

Don Bosco College, Tura: Best Practice

I: Holistic Education

In the pre-pandemic years, Don Bosco Tura had regular classes and conducted various activities for the students. The holistic approach to education is one of the best practices of the college. The college not only imparts academic education, but the national and social values are inculcated in the students through the NCC and NSS. The psychological and spiritual needs of the students are well looked into. The college has a full-time counselor and each student is assigned a mentor. Every first Friday of the month is dedicated to inter-religious devotional practices. When regular classes and other activities could not take place because of COVID-19 Pandemic, the college looked for avenues to be in touch with the students. The College tried its best to teach the students through on-line mode, mainly with the help of *Google Class* and simple audio classes whenever there was network problem. The teachers shared relevant notes through emails and *WhatsApp*. Assignments were also written and submitted through Google Class, Email or *Whatsapp* and class tests conducted with the use of *Googleforms*. In the given situation, the College had taken recourse to every possible means to reach out to the students and conduct lectures.

One of the best efforts of the College during the year 2019-2020 was conducting a number of International and National Webinars by the departments: National Webinar organized by the Department of Chemistry on 15 June, 2020.

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II: Response to Situations

Don Bosco College, Tura has always been trying its best to act and respond according to time and situations. Earlier, the college has got itself involved with the *Swachh Bharat Mission* and initiated cleaning drives in a number of localities in and outside the town.

During the period of lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic, the College got itself involved in contributing towards containing the pandemic and lent a hand towards ameliorating the situation. On 8 April, 2020, Don Bosco College, Tura handed over 900 hand-sewn masks to the District Administration, West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. The hand-sewn masks were received by Shri Ram Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, West Garo Hills in the presence of Dr. Ivonne M. Sangma, Senior Medical Officer District Medical and Health Office (DMHO), West Garo Hills and Senior Medical Officers.

The College was used as a Quarantine Centre for students from Garo Hills returning from other states. The District Administration, West Garo Hills identified Don Bosco College, Tura as a safe place for the students and workers. Shri Ram Singh, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, with the issue of requisition order dated Tura the 21st April 2020 vide No. DOMA/WGH/COVID 19/2020/170 requisitioned Don Bosco College with immediate effect until further notice. An academic institution like Don Bosco College could not have been put to better use during a pandemic lockdown such as the one in 2020. In the given situation this positive response to the call of time was the best practice of the college.