

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust. Provide the weblink of the institution in not more than 500 words.

Response:

Vision: With the motto “*Education for All*” as the main focus, Jaintia Eastern College acts as per the principles set by its founders, to provide quality and affordable education to all sections of the people especially to the underprivileged students who could not afford for higher and quality education elsewhere.

Mission: The College is committed to serve the society by developing the young generation and the students to face the challenges of this contemporary world and to remain socio-economically alert. Through knowledge-based education, students are sensitized to be competent in the employment opportunities also. Apart from creating an atmosphere to promote all round development of an individual, the College also equipped them to become good citizens and to meet the social needs of our nation, not just a mere job seekers. Through various College-activities, an awareness regarding preservation and restoration of the environment is also in the roadmap of the College.

Objectives of the College:

- To impart higher and quality education in rural areas.
- To provide vocational training to the educated unemployed youths.
- To impart skills on Information Technology.
- To provide career guidance and counselling.
- To promote environmental awareness.
- To transform the young minds through moral and ethical education based on value system.

In order to accomplish its vision, mission and objectives and to communicate to different stakeholders viz. Governing Body, teachers, office staff, students, parents etc, the College adopted the method of issuing College prospectus - containing all information, organizing students orientation and induction programmes at the beginning of the session, holding parent-teachers and alumni meets, etc, displayed on the College website and through different internal sub - committees. In addition to academic programmes, the College also communicates its vision, mission and objectives to students through NSS, RRC and UGC sponsored programme.

Title of the Practice: Promoting Community Service through Extension Committee.

Goal: With an aim to fulfill the vision, mission and objectives of the College and to develop the personality of students, it encourages students and other stakeholders to participate in Community Service Programmes organised by the college. In this regard, the College formed Extension Committee (NSS and RRC units) and organized awareness programmes such as environmental protection, creation of community assets, blood donation camp, literacy campaign, safe drinking water, health and basic sanitation, disaster management, promote

national integration and social harmony, advocates for the rights of women and eliminate gender disparity, principles of sustainable development, awareness on the spread of HIV/AIDS, to develop sense of social and civic responsibility, identify the needs and problems of the community and mobilizing community participation.

To ensure that the students volunteers and other stakeholder contributes to community life, the College NSS unit adopted villages to provide proper platform for students to act for promotion of community service and to help them understand themselves in relation to community life and be trained to serve the community along side with their academic pursue.

The Context: The need of the practice was felt to ensure effective implementation of academic and non-academic activities of the College. Besides, NSS regular activities, the NSS unit adopted villages for community services. For the last three years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20), the College has adopted Suchen Rim village for social work. An adoption of this village was justified after proper research by the advisory Board of NSS Unit at College level. By doing so, the students are made aware about the needs and problems that villagers face due to illiteracy and ignorance. This humble practice is expected to help and motivate students to serve the community better after their graduation. Annual programmes like special camping, awareness campaigns, etc., are organized in these villages with aims to educate people through students' participation in social work and programmes. It is also a challenge for the College to go beyond the four walls of the classrooms into the real life situation to serve the community and to learn from them.

The Practice: The Member Secretary of the Extension Committee and Programme Officer of the NSS unit in consultation with the Principal and NSS Cell, NEHU, Shillong identify programmes/projects and activities either for regular activities or for special camping before adoption of any village. Advisory Board and informal meeting with local headman and elders is organized before selection of villages for adoption. After due consideration and proper screening by the board proposes action plans and programmes to be undertaken by the Extension Committee. But, for other activities and programmes to be conduct at College campus, the Programmes Officer decides in consultation with the Principal.

Apart from College campus and adopted villages, the College NSS unit also organizes programmes for Promotion of Community Service in the adjoining locality where students were encouraged to take part in various programmes such as cleaning drives, tree plantation, health campaign e.g. Pulse Polio, Blood donation, etc. And in special camping, programmes and events conducted in adopted villages are creation of fixed assets, cleaning drives, awareness programmes, renovation of drinking wells and footpaths.

Voluntary Blood Donation Awareness Programmes and Voluntary Blood Donation Camp in collaboration with Meghalaya Aids Control Society and NSS Cell, NEHU, Shillong were regularly organized and participated by the NSS volunteers. Moreover, to sensitize the students and people on the dreaded disease of HIV/AIDS, regular awareness programme was organized in collaboration with the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society, Shillong at different locality and schools including adopted villages.

All the above programmes are carried out in collaboration with NSS Cell, NEHU, Shillong, UGC schemes, Government agencies and Non-Governmental organizations.

Evidence of success: Through social services rendered by the College it makes the people at large and residents of the adopted villages to feel a sense of belonging and oneness. This is revealed during special camping where the villagers facilitate the student's volunteers to take part in social work and also provides an opportunity to interact with them. The community service rendered by the College also serves as a mean to teach people about ideas of development they might not have heard before. The community service also provided insight into the various activities of the community life and the realization that working together can be promoted if students and villagers/people come together in the same platform for a common cause. This practice not only helps to bridge the relationship between the community and the College but also helps to inculcate the love and respect for one's identity and respect for that of others.

Above all, the villagers expressed their appreciation to the College by co-operating in the programmes organized. Moreover, creations of fixed assets are willingly taken up by the local dorbar for supplying of material and maintenance of fixed assets. The evidence of success on the part of the programme is the co-operation from villagers which also expressed their eagerness to prepare well ahead for another special camping in the future even some households invites volunteers to stay with them during the future camping. Further impacts were noticed that there are improvements in cleanliness, health and sanitation and a sense of social and civic responsibility exist amongst the villagers. The poor and illiterate parents expressed their appreciating the volunteers and the importance is that they send their children back to schools. The student volunteers are also looking ahead to a next phase of special camp because of the friendship developed with the villagers.

Problems Encountered and Resources required: The College did not face much problem as this practice is extra-curricular activities. However, some problems are encountered while implementing the community service are time schedules; girl's student volunteers shows their reluctance to go because they have to stay there for a week or more; fund was less could not met expenses; accommodation, drinking water, electricity, etc.

Note (Optional): The College is making efforts to conduct more programmes in the near future for upliftment of the community in collaboration with government and non-government agencies in the near future.