

## **Title: Inclusive Education and Holistic Development for all**

**Objective of the Practice:** With students coming from varied social, cultural, and economic backgrounds the college is always proactive in ensuring that the curriculum reflects various cultural, social, and global viewpoints to foster a sense of inclusion. The objective of the college has always been to foster active learning environments leading to a steady connection between academic knowledge and real-world applications. The students are encouraged to participate in learning projects that allow students to engage with and contribute to the local community.

**The Context:** Being located in a rural space, the college has revolutionized the scenario of Higher Education in the entire block. With a majority of students belonging to scheduled castes, minorities, and other backward sections, an atmosphere of inclusiveness and tolerance has been a matter of prime concern. The question of inclusiveness also included fostering gender equity within the campus. One of the primary challenges was to motivate the community to send their daughters to college. The task was all the more difficult in a district like Murshidabad where the female literacy rate is considerably lower than the overall state female literacy rate.

Another prime objective of the college is to extend the opportunities higher Education to students belonging to scheduled tribes. Special focus, in this case, was given to integrating students from the Santal and Sapuria communities into Higher Education.

### **The Practice**

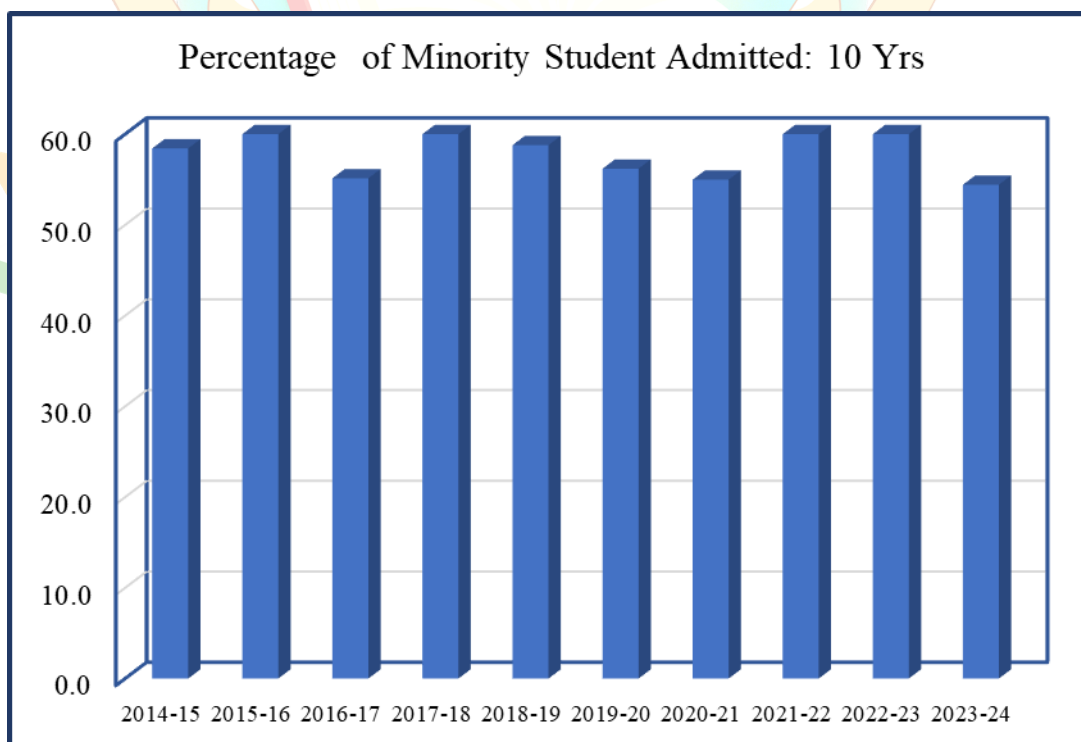
Our college has taken up a multifaceted endeavor to ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic, physical, cultural, or linguistic backgrounds, have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the educational system. We believe this practice is critical in a diverse country like India, where disparities in access to education persist despite significant advancements in the sector. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, mandates educational institutions to provide accessible infrastructure and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Additionally, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasizes the need for inclusive practices, aiming to reduce dropout rates and ensure equitable access to education for all marginalized groups. Our Institution has tried to align its practices to the abovementioned policies of the Government by taking the following measures:

1. The campus of the college has been made disabled-friendly by building ramps in all the buildings. The library, college office, students' common rooms, Divyangana Washroom, and seminar hall are all built on the ground floor to guarantee easy access.

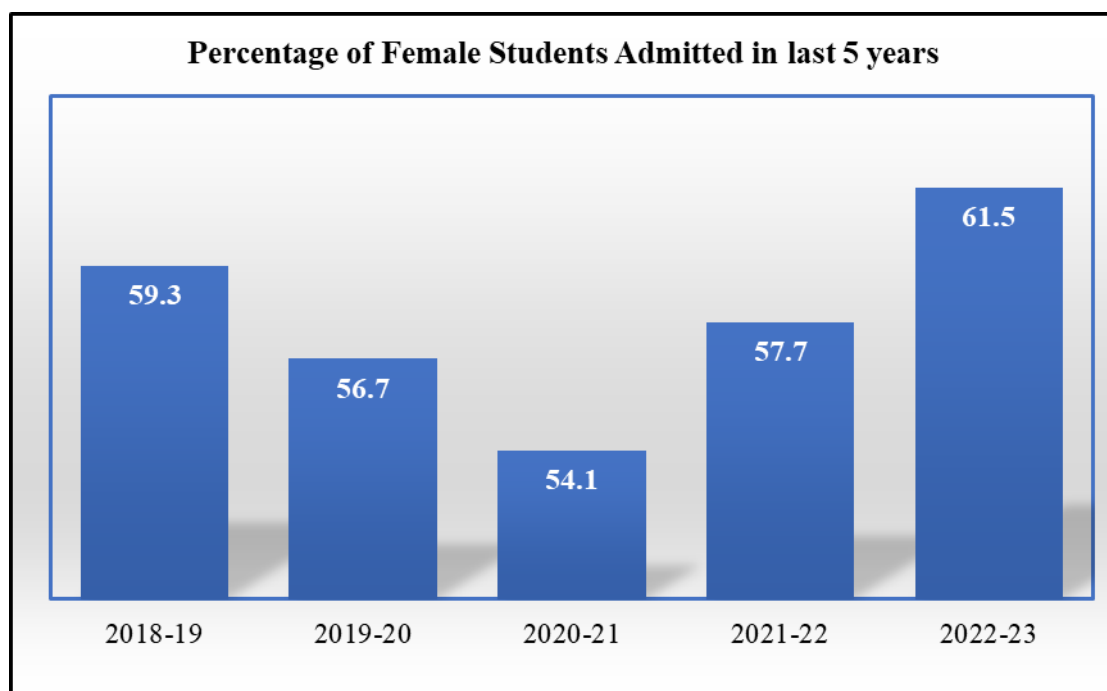
2. The college office takes initiatives to promote and raise the student's awareness regarding various scholarships. All female students as well as all the students belonging to minority and marginalized communities receive scholarships.
3. Infrastructural facilities like the installation of a Sanitary Pad Vending Machine and the Girls' Common Room with an attached washroom are in place to provide a comfortable working atmosphere for the female students.
4. Regular seminars and webinars on women's issues are held to promote women's empowerment.
5. Self-Defence Course for female students are offered since 2022-2023 academic session.
6. Seminars and symposiums to celebrate and promote ethnic cultural practices are organized to promote and foster indigenous cultures.

#### Evidence of Success:

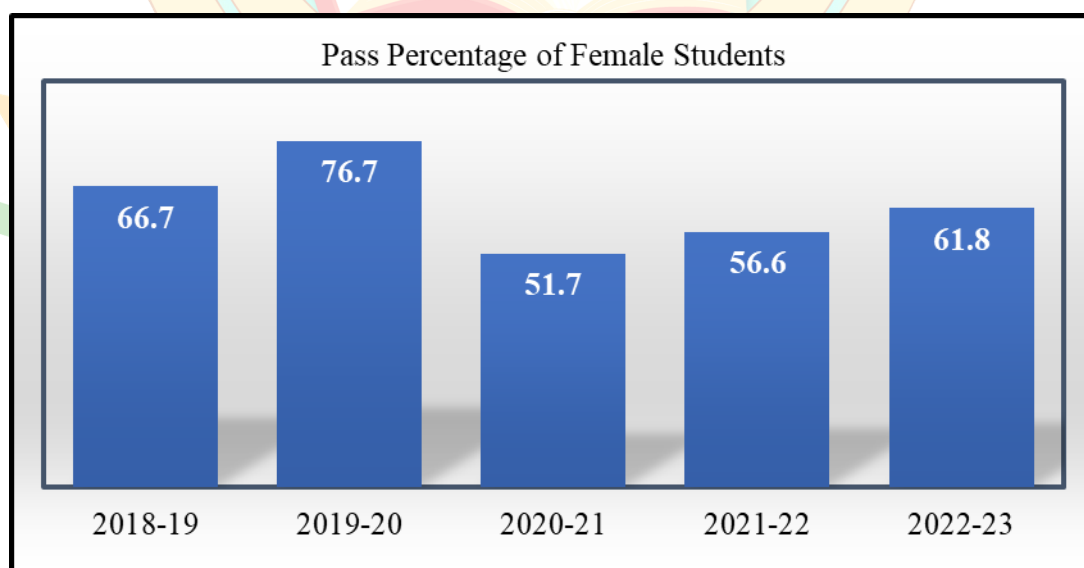
- In our effort to inculcate the practice of imparting inclusive education and development for all, the college has tasted success to a great extent.
- Since its inception, Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College has played a crucial role in increasing the rate of Higher Education among minority communities in the entire block. The following graphical analysis effectively portrays the positive role of the college in this matter:



- A similar success story is visible when it comes to the enrolment of women in Higher Education in our college in the context of the last five years:



- The average pass percentage of female students in our college has also shown an upward curve in recent years.



- These results suggest that the Institution's efforts to provide inclusive education and foster holistic development for everyone have been significantly successful. In the coming years, the college will continue to strengthen this practice to achieve our aim to establish ourselves as a center of excellence.

## Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Despite the efforts made, there are still several challenges to achieving fully inclusive education. These challenges include inadequate infrastructure, a lack of trained personnel, and socio-cultural attitudes that perpetuate exclusion. One major issue faced by many colleges in Murshidabad is a high dropout rate among male students, as many of them migrate to other states in search of employment. Addressing these challenges requires sustained policy interventions, increased funding, the introduction of more job-oriented courses in the curriculum, and a shift in societal attitudes toward embracing diversity.

