

7.2.1 – Describe at least two institutional best practices

Best practice # 1

1-Title: Bhatler college, Dantan Cultural Museum in the central library.

2. context

The name, 'Dantan' is remnant of the name of the centre of the Dandabhukti kingdom which lasted from the early medieval to the 12th century AD. Naturally, Dantan and its surrounding areas inherited a rich cultural, historical and archaeological past. The college has always been very active in understanding and preserving the heritage. As a part of this, the college actively sponsored the excavation of the biggest Buddhist monastery of West Bengal, the Moghalmari Buddhist Monastery in 2012. As the participation of teachers and students in field surveys, documentation and discussion grew, the college felt the necessity of establishing a cultural museum from the resources collected so far.

3. Objectives:

- To explore and find out potential archaeological sites at and around Dantan and the attention of the scholarly communities to the importance of the sites.
- To explore and document local history starting right from the prehistoric to the present times.
- To build up a visual archive and a museum containing the cultural artefacts.
- To create a scholarly archive with publications of research on Dandabhukti and Dantan.
- To include the cultural heritage of the tribal people of the area.
- To collaborate with other organizations and help individual researchers with the resources.
- To create consciousness about conservation of cultural heritage among students and the local people against the onslaught of globalization.

4. Practice :

The Museum was created in 2014 with the documented visual materials from the teachers and students, folk materials, maps etc. A tentative chronology of the history of Dandabhukti was prepared by the teachers. The Museum collaborated with Dantan Public Library in 2014 and brought 30 odd archaeological materials for display in the Museum for 2 yrs. The enrichment process of the research archive in the museum containing the scholarly researches on the area continues. In the years 2018 and 2019 the Department of English took up a hard task of finding out the prehistoric cultural materials and sites. In the process valuable cultural materials were recovered and archived in the museum. Many new archaeological spots from the prehistoric to the early medieval periods were found and marked. During the same study certain valuable data on the physical changes caused by the shifting course of the river Subarnarekha in the region were collected. Electronic displays of featuring the cultural materials and places were made.

5. Impact of the practice:

This Cultural Museum play a crucial role in preserving local culture. With careful documentation and artifact preservation, a culture can be recorded and remembered regardless of its future. It can also be shared and understood by those from different cultural background. It depicts the socio-cultural life of a people. By the collections this museum can encourages the communities, groups and individuals to preserve their intangible cultural heritage.

Best Practice # 2

1. Title of the practice: Outreach Assistance and engagement in fostering Social Responsibility.

2. Context

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India. For this purpose, the college has adopted five villages (Borah, Antri, Rajnagar, Bahalia, and

Mukundapur) under the aegis of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA). Major areas of thrust are (a) Human development (Health, Education and culture, Values and perception development, Skills and entrepreneurship. b) Material development (Organic agriculture and cow-based economy, Water management and conservation).

3. Objectives:

1. To help identify the basic developmental and employment needs of Villages and to find ways and means to meet these needs through the existing mechanism of Panchayati Raj institutions.
2. Involve the Professional institutes in the process of making developmental plans at various levels, viz. the GramSabha, the Panchayat Samiti and the Zila Parishad by incorporating the cutting edge, proven, sustainable technologies in the plans.
3. Facilitate convergence of development schemes of different ministries and their resources in holistic development of rural areas.
4. Identify the technology needs of the rural areas for which no satisfactory solution exists and develop a bank of such problems which could be a dynamic source of live projects for the students, research scholars and faculty in the professional institutes.
5. Help grassroots organizations in the crucial task of skill development so that the maintenance and repair of various products and services could be done locally.
6. Empower communities to dialogue with knowledge institutions in order to evolve technically sound and locally feasible development plans using technologies that promote self-reliance.

4. The Practice

The NSS volunteers along with the teaching and non-teaching staff of the college were performed cleaning and hygienic awareness programme. During the initial outbreak of Covid-19, the student volunteers of UBA from the villages were made awareness on corona Virus. To increase the crop yield of villagers we have planned to provide testing for soil, plant tissue, water quality, animal waste, feeds and forages, pesticides, and much more. Already we have tested the soil with help of district soil testing officers. Standard procedures were followed in Soil samples collection and analysis for various parameters viz, pH, electrical conductivity (EC), Organic Carbon, available N, P, K, S, and micronutrients (Zn, Cu, Fe, Mn & B). Five villages

(Borah, Antri, Rajnagar, Bahalia, and Mukundapur) are selected for the soil testing under UBA, Bhatler College, Dantan. The strategy was adopted for soil samples collection at 5.5 ha grid from the irrigated area. Sample collection, testing, and printing & distribution of Soil Health Cards to the farmers of selected five (5) villages. We have also aware some villagers, students and teachers on 'National Education Policy 2020' by webinar through google meet mode and also circulated NPE 2020 Highlights through whatsapp group.

5. Impact of the Practice:

There has been increasing the use of organic manures as well as crop productivity. Villages were aware about maintaining the SOPs of Covid-19. No significant cases are evident there.