

BEST PRACTICE I

Title of the Practice: Institutional Grant for Research:

In addition to the existing governmental and non-governmental institutions for academic research funding for the faculty members, the college has the mechanism of encouraging research for its own faculty members. The Research Committee which is constituted with a view to promote research programme amongst the faculty members has initiated the practice of financing grants for research at different levels. The committee sanctions institutional grants both at the departmental and individual levels to engage the teachers in different research projects of their interests. All the departments and faculty members have to submit the research proposal on the prescribed format to avail the institutional grants. The constituted research committee used to review the research proposal to consider financial grants for the same. The Convener of the Research Committee used to monitor the ongoing projects from time to time to ensure expected progress of the research activities.

Objectives of the Practice

- To configure a mechanism of research management in the institution
- To engage departmental faculty members in collaborative research
- To encourage minor research projects at the level of individual as well as the respective departments.
- In addition to the existing governmental and non-governmental institutions for academic research funding for the faculty members, the college has the objective of encouraging research by funding research of its own faculty members

The Context

- Due to the lack of sanctioned teaching posts, engagement in research by faculty members is more difficult considering the workload on them.
- The paucity of funds led to a limitation on granting research projects
- The lack of co-ordination between curriculum, designed by the affiliating university and research, makes the entire process less feasible

The Practice

The institutional grant for research will not only generate research interests among the teaching members but also encourage academic study at the level of Digboi and its

vicinity. Since research projects can be pursued departmentally, they will provide a unique environment of collaborative research among its faculty members.

Limitations:

- a. Numbers of research projects undertaken by the faculty members are still very low
- b. Covid-19 pandemic also posed severe challenges to the progress of research projects.

Evidence of Success

Department of Home Science and the Department of Economics have submitted their research projects on *A Study on Textiles of Singpho Tribe in Tinsukia District* and *A Study on Socio-Economic Status of Tai Phake Community in the Dibrugarh District of Assam*, respectively, which are based extensively on the indigenous communities of the localities. Currently, the Department of Education is pursuing research on *A Study on the Problem and Development of Women Education in the Area of Powai Tea Estate of Tinsukia District*.

At the individual level, Dr. Manik Konch, a faculty member in the Department of Philosophy, is pursuing research on *Impact of Medium of Instruction on Quality of Education of Education Imparted at Senior Secondary Level: A Case Study of Assam*.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- a. Paucity of funds
- b. Field work had to be carried out in a restrained manner owing solely to the SOPs issued from time to time by the Government in connection with the prevailing Covid-19 pandemic
- c. In order to conduct systematic research on any given area, a dedicated set of infrastructure viz. a research room, computers, internet connectivity, access to peer reviewed e-journals etc. is important, which is woefully lacking in the college.
- d. Apart from the conduction of examinations and evaluation of answer scripts, the affiliating University has never come up with any incentivizing initiatives or innovative mechanisms to encourage the faculty members of colleges to undertake any research at the micro level.

BEST PRACTICE II

Inter-Departmental teacher exchange programme

The College encourages inter-disciplinary approach of teaching and learning. The various departments used to invite teachers of other discipline to promote multi-disciplinary approach in teaching-learning among students.

Objectives of the Practice

- To impart better understanding of other disciplines.
- To enhance language skills of the students.
- To broaden ideas of pedagogy.
- To expose the students to new perspectives

The Context

- Due to the process of evaluation, which becomes rigorous in terms of the CBCS examination, the constraint of time is a constant challenge requiring negotiation when it comes to inter-department teaching exchange programme.
- Since the very exercise of inter-department teaching exchange programme is bereft of any incentives, in terms of grades or otherwise, both for the teaching as well as the student communities, too much of serious pursuit in this matter is not quite visible.
- Generally, inter-department teaching exchange programme is needed for research-based studies meant for students. The affiliating University is not quite forthcoming in trying out innovative and research-based curriculum meant for the UG student community.

The Practice:

Needless to say we live in a world of interdependence of cultures, communities, countries and in the domain of academics; no discipline can contemplate the enhancement of knowledge on its own. Interdisciplinary approach in teaching-learning is a model widely acknowledged across the world to be the best in the pursuit and enhancement of knowledge. Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya has a culture since a long time back of conducting classes and workshops by exchanging teachers across subjects/disciplines. It also invites teachers from other institutions.

Digboi Mahila Mahavidyalaya is a college which has only the Arts stream and this proves to be a constraint in itself in so far as inter-disciplinary approach to learning is concerned. Despite repeated reminders to the State Government to allow the introduction of the Science stream in the college, there has been no concrete response till date. For those colleges which have all the three streams of arts, science and commerce, it

becomes a lot easier to follow the inter-disciplinary approach to teaching-learning and the icing on the cake is students end up learning a lot about all the three streams viz. arts, science and commerce, so much needed for students in the present-day world. They are also exposed to science laboratories, which help them in witnessing the conduction of experiments firsthand.

Although the college teaches only subjects of humanities and social sciences, it does not have certain important subjects like geography, psychology, anthropology etc. The institution has no role in the introduction of new subjects and the initiative to do so rests exclusively on the affiliating University and the Government of the day.

Evidence of Success:

A faculty member of the Assamese Department regularly takes a paper prescribed for the Bengali UG course. (3rd Semester)

A senior faculty member of the Department of Home Science regularly takes classes for the students of the Nursing School, IOCL (AOD) Hospital, Digboi.

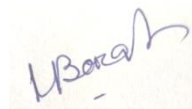
Problems encountered and Resources Required:

The Departments of the college are woefully understaffed because of which most of the time are taken up in conducting the routine classes, examinations and faculty exchange programmes, albeit organized are very less in number, as the teachers are not expendable for programmes outside the ambit of classes and examinations.

Although the college has the UG course, it is also yoked with +2 classes, because of which the teachers are burdened with classes more than the prescribed norm.

The basic resource/s required is human resource in terms of the Departments being adequately staffed in order to seamlessly carry out exchange programmes in addition to the conduction of regular classes and examinations.

Subjects like geography; anthropology and psychology need to be introduced, in order to give the students of the college an exposure to these all-important disciplines which are extremely essential topics in the current world.



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