

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS OF BARPETA GIRLS' COLLEGE

When Barpeta Girls' College was established in 1978, the visionaries behind its establishment had the notion that this college would provide opportunity for pursuing higher education to those girls who couldn't pursue it on account of poverty, social barriers etc. Since then, in the last forty six years, Barpeta Girls' College has remained the platform for socially and economically disadvantaged girl students to make themselves independent and fully empowered. So, the area distinctive to the vision of the college is 'Women Empowerment through Higher Education'. In this process, the college has laid emphasis on the fact that the students that the college gets have to struggle with many hurdles, and the college tries to address these issues.

Students with poor academic performance

Most of the students who come to take admission in this college have poor academic background, because usually those who cannot get seats in the bigger colleges in the neighborhood come to take admission here. The college puts efforts to bring these students from the margin to the centre so that they can identify their own qualities and can move forward in their lives.

Issue of Drop-outs

- (a) A majority of the students come from the religious minority community living in the remote rural areas, and among some of them, early marriage is quite common. As a result, many girls get married when they are still children, and after marriage, most of them have to discontinue their studies. Those girls who continue their studies even after marriage also face many difficulties in study because they have to look after their spouses' households. The college tries its best to create an awareness among the students against early marriage.
- (b) Poverty is another reason why many girl students fail to continue their studies. Though the State Government has waived the fees of the students living below poverty line, still the students, mostly living in remote areas, have a recurring expenditure for coming to college, and their parents cannot bear even that. The college puts extra efforts so that such students don't have to discontinue their studies.

Ensuring Quality Education

Irrespective of the quality of the students, Barpeta Girls' College is dedicated in respect of imparting quality education to students. The students are treated according to their needs. The good students are identified and it is tried so that they can acquaint themselves with the vast area of knowledge with a global perspective. For the students who are at a weak position in respect of merit, the college tries to help the students to cope with their weaknesses and improve themselves academically.

Use of technology

Within its limitation, college puts thrust on introducing the disadvantaged students with the modern technological methods of education, so that they don't have to feel left out in the greater sphere of society. The college arranges computer training for students, classes and seminars are arranged for students with the help of ICT tools etc.

Use of learner-centric method

In order to engage the students in the process of learning actively, the college adopts learner-centric method. During the classes, the teachers follow question-answer technique, so that the teachers ask questions on the topics taught, and also students are given opportunity to ask question to teachers. The teachers encourage critical thinking among the students. It is also seen that the students can participate in the process of learning. They are given home assignments; seminars and group discussions etc. are also arranged for the students. Project works and field studies etc. give the students more scope for participative learning.

Addressing Gender Issues

As empowering women is one of the main objectives of this college, it often addresses the gender issues. Programmes are arranged in the college to give orientation to the students about the gender disparity in the society and the ways how to combat it, the evils of the early marriage, women-centric health and hygiene issues, legal provisions against sexual harassment of women etc.

Evidences of Success

1. Though the college is not yet successful in curtailing the drop-out rate, still it is successful in motivating a large number of students to set their goals in life. Many girls have understood that they have a significant role to play in the society, and for that they have to enter into the outside world. This is evident from the fact that many girl students have taken part in the Independence Day and Republic Day parades besides cultural and sports events organized by the District Administration outside college. Many girls have also taken part in cleanliness drives and awareness programmes outside college.
2. The participation of girls of the college in the Government programmes organized on the occasion of the 400 year birth anniversary of Lachit Barphukan, Har Ghar Tiranga, Azadi Ki Amrit Mahotsav etc. was quite notable.
3. Though the pass percentage of the college was not as expected, still many students individually succeeded against all odds.
4. Many students joined courses like L.L.B., B. Ed. etc. after passing out the undergraduate course from this college.
5. Many students were able to grab employment opportunity, be it government service, private sector jobs or entrepreneurship.
6. Some students showed their excellence in cultural fields also.