

Bankim Sardar College

College with Potential for Excellence
Institutional Distinctiveness – In Search of Excellence in Sunderbans

Brought Students back to Classroom

Context

One of the most unfortunate trend in higher education is that students are less keen to attend classes. Needless to mention excellence cannot be achieved from absentee students and empty classrooms.

Goal

The college promised to “bring students back to classroom” and shed off the fat of “non-students” one who tends to take admission but do not care to attend classes

Efforts

Students not having necessary class attendance are strictly restricted from getting stipend benefits and disallowed to appear for the university examinations.

Evidence of success

1. Those who used to get admitted in the college only for “earning financial assistance” are no more taking admission in this college for which although enrolment is on the fall, but the college is gradually becoming free from “non-students.”
2. Class attendance which was as less as 5-7 % in 2016 rose to 42% in 2017 and 80% in 2018 and 84% in 2019

Students Friendly Class Routine

Context

With more and more students coming to the class regularly, the college faced the problem of accommodating those students in classrooms. Division of classes into smaller sections thus became necessary. But that again led to a situation of dearth of classrooms on one hand and want of teachers on the other.

Goal

The college thus planned not to allot classes to the students of all the three years (1st year, 2nd year and 3rd year”) at the same point of time but to design the routine in such a manner so that the class timings of all the three years remained mutually exclusive.

Efforts

College prepared “block routine,” so that students of any particular year (e.g. the 1st year) get classes without any gap in between, providing them with the scope to leave the college after their back to back classes are over thereby leaving space for the students of the other year (e.g. 2nd year) to arrive at the college.

Evidence of success

By having classes in blocks for each year at a time college remained able to optimize the limited class space to accommodate multiple sections.

Uniform Arrival and Uniform Departure of Teachers

Context

The practice of block routine (1st year classes in the morning hours or 2nd year classes during noon and 3rd year classes in the late afternoon) led to the situation of back to back classes for the students without any gap. The teachers' routine, however, was left with gaps as one teacher taking classes for all the three years would be required to stay back in the college for the entire college hours.

Goal

The college planned to make the teachers remain available in the college for the entire college hours.

Effort

The practice of uniform arrival of all teachers at 10 AM and uniform departure at 4 PM came into effect and teacher includes all teachers both whole time and part-time.

Evidence of success

Teachers remain available for the students both in the classroom and outside the classroom for the purpose of mentoring, counselling, doubt clearing sessions and remedial classes.

Minimizing the cost of commutation to the college

Context

With the introduction of CBCS, the context changed again. The necessity of regular class attendance was felt by the students, not because of the moral persuasion of the college authorities but for the purpose of obtaining high internal assessment marks as more attendance would fetch more marks. The students expressed their mind that since the college is located in a geographically disadvantaged position, daily commuting to the college would become highly expensive which on the average would be as high as Rs 70 per day which would be impossible for them to afford.

Goal

The college appreciated the difficulty faced by the students because of the disadvantaged location of the college.

Efforts

Addressing the needs of the students the class routine has been designed in such a manner that each student is required to come to college for three days in a week with double classes every day thereby enabling them to attend 75 hours of classes per course per semester which would fulfill the CBCS requirement. Students would come to college on the remaining three days for the purpose of tutorial classes, add on training (Basic Computers, Spoken English etc) and library work as and when required.

Evidence of success

This particular initiative is highly popular among the students as their cost of commuting to the college is reduced to half and a very large section of the students is having nearly 100% class attendance.

Towards building an Academic Ambience

Context

As students get into college regularly for their studies it becomes imperative to build an academic ambience that is conducive to teaching-learning and learners are provided with an enriched teaching-learning experience.

Goal

Students feel at home while on campus

Efforts

The college has followed the following strategy

1. College authority restricts trespassing and disallows entry of outsiders in the campus
2. Bar-coded digital I Card provided to students for their daily attendance tracking
3. CCTV monitoring to ensure prevention of ragging or any other harassment of students
4. Friendly teacher-student relation
5. Principal remains available to the students as and when necessary

Evidence of success

The students in general and the girl students, in particular, are feeling comfortable with no reported acts of ragging

Mentoring and Continuous Internal Assessment

Context

With students back to classroom and teachers staying back in college for the entire college hours, the next initiative required 1) regular classes to be conducted by the teachers 2) classes to be delivered according to a plan 3) completing the syllabus in time 4) encouraging the students to appear for end semester examinations without any drop-out.

Goal

The teachers to give more personalized attention to the students

Efforts

Whereas the affiliating university required the colleges to take one internal assessment during the end of the semester, this college conducts the continuous internal assessment during the end of each month and a test is conducted on the portion of the syllabus completed during the month. The marks scored during the month end internal assessment along with class attendance of that month is uploaded in the college portal for parents' acknowledgement about their ward's progress.

Evidence of success

The students are regular in classes and the regular internal assessment is giving the opportunity to find out the slow learners.

Academic Calendar - beyond Holiday List

Context

The institution is required to ensure effective curriculum delivery through a well planned and documented process

Goal

College builds an Academic Calendar every year. It is not merely a list of holidays and vacations. It includes a documented plan of curriculum delivery throughout the two semesters

Efforts

Teachers and students follow the Academic Calendar

Evidence of success

Meticulousness in curriculum delivery has increased and delivery of lessons have become more systematic

Extending the Academic Calendar – College remains open on Sundays

Context

A large number of working days get consumed by holidays and vacations, days when university examinations take place, and for convening the parliamentary, assembly and panchayat elections

Goal

The college aims at expanding the Academic Calendar

Efforts

Without any curtailment of the holidays and the vacations, the college has taken positive steps to keep the college open on Sundays for the purpose of running the PG Bengali classes, Add-on Training classes and Seminar Library.

Evidence of success

The college remains open for almost 300 days, out of which almost 210 days are teaching days

Context

For enhanced learning experiences innovation in teaching-learning and students' centric learning methods is required

Goal

The college aims at introducing several teaching methodologies

Efforts

- Department of English makes their students enact Shakespearian Drama and makes them feel in English and speak in English before capacity audience
- Teachers of Department of Bengali take their students to Jorasanko – the birthplace of poet Rabindranath Tagore – and make aware of the life and work of the Great Poet
- Department of History makes use of videos and PPTs and often takes the students to the Indian Museum for the study of Ancient Indian artefact over and above the class lectures
- Department of Political Science takes its students to the State Assembly every year - when the House is in session - and makes them aware of the legislative procedure and practices. The students also “learn through performance” by way of recreating a session of Youth Parliament in the college in front of an audience comprising of all students from all departments under the mentorship of the teachers in the department
- Teachers of the Departments of Science and the Geography involve all students of the college to do project work about the biodiversity of the college campus.
- Mentors take their student mentees to the Mahanagar Kolkata to make them aware of the several important sites of the City of Calcutta, metro life of Kolkata, diversities along the river Ganges and make their Capital City known to them.
- Department of Economics makes an analysis of the Annual Economic Survey and the Union Budget every year and makes its students aware of the procedures and practices of Government Finance
- Department of Geography has made an innovative way of teaching where the students of 2nd year demonstrate before the 1st year students through their practical classes
- Teachers in the Department of English provide English language training to students by way of making use of designated software in the English Language Lab
- Teachers in the Department of Commerce run the utility course “Basic Tally” to students belonging to all departments
- Teachers in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Commerce offer a Course on Human Values and Professional Ethics
- Mentors guide the students to take part in Biodata contest and make them learn how to write a Biodata, how to make self-introspection and write their SWOC and present the bio-data by way of appearing in a mock interview before the Principal and judges from other colleges and universities
- Teacher mentors from the Department of Bengali encourage the students to participate in Formal Letter Writing Contest and guide the students to learn Functional Bengali. The formal letters written by the students are exhibited before judges from other colleges and universities
- Students who have training in Basic Computers and obtained certificates on successful completion of the course are allowed to continue their practice with computers and internet by way of training the students of the new batches getting enrolled in Basic Computers
- Mentors from the Department of English run a film club and organize film shows at regular intervals with more than 50 student-mentees who makes a critical appreciation of the films being screened

Evidence of success

Students are feeling at home on the campus as the teachers are increasingly becoming mentors to their students

Skill Development

Context

The need for the introduction of capability enhancement schemes is long felt as students are required to be empowered with workplace skills over and above being empowered

Goal

The college aims at Empowerment of Students

Efforts

The college has introduced and running the following programmes

UGC - CoC (Career Oriented Course)

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UGC - CPE (College with Potential for Excellence) Skill Building Programme

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Basic Computer Training

Basic Proficiency in Communicative English

Preparation for Entry to Services

Basic Training in Tally

Fundamentals of Remote Sensing and GIS

The college provides

1. 52 computer terminals and 35 internet terminals for the students to practice completely free of cost
2. Language lab with Wordsworth English Language Lab software for students' use during training and practice hours
3. Career Counselling by the teachers
4. Books on Competitive Examinations are maintained in the Seminar Library for students' use

Evidence of success

As many as 298 students are enrolled in several courses

As many as 88 students have received certificates on completion of the course in Basic Computer

Skill Plus

Context

The students in the Sunderbans comes from socially challenged families and thus most students during their childhood had a very little opportunity to receive guidance, training, counselling and mentoring by parents at home to unearth the pent up potentiality buried in them

Goal

The college aims at providing guidance; training, counselling and mentoring to the students so that the students feel encouraged to reflect their potentiality through sustained efforts of mentoring by the teachers to the students in the classroom and outside the classroom

Efforts

1. The college has introduced and running UGC - CPE Skill Plus Programme
2. Principal as Mentor of Mentors encourages the teachers to rise above the role of being "only teacher" in the classroom and assume the role of Mentors to guide and counsel the students round the year
3. IQAC organizes several students' centric programmes, contests, events and functions around the year so as to provide opportunities to the students to participate and perform in such events
4. Mentors imbibe strong self-efficacy belief - "I can do" - and enable them to perform in the following programmes

Evidence of success

Skill Plus Programmes	Skill Plus Outcomes	Mentors	Mentees
Photography Contest 2019	Every human individual has an inner eye which reflects their beautiful minds. For the reflection of such beautiful minds, mentors encourage the students to participate in events like drawing competition, poster competition, photography contest and display their creations in exhibitions for peer viewing and judgment. All such efforts enable the silent talents to get reflected in their art piece.		
Poster Competition 2017			
Poster Competition 2018			
Poster Competition 2019			
Bio-data Contest 2019	Writing a biodata, communicating it to the employers through email or letter, facing the interview board and make a presentation of their SWOC through PPT are some of the requirements that a student would face for all practical purposes during entry to the job market. By way of providing an opportunity to participate in such contests, the mentors help the students to develop self directional skill		
Email Contest 2019			
Letter writing Contest 2019			
Interview contest 2019			
PPT Contest 2019			
Quiz Competition 2019	Several mentors prepare their mentees to gather knowledge and prepare a database of quiz questions and answer for the several rounds of quiz. The students are also made to prepare for solving several lateral thinking exercises. All efforts taken together helps the students to develop their quizzing and lateral thinking abilities.		
Quiz Contest 2017			
Lateral Thinking Contest 2017			
Debate 2017	The art of speaking before an audience can be nurtured and the Mentors by way of imbibing self-confidence encourage the students to speak before peer group during practice sessions. Mentors make use of good videos and movies to illustrate good instances of public speaking. All of the above enable the mentors to develop a good eloquence skill among the students		
Elocution Competition 2018			
Group Discussions 2017			
Students Seminar 2017			
Students' Seminar 2019			
Youth Parliament 2017	Students of the Political Science department visit State Assembly to observe live proceedings of the legislative procedures. Mentors then encourage the students to organize and participate in a "mock parliament" session and develop legislative skills.		
Youth Parliament 2019			
Extempore 2017	Mentors encourage the mentees to display their art of logical thinking		
Essay Competition 2017	Mentors encourage the student mentees to acquire a solid understanding of basic grammar, style, punctuation, vocabulary and develop writing and literary skills		
Essay Competition 2018			
Antaksaari 2017	Mentors encourage the mentees to take part in several performing art competition and display their creative and artistic skills before the peer groups, teachers, and judges. Many of these events are performed in groups and thus the mentees learn to develop group skills.		
Antaksaari 2019			
Recitation Competition 2017			
Recitation Competition 2019			
Singing Competition 2017			
Dance Competition 2019			
Dance Competition 2017			

