RAIDIGHI COLLEGE

Best Practices

ADMISSION CUM ENROLMENT PROCESSES

Objective: To ensure access to our higher educational institution by all categories of students irrespective of socio-economic background and cultural as well as geographical backwardness in the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period.

Context: a) Due to geographic isolation and socio-economic depression in the surrounding areas attracting quality students to B. A. and B.Sc. Hons course was a challenge for us. The admission process must be completed within the given time frame under government directives; the meritorious students identified at the earliest and assured them all types of social security as far as possible on behalf of the institution.
b) 2020-21 was complete lockdown period. It was our priority and very much essential to ensure access to education by marginalized sections under the constraints of communication and infrastructure.

Practice:
a) The admission process was started on 10th August 2020 through a detailed notice on the college website in vernacular language.
b) The admission process was initiated as per the Public Notice/schedules of the Government of West Bengal.
c) Fee structure was as per norms of the Government of West Bengal and the University of Calcutta and it was very minimal charges as per directives.
d) Our ICT-based admission procedure was very much students friendly, moreover, the admission portal was designed simply and mobile-friendly. There was no compulsion of Cyber Cafe or professional Computer Centre Services to fill in the admission form.
e) Entire payment system was also hassle-free. E-banking, E-wallet, credit/debit cards facilities or UPI transactions (i.e. BHIM, Paytm, G-Pay, Phone Pay, etc.) were incorporated into our system. No additional charges from the students have demanded the transaction of admission fees as our college provides the said.
f) An acknowledgment of the Application Receipt showing the date of the recipient and necessary authentication was provided to the students for future reference.
g) The separate merit list of students who have applied for the different courses was generated after the last date of receiving applications. Category-wise merit lists were prepared to comply with the reservation policy as per the existing Government Rules. The list was used for admission under SC/ST/OBC categories. However, after completion of admission of the enlisted candidates, if there is the case of shortfall of applicants under the reserved category, our institution followed the dereservation policy of the Government accordingly.
h) College Admission helpline including all the Online Admission Helpline Numbers of University of Calcutta and Department of Higher Education, Govt. of West Bengal were disclosed in our website admission portal. Apart from those, an inquiry counter was available in the college to resolve the problems faced by the Freshers and to guide the willing students for official paperwork. Except that direct Phone Numbers, WhatsApp no, Telegram Numbers of the concerned Officials were also available in college website for newcomers.

Evidences of Success:

The college introduced the Online admission process much before the implementation of the Central Online Admission System all over West Bengal to avoid the misguidance of the Students' Union to the newcomers and their Guardians. Our college is the pioneer to introduce an online admission system among all the rural institutions of Bengal and in course of time, it is well oriented right now.

    i) More students get admission than the previous year.

    ii) Increasing trend of SC/ST/OBC category of students in higher education levels.

    iii) More applications from girl students.

Problems Encountered:

    a)   Lockdown and associated telecommunications, as well as transportation problems for students from Sundarbans Islands was a hard reality. Frequent cyclones of Sundarbans regions are the major factors for power and internet interruption.

    b)   Due to lockdown and pandemic, physical accessibility of college was completely unavailable; this entailed a reduced financial resource to the college by way of fees.

    c)   For a successful admission process and proper implementation of the entire mechanism, a dedicated more robust computer system with high-speed internet are essential. Latest admission software is required for the entire database management system to generate systematic Admission Register, Receipt, Migration certificate, Intake Management etc.

    Resources Required: If we get the funding under different heads from Govt. of West Bengal, RUSA, or UGC properly, some fees like the Development Fees, Tuition Fees, etc. can be waived. We can support the needy students more and more to prevent the dropout rate because of their economic backwardness.

HEALTHY PRACTICES & IMMUNITY BOOSTING STRATEGIES

Objective:
- To spread awareness about the COVID-19 Pandemic with a focus on preventive strategies.
- To give emphasis on precautionary measures like physical distancing, the significance of wearing masks, sanitation techniques and a healthy diet to promote immunity as protective management in the fight against COVID-19.
- To make people understand the signs and symptoms of the infection for early diagnosis.
- To enhance the comprehension of the importance of Immunization and clear the misconceptions regarding Covid-19 infection.
- To provide guidelines on Post covid complications and care.
- To address the Physical and Mental health issues of COVID 19 restrictions amongst the students.

Context:
The unprecedented situation made it a necessity in a context where the students and the families belong to low socio-economic groups having limited access to medical facilities. There were many taboos that were prevalent in the society that worsened the life of Covid-19 patients. The social stigma caused a discriminatory attitude towards the patients and their family members. Provision of nutrition education with a focus on boosting the immune system was an extremely crucial step by the College, as a major section of the population lives below the poverty line and also suffers from various degrees of malnutrition. The Covid 19 restrictions took a toll on the mental health of the students. The students were facing a lot of domestic problems due to the loss of jobs of the family members and at the same time, they were very in a dilemma about their future. So, addressing mental health issues was planned by the college as part of student welfare.

The Practice:
a. Awareness videos on the "Role of Immunonutrition in Combating Covid-19" and "Boost Immunity from Proximity" were prepared by the Department of Food & Nutrition & Department of Botany on 02.06.20 & 07.09. 20 respectively. In these initiatives experts, teachers and students participated actively and the students played the key role as Change Agent in circulating the messages in their families and nearby communities. The digital platform and various social media acted as a catalyst in the communication process.
b. On 03.07.2020 a webinar was organised by the Department of Food & Nutrition and the Department of Chemistry as a part of a webinar series on Sustainable Living. The theme of the lecture was "Dietary guidelines and Food Safety on Post-Covid Socio-economic Scenario". The target group of the webinar was mainly the students and they interacted with the experts to ask a variety of questions on the misconception associated with dietary guidelines.
c. A webinar was organised on 19.07.2020 to address the Mental Health Issues of students amidst the Hazardous Pandemic Scenario as an Integrative Approach. The students conversed openly with the Expert/ Psychological Consultant Dr. Olivia Ganguly regarding their insecurities and problems.
d. On 22.08.2020 a student-oriented webinar was conducted on a very relevant theme on " Chemistry in managing the coronavirus outbreak for a better living" by the Department of Food and Nutrition and Chemistry.

e. In the month of September 2020, a series of events were organised to observe "Poshan Mah" or National Nutrition Month on a broad spectrum of topics like Covid-19 and Nutrition, Anaemia and the Role of Diet in its Prevention, Stress management through Diet and Exercise, Proper Food Handling, Food Adulteration, Infantile Diarrhoea, Diabetes Mellitus etc.

f. Webinar Series on "Making Sense of Uncertainty: Coping in the Era of Coronavirus" by the Department of Microbiology & IQAC of Dhruba Chand Halder College and Department of Microbiology & IQAC of Raidighi College was organised from 25th to 31st July, 2020. National Level Webinar Series on " Science amidst Covid Pandemic: Life Goes On..." was also organised by the Department of Microbiology & IQAC of Raidighi College and Department of Microbiology & IQAC of Sammilani Mahavidyalaya on 16th, 17th and 21st July, 2020.

g. The National webinar on World Immunization Week was organized by the Dept of Microbiology in collaboration with the Microbiological Society of India on 27th April, 2021 with a motive to make participants understand the importance of getting the vaccination.

h. An Online-Quiz was also conducted on the occasion of National Nutrition Week on 4th Sept, 2020 to spread messages on Food Safety, Healthy diet etc. There were a total of 474 participants who took part, out of which 95.1 % were students.

Evidence of Success:

It was absolutely evident from the level of participation and the responses that were received by the students and other academicians. The comments and observations obtained from the online feedback system not only indicated the extent of our success but also mapped out the areas where we can work and improve. A huge and positive response was obtained throughout the entire process.

Problems Encountered:
● Covid-Restrictions and Lockdown Protocols limited our activities and caused problems with direct communication.
● Lack of accessibility of Internet connections and technical support like availability of mobiles, laptops by a substantial percentage of the student population.
● Both teachers and students had to face many hurdles, in the beginning, to adapt to this new normal, especially working in virtual platforms.

Resources Required:
● ICT tools
● Proper Network Connections
● Gadgets and devices are needed to carry out online interaction and discussion sessions.