

Criterion 7 - Institutional Values and Best Practices

7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

7.1.1

Institution has initiated the Gender Audit and measures for the promotion of gender equity during the last five years.

Describe the gender equity & sensitization in curricular and co-curricular activities, facilities for women on campus etc., within 500 words

Response:

Response:

Our institute has taken various initiatives and organized activities to give equal status and opportunities to the students. No discrimination is done on the basis of religion, Caste, Gender, Disability in admission process. Various committees such as Internal Complaints Committee for Sexual Harassment Prevention, Student Aid Committee and Anti Ragging Committee are actively working and monitoring the day today activities in the campus maintaining healthy gender ratio.

SAFETY AND SECURITY :

- A Security Guard is available for 24*7 in the main campus and hostel campus.
- CCTV surveillance cameras are installed at different places of the institution.
- Complaint / suggestion box is set in the campus.
- ID cards are issued for every stakeholder to restrict the entry of trespassers
- Toilets and every corner of the institution are illuminated with sufficient lights.
- College has a separate common room for girls.

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE AND ANTI RAGGING COMMITTEE

The Internal Complaints Committee and Anti Ragging Cell are actively involved in promoting a ragging free campus and advocate gender sensitization campaigns among Students.

- In order to sensitize the students about gender issues, sexual harassment, gender empowerment and health and hygiene the College has made all possible effort to organized seminars, workshops, talks and web lectures during the Covid-19 pandemic and the post Covid time period.
- All girls, regardless of their caste, religion, or any other aspect, have equitable access to educational resources and equipment.

- A gender Audit report is prepared every year to assess the gender sensitization facilities and active representation of each gender in academic cocurricular and extension activities of the institution.

STUDENT AID COMMITTEE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CELL

The Students Aid Committee and the Equal Opportunity Cell actively ensures the disbursal of Government funds like “**Kanyashree Prakalpa**”and **Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child** to promote financial assistance specially for female students to carry uot their studies.

The **Student Aid Committee** of the College provides monetary aid in the form of tuition waiver to underprivileged students.

NSS CELL

- The NSS and Social Outreach Cell of the College involve students in discipline and collective responsibility. The NSS Special Camp focuses on skill development among slum inmates.
- The Annual Sports is held every year to engage the students in all extracurricular activities.
- The College promotes gender inclusiveness and has a well equipped gymnasium for Students.
- The College has an exclusive Ladies Hostel to cater to the girl students of the College.
- The institution prioritizes participation of girl students in all extracurricular and co-curricular activities.

SWACHHTA ACTION PLAN PLAN COMMITTEE:

- Institutional administration has always put an effort to provide the basic sanitation and hygiene facility for all stakeholders. Sanitary napkin vending machine and covered dustbins are available at the toilets. Webinar on menstrual health and hygiene was organised.

Institutional initiatives to celebrate/organize national and international commemorative days, events and festivals during the last five years:

The institute celebrates national and international commemorative days, events and festivals in the college to promote celebrations and observance of important days to incorporate the values of integrity, unity, gender equality, health awareness, scientific temperament among students.

File Description	Document
Upload Additional information	View Document
Provide Link for Additional information	View Document

7.1.2

The Institution has facilities and initiatives for

- 1. Alternate sources of energy and energy conservation measures**
- 2. Management of the various types of degradable and nondegradable waste**
- 3. Water conservation**
- 4. Green campus initiatives**
- 5. Disabled-friendly, barrier free environment**

Response: A. 4 or All of the above

File Description	Document
Policy document on the green campus/plastic free campus.	View Document
Geo-tagged photographs/videos of the facilities.	View Document
Circulars and report of activities for the implementation of the initiatives document	View Document
Bills for the purchase of equipment's for the facilities created under this metric	View Document
Provide Links for any other relevant document to support the claim (if any)	View Document

7.1.3

Quality audits on environment and energy regularly undertaken by the Institution. The institutional environment and energy initiatives are confirmed through the following

- 1. Green audit / Environment audit**
- 2. Energy audit**
- 3. Clean and green campus initiatives**
- 4. Beyond the campus environmental promotion activities**

Response: A. All of the above

File Description	Document
Report on Environmental Promotional activities conducted beyond the campus with geo tagged photographs with caption and date	View Document
Policy document on environment and energy usage Certificate from the auditing agency	View Document
Green audit/environmental audit report from recognized bodies	View Document
Certificates of the awards received from recognized agency (if any).	View Document
Provide Links for any other relevant document to support the claim (if any)	View Document

7.1.4

Describe the Institutional efforts/initiatives in providing an inclusive environment i.e., tolerance and harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socioeconomic and Sensitization of students and employees to the constitutional obligations: values, rights, duties and responsibilities of citizens (Within 500 words)

Response:

Response:

Students from diverse religious, socio economic and cultural backgrounds take admission to Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College every year. The college takes several measures and initiatives to provide an inclusive environment and to enhance the understanding and appreciation of cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socioeconomic diversities and make the students aware of their constitutional rights, duties and responsibilities

Regional and Cultural inclusiveness

Each year, different cultural and regional festivals like Basanta Utsav, Durga Puja agomoni, Saraswati puja, are celebrated. Rabindra Jayanti, Nazrul jayanti, Baishe Shrabon, are also celebrated every year. The birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, birth anniversary of Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, birth anniversary of Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose, Birth Anniversary of Prafulla Chandra Roy, Students' week, Annual Social, pre Durga Puja Celebration are celebrated every year.

Linguistic inclusiveness:

Many students come from vernacular backgrounds. So, the bilingual mode of teaching has been adopted by teachers wherever required for the students to overcome linguistic challenges. Bilingual study materials are provided to the students.

- The college celebrates International Mother Language Day (21 February) to instill the importance of mother tongue among students. Teachers and students from different departments commemorate the day through various cultural programs. The Department of Bengali also organised a webinar on “ Bangla Sahitye Otimari o Mahamari’.
- The Department of English organized a webinar on ‘Literature in the time of Epidemic/Pandemic’; celebrated birth anniversary of William Shakespere; celebrated ‘100 Years of Satyajit Ray’ celebrated World Theatre day, organised self composed poetry reading session by students; Running a facebook page called ‘Literary Society’, Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College’
- The Department of English offers a course “English Language Teaching” and an Add-on course “English for Communication” that help the students to learn communication skills and creative writing.

Communal and Socio-economical inclusiveness:

- The institution provides scholarships and freeship to students from economically backward communities that help them to continue their study and fulfill their dreams.
- NSS organizes camps in the adopted slum and arranges an awareness campaign with cleaning of the area. Students gain experience in the art of group living, interacting with the community without any bias of religion, social status or economic background.
- The NSS unit organizes Thalassaemia Awareness Programme every year and blood donation camp in 2020, Dengue Awareness Programme and Covid-19 awareness and cancer awareness campaigns.
- The members of Internal Complaint Cell organize awareness campaigns and workshops on Gender issues and undertake surveys to assess the degree of socio-economic empowerment of the students.
- Career Counselling and Placement Cell organised Career Fair and placement drives and webinars every year to promote career guidance and job opportunities for students.

Sensitization of students and employees to the constitutional obligations:

- The Institution has many efforts to make all stakeholders of the Institution aware about the values, principles, rights and duties of the citizens of the country and thereby helping them to become dutiful and responsible citizens.
- To remember and pay tribute towards the freedom fighters, the stakeholders of the institution celebrate Independence Day, Republic Day, Netaji’s birthday, Gandhi Jayanti with great grandeur.
- The Institution has a Code of Conduct and Rules regulations hand book that helps all stakeholders

acquire human values.

- To protect and improve the natural environment, the Institution involves students in seminars, sapling plantation, biodiversity profiling and awareness rally.

File Description	Document
Upload Additional information	View Document
Provide Link for Additional information	View Document

7.2 Best Practices

7.2.1

Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual

Response:

7.2.1 BEST PRACTICE –I

Title: STUDENTS' WELFARE FUND OF TEACHERS COUNCIL

Objectives:

The creation of the Teachers Council Welfare Fund for reaching out to students who are underprivileged and belong to financially weak backgrounds. In the Covid-19 pandemic situation, economic hardship faced by the families of some of our students. College was very much concerned that no student would discontinue their studies due to lack of funds. To help the students from marginalized backgrounds complete their studies. The Teachers' Council of Brahmananda Keshab Chandra College has decided to help the needy students to overcome the hardship regarding monetary issues faced by them in carrying out their online classes and education.

The context:

As part of a social responsibility initiative on the part of the College the idea of having such a fund was mooted. As the situation worsened with the second wave of COVID -19 and the continued economic uncertainties of a large section of our student community, the council members took the decision to build a “ Student Welfare Fund” from individual donations under the supervision of the Secretary. The decision was made in an online TC meeting on 5th May, 2020. Applications from Sem 2 and 4 undergraduate and postgraduate students were invited and data packs that were recharged so that they do not find difficulty in attending the online classes. This programme was continued in the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 session also.

The Practice:

In the session 2021-22 Teachers' Council spent around Rs 58,000/- from its fund towards payment of tuition fees, examination fees and data recharge of mobile phones of students for attending online classes. Council paid tuition fees and university examination fees of 43 students from both arts and science stream. Data recharge helped students to carry on with their online classes and other activities.

Evidence of Success:

While taking online classes, teachers found that some students are regularly absent from their classes as they are unable to recharge their mobile data pack. So it was decided that the foremost thing will be to help the students to continue with their online classes. Recently, data pack recharge, valid for eighty four days, was done for 53 students and around Rs 30,199/- was spent. The activities of Student Welfare Fund were carried till the end of 2023.

Problems encountered and Resource Required: collecting authentic data of needy students in a lockdown situation was very difficult. Though committee members collected all information required through google form along with proper documents and proof. Initially the pace raising fund was slow but later the fund more teachers contributed and a good amount was raised. Disbursement of the fund properly following the data was another challenge in a pandemic situation. Still committee members gave their sincere efforts and managed to do that via online platforms. A few students missed the opportunity which we came to know later.

Best Practice II

Title: SERVING THE NEIGHBOURS: COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR CREATING HEALTHY SOCIETY

Objectives :

- A healthy mind and healthy body are important steps towards strong nation building. Spreading cheer and positivity is what the college aspires to be.
- Commitment to the local community has been an important area that the college is interested in working on.
- The College works to foster commitment towards the local neighbourhood in an attempt to bring about a social and economic transformation of the community structure through the efforts of our institution.

Context:

The College is one of the very few institutions that have a huge playground. The verdant surroundings are a delight to anyone who enters the college campus. This playground is used regularly by our students for their games and sports. The College has always been in favour of using available resources in such a way that the local community could benefit from it as well. It was but natural that the wonderful,

expansive playground would be thus put to use as well. The well preserved playground is a wonderful open space in the concrete all around.

At every juncture in its long history, the college has worked to make the most of the available circumstances and resources. In its efforts to be inclusive, to be part of the local community, to work towards creating good physical and mental health of the people in the area, college has incorporated one of its best practices into healthy practices for all its stakeholders and the community as well. Higher educational institutions are expected to work and build on healthy practices in order to work towards societal transformation.

The Practice:

Several schools, organizations and clubs in the neighbourhood and surrounding area have been allowed to use the college playground for their several activities mostly free of cost. Annual sports, several championships, training events take place in the playground. These organizations and schools make use of the playground after seeking necessary permission from the College authorities. The College strongly believes in the idea that a healthy mind and healthy body are important steps towards strong nation building. The college wants to be a place where happiness and optimism are shared.

Evidence of Success:

College ground was in use by the local Residents, schools, institutions for many years for conducting sports, events, exercise, morning and evening walk etc. without proper documentation and regulation. But after the guardwall construction in 2016 and fencing in 2022, events are taking place in a more regulated and proper manner. College can keep records of the events taking place in the playground as beneficiaries have to put in an application for permission from the college authority.

Problems encountered and resources required

- Escalating costs of maintenance of the playground is a major issue. Fencing, levelling the ground , removing weeds and mowing regularly is a huge financial burden.
- Local people and children often tend to use the playground beyond the stipulated time causing distraction to college activities.
- The rapid growth of invasive weeds, particularly in the rainy season is a major cause for concern as it becomes difficult to use the ground unless weeds are removed.
- Monetary resources are of utmost importance for the maintenance of the huge playground.

File Description	Document
Best practices as hosted on the Institutional website	View Document
Any other relevant information	View Document

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1

Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust within 1000 words

Response:

‘Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove’- A In Situ Biodiversity Conservation and Maintenance Effort in a Highly Urbanised Area.

Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) have an all-encompassing role of nation-building by empowering youths with the much-needed knowledge, values, and training for leading a fulfilling life and positively impacting the society. The HEIs are the cradle for creating tools for the advancement of knowledge and progress of mankind. The HEIs can ignite young minds towards aspirations to reach outer space as well as manage the well-being of our planet Earth. Courses such as Plant Ecology, Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Management, and others expose the younger generation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Sacred groves are a traditional approach of biodiversity conservation where a community does not disturb a patch of forest considering it to be sacred. It is believed that the Van-Devi or forest deity would be offended and punish the person who disturbs or takes anything from that forest. Sacred groves are found all around the world. The undisturbed condition of the sacred grove makes it a relic of forest ecosystems and provides a safe haven for wild flora and fauna in the age of concrete jungles.

Maintaining Biodiversity:

Plantation drives are organized by Swacchta Action Plan Committee and NSS unit at Regular intervals to enhance green coverage and increasing plant biodiversity. This way landscaping is also done by planting trees, shrubs and creepers to maintain a hue soothing for mind and eyes. College has a Sacred Grove which helps to maintain floral and faunal diversity to a great extent. Slashing and burning of invasive plant species is done on a regular basis to maintain the diversity of native plant species.

- The college is a green campus and GREEN can acronymically be called as “Global Readiness in Ensuring Ecological Neutrality”. The BKC College is committed to conserve an area of 01 (one) hectare as Biodiversity Conservation Site. The Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose Eco Club of Botany Department, BKC College innovated a sustainable approach to Biodiversity Conservation by setting up a Sacred Grove within the college premises in 2016.

- The college administration pledges to conserve this area as an institutional In-Situ Biodiversity Conservation Site through the Conservation Policy (Ref: BKCC/GB-Agg 2/ /Green Policy/2017 dated 08.09.2017.)
- This grove has been named after the renowned botanist Edavalath Kakkat Janaki Ammal as 'Janaki Ammal Sacred Grove (JASG)' to inspire the young minds towards natural science and biodiversity conservation.
- The Green team of Swachata Action Plan (SAP) Committee of the college, an initiative of Ministry of Education, GoI, is maintaining the grove along with the Eco-Club from 2020.
- The lockdown of 2020 was proof that the biodiversity of the college campus is unique and the sacred grove became a safe haven and wetland corridor for the migratory bird *Cocinia cocinia*. The trees in the campus especially those of the Janaki Ammal Sacred grove became the playground for the paradise flycatcher, Indian Cuckoo, magpie Robin, yellow footed pigeon, stork billed kingfisher, white crested kingfisher, oriole, barbet, owls, eagle, kite, parrot, greater coucal etc. and around 36 species of butterfly. Faunal diversity assessment was done by the Department of Zoology. In the grove 3 species of amphibia, 13 species of reptiles, 55 species of birds, 11 species of mammals. Were encountered.
- The grove has been a learning ground for Ecology and Taxonomy for PG Botany and UG Botany and Zoology students. The grove is one of the criteria for bagging the 'One District One Green Champion' award from Swachhta Action Plan , MHRD, GoI in 2021 by the institution.
- The Eco Club students and Zoology addon course students regularly audit the green of the campus by systematic identification, quantification, and analysis of tree, shrub, and herbaceous components of the campus. This creates awareness among the students regarding their surroundings and the importance of species diversity. It also develops their skills for data collection and analysis to get an idea of the ecological footprint of the institute.
- The College has about 88% (21568.71 m sq) of the total area covered by different plant life forms. Of this 88%, 11% is wild forested area of the Janaki Ammal sacred grove, 50% is grass playground, 27% non- concrete areas with large trees of the college campus. A plant list of the college was prepared by collating the botanical documentation carried out from 2015 to 2022 by Eco-club members of the Botany Department. The college has rich plant diversity with 74 plant species; 30 tree species, 3 shrub species, 34 herbaceous species and 7 climber species. The number of trees in the sacred grove represents 50% of the total number of trees in the entire campus. It is interesting to note that most of these trees are age-old and were planted by the earlier administration since the establishment of the college in 1956. The tradition of increasing the plant diversity of the college continues even today.
- The college has a rich herbaceous diversity of around 45 species growing in various seasons of the year. Many of these wild species are medicinally important. Other plant species have been planted in the medicinal plant garden to enrich the medicinal plant population of the college campus.
- A gate was put up at the entrance of the sacred grove in honour of Janaki Ammal and trees are labelled with appropriate signages.

- A medicinal plant garden has been created adjacent to the sacred grove to increase the pollinator availability of the area. It also helps the student learn about the use of different medicinal plants and improve their Traditional Medicinal Knowledge/TMK.
- A museum on Janaki Ammal and flora and fauna of the grove has been established in the sacred Grove.
- A small waterbody has been renovated as a mode for recharging the ground water and also to provide water source to the birds and other species in summer.
- Students and local people are invited to visit the sacred grove and learn about community conservation practices such as the sacred grove that act as carbon sinks and contribute to mitigating global warming and climate change.

File Description	Document
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Any other relevant information	View Document