### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### 1. Title of the Practice

(*The title should capture the keywords that describe the Practice*)

### **Meeting/ Battling the Pandemic**

# 2. Objectives of the Practice

(Describe the aim of the practice followed by the institution. Mentionthe underlying principles or concepts in about 100 words)

The main objective of accessibility to higher education is enshrined in thevery vision of inception of the college. Thisyear, inan unprecedented situation, consequent upona COVID ravaged world with worst hit education sector, healthcrisis, death of kin, resultantmental health issues, fear, paranoia and loss of livelihood, cutting edge approach was demanded of the institution to tackle the crisis. The college met the challenges quarely, drafted plans and policies targeting holistic development of students, empowered teachers with new skills for benefits to percolate down to the students. Essential and relevant infrastructures were streamlined, upgraded and kept future-ready.

### 3. The Context

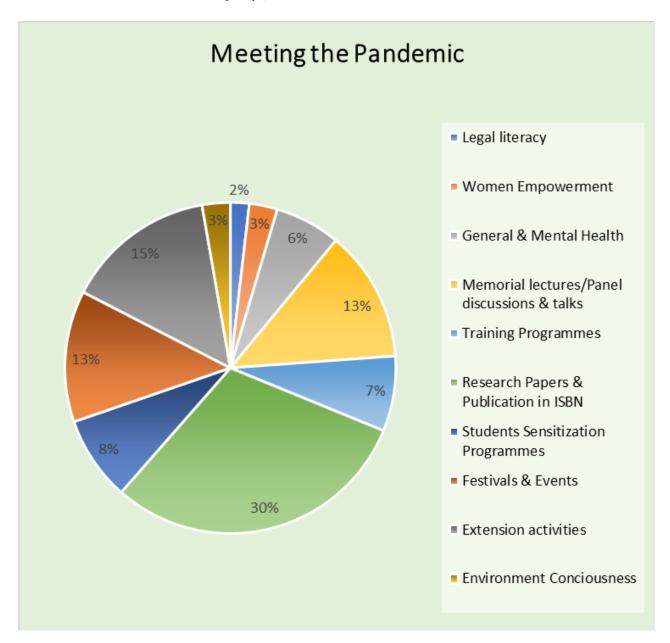
(Describe any particular contextual features or challenging issues that have had to be addressed designing and implementing the practice in about 150 words)

- ➤ With lakhs affected by the Virus in the State and thousands of unwarranted deaths, imposed bans and curbs, the situation threatened to diminish potential of the state's young. Battling the Pandemic, the institution acted expeditiously, addressing the immediate, the short term and the long-term requirements of teachers and students and worked on the basic, the foundational, the useful, the necessary and coalesced themall with an aim to heal, to hold and to re-build. The approach was multipronged, aim holistic.
- > Transition into virtual mode made necessary acquisition of newskills by the teachers. Series of trainings made each teacher ICT enabled.
- The institution facilitated access to e-resources, developed e-contents through MOOC and other digital platforms conducted Information Literacy programmes.
- > The college streamlined conduct of online exams making it most effective and reliable.

> Preventive and interventionist programmes like Vaccination Sessions, Mental Health Awareness Programmes were organized while dealing with the raging pandemic.

#### 4. Practice

(Describe the practice and its implementation in about 400 words. Include anything about this practice that may be unique in the Indian Higher Education. Please also identify constraints or limitations if any.)



- ➤ The college followed COVID-19 protocols, SOPs and Vaccine Mandates issued by the Govt.strictly.
- ➤ Battling the stultifying effects of the Pandemic with great initiative and action, the college remained most productive during the period. With insightful planning, systematic approach and selection of thrust areas, performance indicators showed a high.
- ➤ Prioritizing ICT enabled teaching learning, the college gave training to 126 strong faculty in an attempt to make online teaching most effective.
- ➤ Development of MOOCS and e-content, MS and ICT, organizing Information literacy programme to familiarize all students on how to access and use various E-learning and E-Resources under the initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India received major focus.
- > Swath Bharat(College Unit) organised several Awareness Raising Programmes.
- ➤ Free COVID Vaccination Sessions were conducted by the Department of Microbiology in collaboration with the office of the District Medical and Health Officer every Wednesday and Thursday from the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021.
- ➤ Online examination system was streamlined for thousands, made most effective, user-friendly for both students and evaluators.
- ➤ Free Youth employability Training Programme was conducted by Placement Cell in collaboration with TCS to keep the students' job ready.
- ➤ Several Webinars National, Regional and State, Conferences, Workshops and FDPs with top intellectuals from India and abroad as Resource Persons and Trainers facilitated exchange of thoughts and ideas during the Pandemic.
- ➤ The college conducted Five Days Skills Training Programme on Low-Cost Appropriate Technology incollaboration with SCSTE.
- > Two Days Hands-on Workshop on 'Capacity Building on ICT for the Teaching Staff' at Sohra Government College, Sohra saw the college sharing resources.
- > There has been continuous expansion and upgradation of infrastructures.
- ➤ 'Summer Connections: Celebrating Life Safely' a two-month long online Competition of 13 different events was organised by the Arts & Culture committee.
- ➤ Promoting environmental consciousness, the college organised popular talks on NatureConservation. Virtual celebration of World Environment Day had "My Tree in the Backyard."
- Women's Cell in Collaboration with Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority organised a programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offence (POSCO).
- > Journal, Newsletters, books and e-Magazines were brought out during the Pandemic.

- > NSS and NCC Units organized several cleanliness and sanitation drives in the rural areas and adjacent villages.
- The collegetook major initiativesto pioneer courses like Bachelor of Physical Education and Sports (BPES)
- ➤ MA Programme in Khasi will be introduced shortly.
- > Celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav and 50<sup>th</sup> Statehood Day the college organized several Programmes, Talks, Health Initiatives and Panel Discussions.

## **Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

(Please identify the problems encountered and resources (Financial, Human and others) required to implement the practice in about 150 words.

- While implementing plans and programmesto stabilise the system, the college encountered major hurdles.e -Learning did not seem to be the viable or sustainable solution because of poor network connectivityin the state. With best preparedness, the college failed to see maximum results. The North Eastern States are lagging behind in internet andmobile connectivity with lack of coveragein 2364 villages in Meghalaya alone.
- > With 80% students hailing from the rural areas, the online teaching-learning became ineffectual as students remained cut off from all communication.
- Lack of Android phones for the economically disadvantaged talled the intended benefits.
- > Financial constraints disallowed procurement of advanced ICT tools and equipments, caused delays in infrastructural upgradation.
- A sound transmission network acrossthe state can ensure greater accessibility and resultant benefits ofe-learning.
- Major grants will help the college accomplish its mission of expanding its services for the ever-growing student population with newer needs.

### **Evidence of success**

(Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review/results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.)

- Meghalaya is one of the states in the country which sawdetermined resistance to Vaccination Drives. Awareness Programmes organized by the college helped overcome this resistance. Free COVID Vaccination Sessions conducted by the Department of Microbiology in collaboration with the office of the District Medical and Health Officer every Wednesday and Thursday from the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2021 was a huge success with more than 50 students and staff of Shillong College getting vaccinated.
- > Streamlining conduct of online examinationsattempting solving the problem the randomness of sorting the scripts in the emails created for subjects, the Exam Cell started using Google forms.Google forms were created for each subject.Scripts were submitted in PDF format in respective Google Form, Google Sheets extracted from the form and sheets shared with respective evaluators via emails.
- ➤ Post evaluation, marks were entered in the Google sheet withthe corresponding marks in the NEHU TEMPLATE entered by the Exam Cell.

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- ➤ A Help Desk was created and a trial/mock test helped in familiarisation.
- Successful Entrepreneurial Enterprises showcases huge success of Entrepreneurial Skill Development Programmes.
- ➤ A number of Prestigious awards like Governor's Award, NSS award for selfless service, NCC selections and recognitions like RDC evidences commitment to excellence.

#### **Contact Details:**

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City: Shillong

**Pin Code:**793 003

**Accredited Status:** Grade "A" with CGPA 3.06,in 3rd Cycle of accreditation in 2016.

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