

## **Best Practice: 1**

### **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**

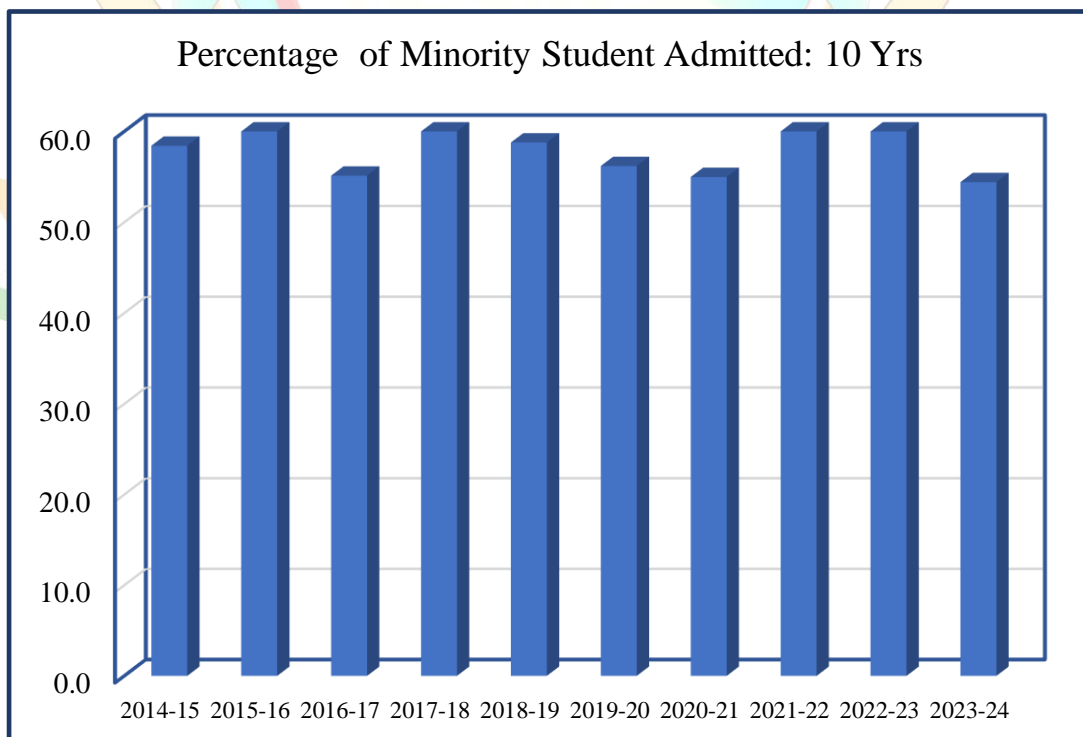
Our college has taken up a multifaceted endeavor to ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic, physical, cultural, or linguistic backgrounds, have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the educational system. We believe this practice is critical in a diverse country 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, Divyangan Washroom, and seminar hall are all built on the ground floor to guarantee easy access.

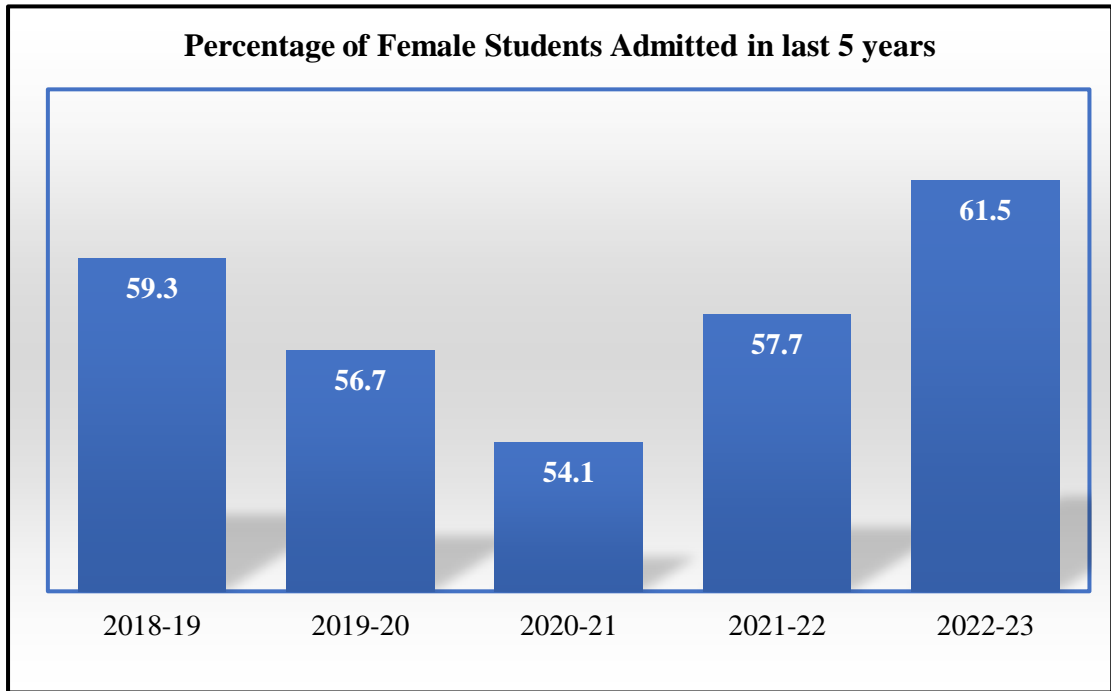
2. The college office takes initiatives to promote and raise the student's awareness regarding various scholarships. All female students as well as all the students belonging to minority and marginalized communities receive scholarships.
3. Infrastructural facilities like the installation of a Sanitary 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:**

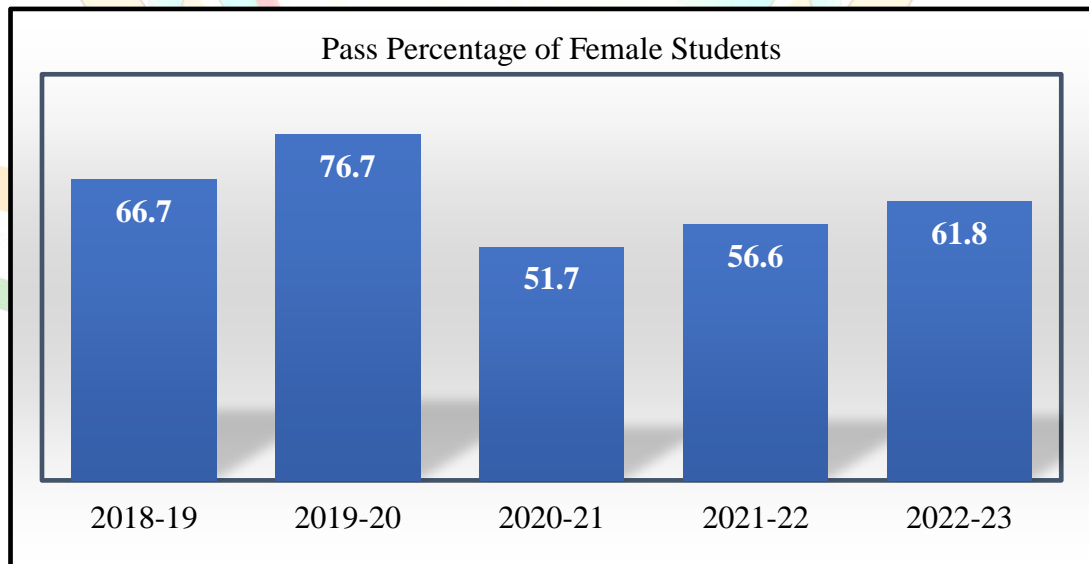
- In our effort to inculcate the practice of imparting inclusive education and development for all, the college has tasted success to a great extent.
- Since its inception, Nabagram Amar Chand Kundu College has played a crucial role in increasing the rate of Higher Education among minority communities 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 six 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.



## Best Practice: - 2

**Title:** Community Outreach: Adopting the Motto 'NOT ME, BUT US'

**Objectives:** The institution does not want to limit itself to the confines of the narrow academic space, rather it believes in reaching out and contributing substantially towards upliftment of communities. We believe that the institution will experience organic growth only if it can broaden the horizons of its activity to include community welfare

**The Context:** The institution is located in an area where a major chunk of the population belongs to the economically and socially underprivileged sections.

- There is a low level of awareness regarding health, culture, and academics in the locality.
- Gender injustice is commonly experienced by most of the women in the community.
- Early marriage of girl children has been a dominant practice.
- Migration of students as laborers in other states

**The Practice:** The college with its NSS unit and Student Club Sankalpa has established a deep connection with the society at large. A major section of the activities of NSS Unit of the college transcends the narrow confines of the campus.

- **Health and Hygiene Campaigns:** NSS volunteers organize, blood donation drives, and awareness campaigns on Save Water, Health and Hygiene, and plastic-free environment aiming to improve public health and hygiene in surrounding rural areas.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Activities that include tree plantation drives, clean-up campaigns, and awareness programs on sustainability are organized to inculcate a sense of environmental stewardship among communities.
- **Education and Literacy:** NSS initiatives often focus on taking awareness classes in nearby schools, and arranging community classrooms for children who could not enroll themselves in traditional educational institutions.
- **Women Empowerment:** Programs are designed to empower women through awareness against female trafficking, and health education, aiming to promote gender equality.
- **Community Development Projects:** These include awareness and cleanliness drives in picnic areas and fair grounds in the nearby locality.

Most of these activities are performed in collaboration with the other Government bodies like the local police station, Block Development office, Gram Panchayat, neighboring schools and so on.

**Evidence of Success:** [<https://www.nabagramackcollege.in/webdata.php?c=46> ]

- The concerted efforts of the college to bring about a positive change in society have been highly appreciated by government bodies and nearby schools.
- The liaison that has been formed with the government bodies has helped us to establish our presence outside the confines of the college campus.
- We have been immensely successful in assisting the local police station to organize awareness against drugs and road safety.
- Large-scale events like marathons and community rallies have been organized in collaboration with various government bodies.
- Programmes against child abuse and women trafficking have been organized in nearby primary, secondary, and Higher Secondary schools regularly. The schools have recognized our contributions in this matter and have encouraged us to carry on with our endeavors.
- Consistent increase in the enrolment and pass percentage of female students in the last five years has led to a shift in the attitude of the parents of the girl child. As a result the rate of early marriage of female students has gone down considerably.

**Problems Encountered and Resources Required:**

- Colleges face several challenges while conducting social outreach programs.
- Limited funding restricts the scale and impact of these initiatives.
- Logistical issues, such as transportation and coordinating with external organizations, complicate planning and execution.
- Engaging students consistently is difficult due to their academic commitments and varying levels of interest.
- Additionally, there can be resistance from local communities unfamiliar with or distrustful of external assistance.
- Navigating bureaucratic hurdles and obtaining necessary permissions further delays efforts.

Finally, ensuring the sustainability of projects and measuring their long-term impact remains a significant challenge for the college.