours to  foster and fortify the spirit of gender equity in the college.
14. Options of doing skill based short term courses are also made available to the students mostly free of cost or at pretty nominal rate.
15. To build up an environment of digital and online mode of teaching learning and evaluation and motivate and train the students to avail themselves of its advantages and be viable in today’s peer environment amidst many constraints.
16. The college leaves no stone unturned to ensure that its students get a truly morale boosting and robust ambience and a productive and motivating experience in terms of  wholesome academic and physical infrastructure.

**Evidence of Success:**

1. Consistently good academic results despite many deterrents and formidable challenges . Better than that of most of the conveniently located and well equipped colleges under Dibrugarh University.
2. Far from the tainted and terrible days of political unrest and insurgency, a spirit of social responsibility, fraternity , unity, human compassion and environmental awareness is successfully fostered in the students as evident from their spirited participation in community welfare activities , fellow feeling , personal integrity and their highly constructive social stints after college life.
3. The college's uniquely flexible  mentorship programme and other pertinent healthy practices  related to this best practice have contributed to the emergence of versatile persons with a strong sense of self, social consciousness, and healthy mind.
4. A good number of students progressed to higher studies and enrolled themselves in reputed institutions .
5. Success in self-employability  is another plus that is conspicuous. Although there are quite  a few of our students carving a niche for themselves in the Govt jobs and several  others doing well as big time entrepreneurs,  the number of our students making it big on the career front is not really a phenomenal one. But it is a matter of great contentment for us that most  of our alumni attain self sufficiency as small time entrepreneur or small time traders . We feel elated to discover our alumni comprising mostly these folks have contributed substantially to their Alma mater’s developmental and extension initiatives.
6. Several significant success stories in extra-curricular activities despite poor and underprivileged backgrounds thanks to the college’s best practice.
7. Our stress on building self-confidence and assertion of self-identity motivate our girls students to do well in extracurricular  activities and sports.
8. Progress  of  slow  and disadvantaged learner.
9. Undying spirit of motivation of our staff to carry on with their missionary zeal to serve their students often without bothering about official recognition and rewards in today’s milieu of exorbitant  self promotion and craze for recognition remains in tact.
10. In the Covid 19 pandemic hit periods also, when we had to stumble upon the stagnating and challenging  crisis, we could successfully face the challenge and opted for online mode of teaching-learning, and blended mode of it wherever possible. The teaching community of our college guided and helped our students in every possible way, despite a lot of constraints in making online mode functional and effective (such as lack of internet connectivity most of the time) in this remote rural area, like distributing class notes through WhatsApp and delivering lectures by audio recording. All that is possible because of this  well nurtured best practice and the collective psyche and preparedness that the college family has always been diligently sticking to.

**Problems encountered and resource required**:

1. Economic backwardness , incessant floods , infrastructural lacunae, and geographical remoteness continue to pose a formidable challenge to our enrolment, drop out rates and over all functioning .
2. We are pegged by an awful lack of faculties and office stuff.
3. Not very successful in attracting students from affluent families
4. Fund crunch hampers many of our initiatives.
5. A distinct tendency to rush to colleges at urban centers sometimes dampens our spirit .