

Title of the Practice: Fostering Community Empowerment through Social Service

Objectives:

- To sensitize students, staff and stakeholders on social issues and inculcate the sense of civic responsibility and commitment in them.
- To develop student's potentials in acquiring value-based knowledge.
- To extend the academia to the community through multidisciplinary approaches to community problems.
- To bring forth team spirit and leadership qualities of students and broaden their social outlook.
- To encourage faculty in the use of action learning methodology.
- To learn by developing practical solutions in consultation with the community.
- To document learning and develop models based on learning.

Context:

Since its inception in 1972, Golaghat Commerce College has been sincerely invested in the progress and development of the local community . The college was built exclusively with the funds raised by the public and therefore improvement of the local community and the region remains a core mission of the college. Through Social Service and Community Development practices, the college hopes to give back to the society and contribute to a culture of care, social coherence and progress. The college's focus on community improvement and engagement is also in consonance with the initiatives taken by Ministry of Human Resource Development on "Fostering Social Responsibility in Higher Education Institutions" in 2012. The students and staff work with different stakeholders in the local community on-and off-campus on a range of areas building bridges of cooperation and mutual learning.

The Practice:

Community Engagement at Golaghat Commerce College involves community service and projects with partner organizations around topics of development, education,

health care, gender rights etc. aimed at working collaboratively and productively with the community.

1. Under the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme**, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government, Golaghat Commerce College has adopted Kachugaon, Bhoga Gaon, Selengi, Kabaru, Bongaon of Pulibor Taluka, Golaghat district. Under this initiative, the college regularly organizes health checkup camps, fitness exercises, art and essay writing competitions etc.
2. On 29th October, 2021, a **Clean India Campaign** was organized to celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, wherein the NSS volunteers cleaned a statue at Golaghat town
3. The students of Golaghat Commerce College participated in an **awareness drive on Domestic Violence against Women** organized by District Social Welfare Department, Golaghat on 6th December, 2021
4. On 22nd January, 2022 Department of Geography, Golaghat Commerce College organized an **awareness campaign titled “Plastic Waste Management”** in the neighbouring areas of the college. The objective of the programme was to sensitize the people of nearby households about the hazards of plastic waste towards Environment.
5. On 24th January, 2022, The NSS Unit, Golaghat Commerce College observed the **National Girl Child Day**. To encourage and acknowledge the achievement of women in different areas, NSS Unit felicitated two meritorious students, viz, Nome Bora of Kamargaon College, a national level gold medal in 60 kg, category at Bengaluru, in Karnataka, and Niharika Goswami of Derggaon Girls Higer Secondary School, Dergaon, a National level gold medal Winner for Essay writing and Quiz competition for School children organized by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India.
6. A a cycle rally called **“Paryavaran Chetana Cycle Yatra”** was organised by Golaghat Commerce College in collaboration with Paryavaran Sanskaran, Golaghat on 28th January, 2022.
7. On 8th March, 2022, an awareness programme on **“Child Safety and Well Being”** was organized by Women’s Cell in association with NSS Unit, Golaghat Commerce College at Chelengi village, Golaghat to sensitize the locals about safety and empowerment of children, especially the girl child.

8. On 23rd may 2022 the NSS Unit , GolaghatCommercde College organized a day long career **counseling programme on UPSC/APSC** in Association with AxomChatraParisad, Golaghat District for the aspiring youths of Golaghat district.
9. To inculcate values of inclusion and respect for people from all strata, Department of English started “Nascent Minds”, an initiative of **education through community service**. Under this initiative, a day long programme titled “Learning by Doing” was organized by Department of English, Golaghat Commerce College collaboratively with Janata Primary School, Golaghat on 9th June, 2022.
10. **Access to college facilities:** The college grants the public access to its road, stadium and playground. The college has rented out some rooms at subsidized rate to be used for business purpose.

Evidence of Success

- Involvement of students in community engagement practices have sensitized them on the problems at grass root level and made them aware of their social responsibilities.
- The efforts to provide hands-on-learning classes to the children of the neighbouring school have generated increasing interests in education among the children.
- The welfare services provided by Golaghat Commerce College has brought about the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with the neighbouring communities of Golaghat district.
- Students are enriched and empowered when they feel they are co-creators in the process of National development

Problems encountered:

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1.	It is time-consuming to co-ordinate service activities with community organizations.	The affiliating university should include community engagement in the curriculum.
2.	Limitations faced in generating the required financial resources to operate the various outreach programmes.	More collaborations with various organizations are required.
3.	Service opportunities may not progress as planned or provide the anticipated experience.	The community engagements should be well organized and carefully planned
4.	Some students are not motivated as there is no credit for social service.	A participative culture of voluntary service should be created

Title of the Practice: Empowering Women: Laying Foundations for Better Society

1. Objectives of the Practice:

- To work towards providing a safe and dignified environment for girls and women to facilitate their participation and success in higher education.
- To initiate discussions on deep rooted beliefs of gender bias and discrimination and promote gender-awareness within the college campus and beyond
- To spread awareness among students about social, legal and constitutional rights of women in order to prevent exploitation based on gender.
- To impart skill based education to students through workshops and vocational courses
- To conduct research on women related issues of the North-East

2. Context: Golaghat Commerce College Women Cell aims at the advancement of women of the state of Assam in particular and women of the North-East in general. The college has been accorded overriding priority on promoting gender parity and facilitating institutional support to empower young people. Various dimensions of women and children's lives, such as status, education and training, gender differentials in employment, health and nutrition, environment, housing, human rights have been the focus areas of the activities undertaken in the year 2021-22. Guest lectures, awareness programs, counselling programs, skill development workshops etc. Were organized which are directed at empowering and enabling women, particularly the female students to realize their potential.

3. The Practice:

Skill development workshop and Vocational courses for women:

- A National Webinar on “**Skilling The Youth For A Digital Future**” was **organized by** Women's Cell, Golaghat Commerce College in collaboration with IQAC, Golaghat Commerce College and the Global Education and Leadership Foundation J/A India (Tgelf/JA India x Microsoft) on 9th August, 2021.
- A workshop on “**Cake Baking and Decoration**” was held on 3rd and 4th June, 2022 at Golaghat Commerce College.

- With the objective of imparting skill based education to the students and preparing them for jobs and other ventures, the Women's Cell of Golaghat Commerce College introduced an add-on certificate course titled **"Certificate Course on Beauty Culture"** .

Gender sensitization and self defense:

- A talk titled **"Sexual Harassment: Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal"**, jointly organized by Sexual Harassment Committee and Women's Cell was held at Golaghat Commerce College on 11th December, 2021.
- Women's Cell, Golaghat Commerce College collaborated with Parakram Combat Centre, Golaghat to organize A one-day **workshop on "Basic Self Defence"** on 25th January, 2022.
- An **add-on course on Self Defense** has been introduced for women to empower girl students to safeguard themselves from violence and develop resilience.
- On 24th January, 2022, The NSS Unit, Golaghat Commerce College observed the **National Girl Child Day** to celebrate the girl child and encourage and acknowledge the achievement of women in different areas.
- **International Women's Day**, 2022 on the theme "Break the Bias" was celebrated by Women's Cell, Golaghat Commerce College on 8th March, 2022 among the villagers of Chelengi village, Golaghat district.

4. Evidence of Success

- Increase in the confidence of students
- Increased participation in classroom interaction
- Greater potential for self-employability
- Success in extra-curricular activities
- Assertion of self-identity

Problems encountered and resources required:

Implementing this best practise is difficult due to a lack of time. The extremely hectic schedule of semester system forces faculty members to put more emphasis on finishing syllabi within the allotted time. For this practise to continue to be successful, both students and teachers must make a conscious effort to find the time, drive, and resources required.