



P. N. DAS COLLEGE

Santinagar, Palta, P.O.: Bengal Enamel, North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743122 (W.B.)
Phone : (033) 2592 1327, Fax : (033) 2592 1326, e-mail : pndc.principal11@gmail.com
Website : www.pndascollege.in

NAAC ACCREDITED - 2016

Ref.:

Date

INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

AREA OF DISTINCTIVENESS:

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES BY STUDENTS, STAFF AND ALUMNI AT 'SHISHU BHAVAN' ORPHANAGE & DESTITUTE CHILDREN'S HOME

BACKGROUND:


The college is located in a Gram Panchayat, with a history of immigration of hapless victims of the 1947 Partition, most of whom hailed from the socio-economically backwards areas of erstwhile East Pakistan and belonged to the Matua community represented chiefly by the Namasudra (SC) caste. It was to meet the steep challenge of providing education to the children of the Partition victims that Late Nihar Basu embarked on the noble mission of establishing educational institutions in the area, which culminated in the establishment of P.N. Das College in 1962.

The college still adheres to the initial ideas that went behind its establishment and are reflected in its Vision statement, i.e., "to achieve excellence while remaining faithful to its commitment to the empowerment of the weaker sections of the society through knowledge that equips and enlightens." The Missions of the institution also reiterates its commitment "to impart value-based and value-added education to breed a set of socially responsible and self-confident citizens for the future," so that the students and the institution itself remain true to the ideas of the founding fathers to empower students from "displaced (consequent to the Partition of the nation) and socio-economically backward families ..."

It was precisely in this context of rampant displacement and destitution, as an aftermath of the "long" Partition, that Late Nihar Bose, a Freedom Fighter, and a visionary leader of the refugee settlement movement, also laid the foundation of the movement to give shelter to orphan and destitute children with the establishment of the Shishu Bhavan Trust in 1963.

The college, therefore, decided to pay tribute to its founder and show its commitment to the realisation of an equitable society by getting associated with Shishu Bhavan in every possible manner – from extending financial support to involving management representatives, students, teachers, staff and alumni in various community services in the children's home.

The idea behind such engagement is not only to remain true to the Vision and Mission of the college, but also to take small steps towards a more holistic education as envisioned by NEP 2020 (11.1 - 11.12)


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OBJECTIVES:

- To make students aware of the society they inhabit, and know disadvantaged people around them.
- To enable students to realise that they can make a difference.
- To breed a set of caring and socially responsible citizens
- To encourage the local community through exemplary services.
- To foster the spirit of teamwork, co-operation, integration and unity among stakeholders.
- To develop leadership quality in the students through their participation in social work.
- To develop well-rounded individuals by facilitating holistic education, through social engagement and lessons in *seva*, as recently envisioned by **NEP 2020** (Sections 11.3 & 11.8).

PRACTICE:

A brief account of the varied activities undertaken by the college to support the children and management of Shishu Bhavan is given below:

- A monthly endowment of Rs. 1,000/- is extended to the management.
- Involvement of NSS and NCC units in various community services, related to health and hygiene, by undertaking periodical cleaning and disinfection programmes. The expenditure was mostly incurred from the unit and the college funds. Programmes like Swachhata Pakhwada and handwashing awareness were conducted at the home. A part of the Swachh Bharat Internship was held at Shishu Bhavan.
- To extend emotional support to the inmates, NSS volunteers pay visits to the home off and on to participate in games and sports with them. Sporting items were distributed during the lockdown period to keep the children engaged in games and sports..
- The general health of the children were assessed through General Health check-up and Eye Check-up camps at Shishu Bhavan, and also at the college by Disha Eye Foundation, IMA, Noapara Branch, and Dr. R K Sarkar, member, GB. The children are asked to see Dr. Sarkar at the Medical Unit of the college on Mondays, in case of any illness.
- To prevent cases of infection as well as any sense of isolation and destitution among the children during the lockdown period the teachers and alumni visited the home several times to distribute dry food, confectioneries, masks, sanitizers, slippers, grocery items, etc. Even the New Year was celebrated at the home in 2021.
- To support the educational needs of the children, the NSS volunteers help them prepare their lessons. Books, pens, pencils, exercise books are also distributed.
- To encourage the children to participate in life skills like Yoga and Martial Arts, Yoga practising and martial arts sessions were conducted by the Department of Physical Education and NSS unit respectively.

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- The teachers and staff, NSS and NCC volunteers, and other students, visit the home just before the festivals like Durga Puja, Christmas, Children's Day, New Year Day, etc. to spend some time with the inmates and distribute gifts, confectioneries, stationery items, and even blankets. Cake-cutting on days like Christmas, New Year and Children's Day are a regular affair.
- Tree plantation has been done in the campus of the home to generate environmental awareness among the children.

IMPACT:

- The happiness of sharing and caring has made a deep impact on the stakeholders, so much so, that they have developed a strong attachment with the home and the children.
- The programmes have helped the participants to integrate morality, compassion and sympathy and service into their curricular engagement.
- The spirit of teamwork and skills of organisation, teamwork and co-ordination have seen substantial development among students.
- The activities have inspired the local community. Many have been motivated to engage in services at Shishu Bhavan.
- Several other organisations have subsequently come forward with assistance. The Shishu Bhavan management has received donations in cash and kinds from various quarters. The building got a facelift with repairs, fresh coats of paint, new two-tier iron beds have replaced the older damaged wooden beds; the kitchen has become much more hygienic.


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