



Best Practices

Best Practice I: Improving the teaching-learning process through innovative management of human resources and infrastructure

Context: The NAAC Peer Team during its visit to the college in September 2016 had noted its remote location and paucity of teachers and insisted on the importance of pooling resources with nearby institutions of higher education for the benefit of the students. The team also suggested greater use of ICT facilities to make the teaching-learning process more easily comprehensible to the students, many of whom are first generation college-goers.

Practice: Based on the Peer Team's advice, the Department of English started inviting faculty from other colleges to deliver Special Lectures to its Honours students since 2017-2018. This year, the IQAC set aside a small amount of money for the purpose and managed to encourage multiple departments to arrange such Special Lectures. The Special Lectures were held in the ICT-enabled classrooms. The college now has one smart classroom and three classrooms with overhead projectors and teachers of all departments take turns to deliver lectures accompanied by powerpoint presentations in these rooms.

Evidence of Success: Attendance in Special Lectures is usually higher than in normal classes. Students appear to enjoy the presence of a new face in the classroom and are generally more attentive to what is, after all, a special occasion. The powerpoint presentations, along with audio and video files used during lessons imparted in ICT-enabled classrooms can be transferred to the smartphones of the students who can then revisit the lessons at home.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: Funds crunch is a major problem in inviting faculty from other institutions to come to the college for Special Lectures. Logistics can also be a problem sometimes. As for ICT-enabled classrooms, the college needs more of these to ensure all departments can simultaneously use them. The college also needs its wireless network to function equally strongly in all the different buildings.

Best Practice I: Improving and expanding the functions of the College's android-based application for better connectivity with students

Context: The college is located in an area where most of the students access the internet through their smartphones and are uncomfortable navigating a website. Given the need for instant communication with students in this digital age, it was essential for the college to come up with a strategy that would utilise the widespread use of smartphones among the students and their access to the internet while bypassing a high-resolution website. The answer was a

android-based application that can be downloaded on the smartphone and can be a one-stop portal for all college-related information.

Practice: The Birpara College android application can be downloaded from Google Playstore and it gives its users instant alerts regarding admission, classes, internal evaluation, university examinations, scholarships and other college-related matters. The app also contains staff and students' profile, information on library, and syllabi for different courses under NBU.

Evidence of Success: More than 1,000 students are already using the application and regularly following the notices posted on its "Student Alert" section. The students are less likely to miss a notice because an alert sounds on their smartphones every time a new post is uploaded. The "Student" section of the app has profiles of all students, including the details of the semester-wise courses. The CBCS can be confusing for students fresh out of school but they can always check their courses on the app when in doubt.

Problems Encountered and Resources Required: The College is still using a free version of the app, which means users are subjected to some advertisements. The app also needs more sections to cater to students' need for e-resources and e-material.