

Xahari



Best Practice
at
Women's College, Tinsukia
(2021 - 2023)

Best Practice – 2 [Xahari (সহাৰি)]

1. Title of the Practice:

“Xahari” – an outreach initiative of the college undertaken as a part of the Institutional Social Responsibility.

2. Objectives of the Practice

Basic objective is to **make resources of the institution available to disadvantaged sections of the society**. “Xahari” is an initiative, which has two major schemes viz. “**Mobile Library**” and “**Computer Education at your doorsteps**”, both are created to provide services at the doorsteps of every needy institution. Of late, as a part of this mission, we have been providing free computer educations and mobile library services to *inmates of the District Jail of Tinsukia*. Our mission is to give the unfortunate *inmates* a second chance in life by equipping them with means to earn their livelihood after their jail tenure.

3. The Context

Context & Challenges:

It's always a challenge to start something, which is unheard of, before that point of time. First challenge was to convince our own staffs they were apprehensive of the fact that they may not receive positive response from their target groups. To provide services at the doorsteps needed over time work from the staff and we had to bear extra expenses for conveyances. However after tremendous responses that they received from beneficiary institutions, all the above mentioned constraints evaporated away.

Similarly our team of Xahari was a bit hesitant to go to the jail and approach the inmates (due to their preoccupations towards the jail inmates). But once they entered the jail premises and once they got love, respect and affection from the inmates, all these fear and reluctance are gone and now our team is eager than ever before to help the inmates.

4. The Practice

Two main programs covered under this Xahari initiative are – “Mobile Library” and “Free Computer Education”.

- **Mobile Library:** The mobile library of the college has more than 1000 books (mostly story books, novels, GK books, illustrated books on folktales, e-Books etc.) at its disposal. The librarian approaches institutional heads over phone and on receipt of their consent, go to the concerned institution with trunk load of books to be distributed among the students/ members of the institutions. Students choose the books that they want to read and as per their requisition, the books are given to them for a period of 15 days, for free. The institutional head takes the responsibility of safe handling and secured return of the books. In the District Jail, the Jailer receives the books to be distributed among the inmates.
- **Free Computer Education:** Our computer science department has a separate unit of 12 laptops, a sound system, a projector and other accessories, especially for the extension activities under the “Xahari”. The HoD of the department, Mr. Tapash K.Aich takes the system to the concerned institution (at present the District Jail) as per the pre declared routine (twice in a week at present) in our multi utility van and teaches the computer courses to the students/ members (inmates of the Jail) of the institution. At present 15

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(fifteen) number of jail inmates are enrolled in various computer courses (certificate and diploma) that are on offer under the *Xahari* initiative. At the end of each course, examinations will be conducted by our college at their doorsteps and on successful completion of the same, certificates will be issued by the college authority. Already District Legal Service Authority of Tinsukia has approached us for extension of our computer education to their adopted schools, which we have agreed to and very soon the DLSA also will avail benefits of our outreach programs. This free computer education program has also been made open for students of other colleges and students of other colleges (viz. Namrup College, Chabua College) have already enrolled in various computer courses offered by us.

5. Evidence of Success

Xahari has been our “**success story**” in the field of our extension activities.

(a) **Mobile Library:** The mobile library has been providing its services in schools of the region. Lately, it has extended its services to the inmates of the district jail. It has earned popularity among the readers, as is evident from the fact that some schools request us to extend the period of lending from 15 days to one month. They also request for new books of their choice, which we are happy to oblige to.

(b) **Free Computer Education:** The drive has been gaining popularity by days. The fact that computer literacy provides immense advantage in job market, and that our facility is virtually free and we provide it at their doorsteps; have made our program attractive to aspirants. Above all, our computer programs are approved by the Dibrugarh University and one program is approved by the IIT, Mumbai. At present 15 (fifteen) numbers of Inmates of the District Jail have been enrolled to various computer courses. Similarly, 03 (three) students from *Namrup College* (district Dibrugarh) are enrolled in the Certificate course in Tally and 16 (Sixteen) members from Gwalior are enrolled in the Certificate course on FOSS (sponsored by IIT, Mumbai), under the *Xahari* initiative.

6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

The one problem that we had to face and resolve was excess workload that our computer faculties had to bear. However they are very dedicated towards services to the society and the college acknowledges their excess workload by providing them extra remuneration for the same.

A certain amount of establishment cost and recurring costs had to be borne by the college, which was taken care of by utilizing our own resources. As per our record, the establishment and other recurring expenses that have incurred in the practice are –

- Establishment cost: Rs. 4,53,175.00
- Recurring expenditure: Rs. 6,400.00

7. Notes (Optional)

Our motto behind these best practices is that we should make our resources available to all sections of the society so that the resources are used to optimum and everyone in need can reap the benefits of knowledge sources at our disposal.

PRINCIPAL
Women’s College, Tinsukia