INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS

BIKALI COLLEGE

DHUPDHARA, GOALPARA, ASSAM

PIN- 783123

Geographically located on the outskirts of Goalpara district, Dhupdhara is nestled in a rural-tribal area that has long been overlooked and marginalized. Despite facing years of neglect due to its peripheral location, the local community harboured a strong vision and ambition for the advancement of their society through education. In pursuit of this noble objective, Bikali College was established in 1982 with the aim of providing access to quality higher education for the local youth and communities who were constrained by financial limitations from seeking education.

The establishment of Bikali College was not merely a response to the educational needs of the area but also a testament to the collective aspiration of transforming the region into a hub of learning and excellence. By offering educational opportunities that were previously inaccessible to many due to economic constraints, Bikali College emerged as a beacon of hope and empowerment for the community, paving the way for a brighter future and fostering a culture of knowledge, growth, and development in the region.

Bikali College stands out from other institutions in the vicinity in several key aspects, making it a unique and distinguished educational establishment:

1. Self-Financed Commerce and Science Stream:

The college has evolved significantly from its humble beginnings as a temporary structure made of wood and bamboo with a small number of students in the Pre-University Arts stream. Today, it boasts a large campus equipped with modern amenities. The Arts stream received support through the Government of Assam's Deficit Grants-in-Aid scheme in 1992 and was fully integrated into the provincial system in 2005. That same year, the Commerce stream was introduced as a self-funded program, followed by the addition of the Science stream in 2015. The institution garnered support from local communities and civil society organizations, who provided both financial and moral assistance. This community support has helped the institution achieve the vision of its founders, as evidenced by the 100% success rates in the Science and Commerce streams.

Fig.1. Commerce building

Fig.2. Commerce classroom

Fig.3. Students performing in cultural rally

Fig.4. Classroom teaching by commerce faculty

Fig.5. Science building

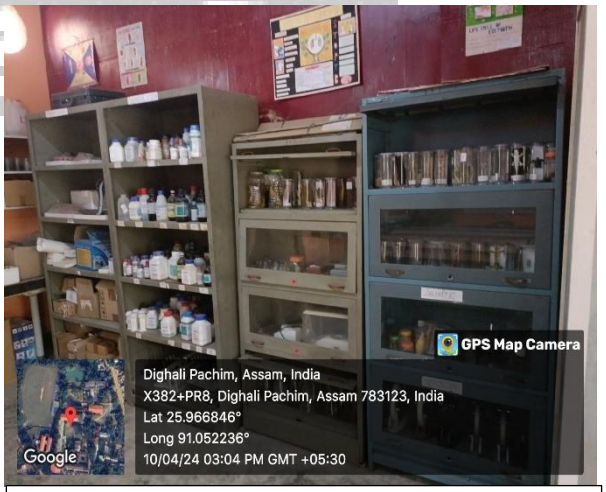

Fig.6. Chemicals and specimens (Zoology department)

Fig.7. Classroom teaching by science

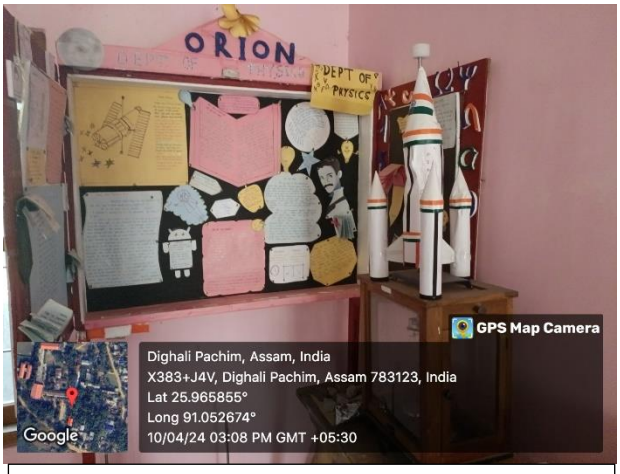

Fig.8. Wall magazine prepared by science students

Fig.9. Practical teaching by science faculty

Fig.10. Aquarium making as part of their certificate course, Zoology department

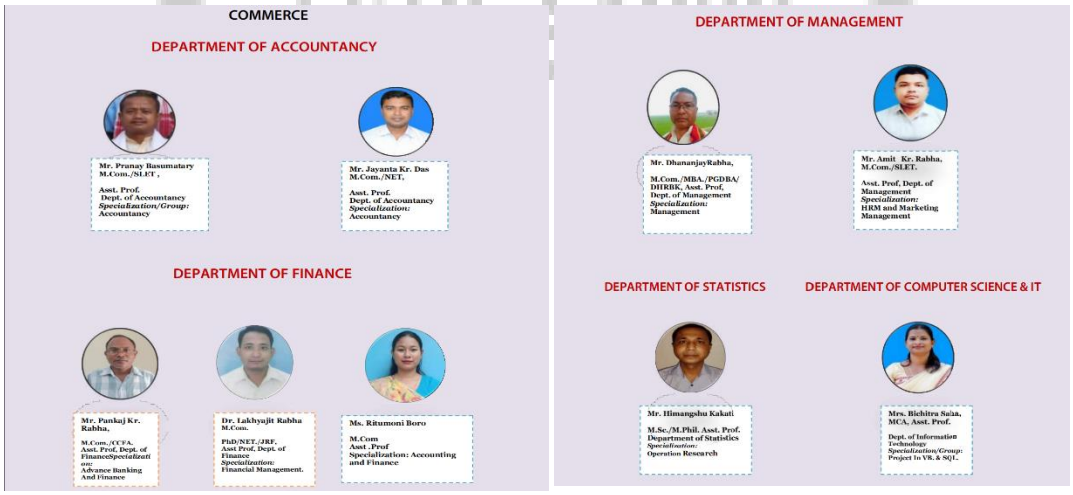

Fig.4. Teachers' profile of the science and commerce stream

2. Only HEI in the district with self-financed PG courses:

Bikali College in Dhupdhara stands out as the sole Higher Educational Institution (HEI) in the district offering self-financed Postgraduate (PG) courses.

The PG course in Assamese was initiated in 2013, followed by the introduction of the PG course in Geography in 2016. Since the inception of these self-financed PG courses, the departments at Bikali College have demonstrated excellence in academic delivery and student outcomes. Graduates from the Assamese and Geography departments have excelled in their studies, with many successfully clearing prestigious national eligibility tests such as the National Eligibility Test (NET) and State Level Eligibility Test (SLET). Additionally, several alumni have secured faculty positions in various institutions, showcasing the quality of education and training provided by Bikali College.

To enhance the academic experience of PG students, Bikali College ensures that the departments are equipped with essential amenities and resources. Moreover, the college regularly invites academics from Gauhati University to conduct classes for PG students, providing them with exposure to diverse perspectives and expertise in their respective fields of study.

By offering self-financed PG courses, Bikali College has not only expanded access to advanced education in the district but has also contributed to the intellectual and professional development of students. This initiative reflects the institution's dedication to academic excellence, innovation, and the holistic growth of its student community, positioning Bikali College as a pioneering educational institution in the region.

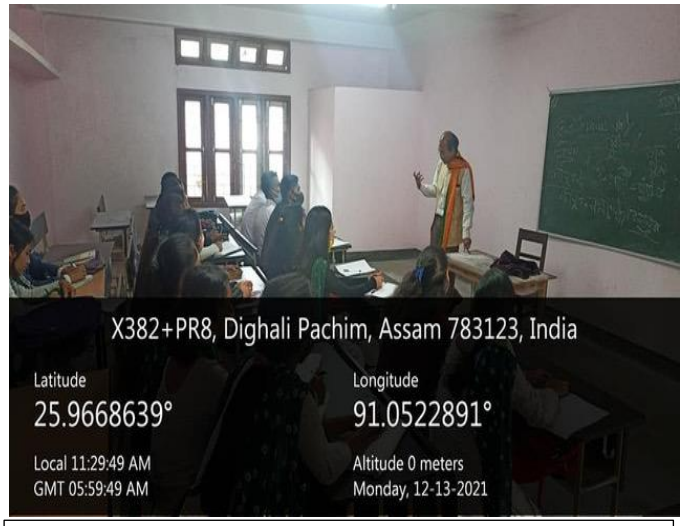

Fig.1. Special class teaching by G.U. professor (Geography department)

Fig.2. Special class teaching by G.U. professors (Assamese department)

Fig.3. Geography classroom

Fig.4. Survey by Geography students

ESTD : 1982

3. Increasing number of female students:

Bikali College in Dhupdhara has witnessed a significant increase in the enrollment of female students over the past five years, with more than 60% of the student body now comprising girls. This rise in female representation reflects the institution's commitment to promoting gender equity and providing a supportive environment for female students to excel in their academic pursuits. To empower and encourage female students, Bikali College has implemented various initiatives and support mechanisms:

i. Free Martial Arts Training
ii. Reserved Seats in NCC for Girls
iii. 100+ Seater Hostel Facility for Girl Students
iv. Career Counselling for Girl Students

v. Gender Awareness and Sensitization
vi. Mental Health Counselling
vii. Gym Facility
viii. Survey on Specific Issues and Problems of Girl Students

These efforts have not only attracted more female students to Bikali College but have also created a nurturing and inclusive environment where women can thrive academically, socially, and personally. The institution's focus on holistic education and training for female students underscores its commitment to fostering gender equity and empowering women to achieve their full potential.

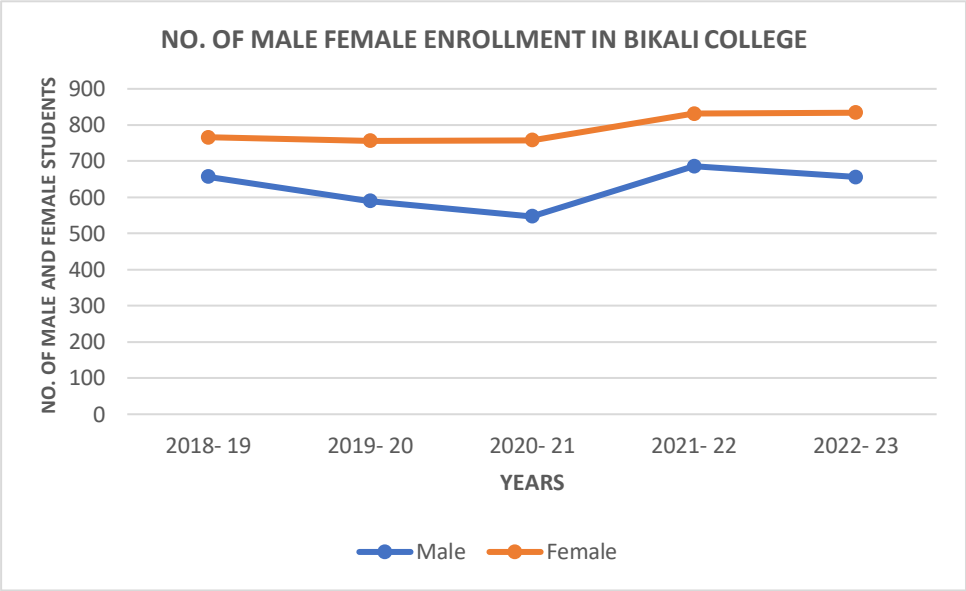

Fig.1. A graph showing an increase in the number of enrolment female students in Bikali College

Fig.2. Girl students doing exercise

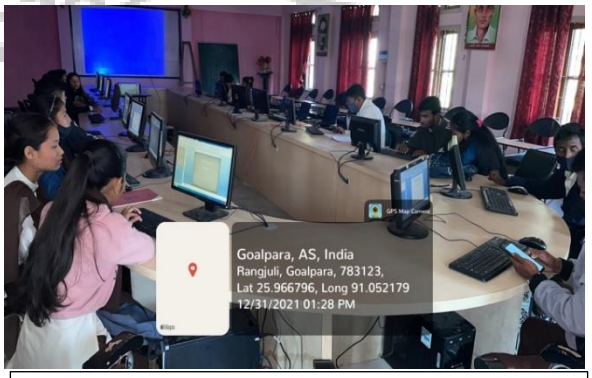

Fig.3. Girl students learning computer

Fig.4. Traditional Bodo Dance

Fig.5. Digital literacy

Fig.6. Participation of female students in NCC

Fig.7. Students participating in Mehandi competition

4. Wushu martial arts training:

The college provides free Wushu martial arts training, offering significant benefits to both its students and external participants. This program helps individuals develop self-defense skills, improve physical fitness, and boost confidence. To support the training, the college supplies all necessary equipment, including boxing gear and Wushu-specific items. Additionally, the college has allocated its indoor stadium for Wushu practice, ensuring a well-equipped and suitable environment for practitioners.

Moreover, the college played a key role in promoting Wushu by collaborating to host the 4th Goalpara District Wushu Championship in 2023, offering its venue for the event. This championship provided a platform for local athletes to showcase their skills and furthered the college's commitment to fostering a vibrant martial arts community.

Fig.1. Distribution of wushu equipments to students

Fig.2. Goalpara district Wushu Championship, 2023 held at Bikali College

5. Aquarium House and Aquariculture Centre:

Aquariculture is the culture of ornamental fishes. Ornamental fishes are appealing multicolored fish of a tranquil character that are maintained as pets in confined settings such as an aquarium or a garden pool in order to enjoy their beauty for pleasure and interest. Ornamental fish are often known as "live jewels" because of their vibrant colors and playful nature. Any aquarium, big or small, can provide health advantages. Researchers believe that watching fish can help calm children with hyperactivity condition and lower blood pressure in the elderly. Aquaria-keeping have enormous potential for both recreational and educational purposes.

The certificate course "Aquarium Making and Aquariculture" was started in November 2022 – Feb 2023 (90 hrs) with the goal of developing students' abilities for a career in entrepreneurship under the vision of the Principal Dr. Monoj Gogoi, Bikali college. This certificate course was of 90 hrs duration. On Batch (1) we had 50 enrolled students not only from science background but also from Arts as well. 50 participants were trained/mentored and Course Coordinator by Mr. Jugal kishore Talukdar (Asst. Prof. Zoology) for construction of Aquarium of different sizes with new aqua-habitat concept to look aquariums more attractive. Though aquarium construction was difficult, the most important part was the construction of the aqua-tank, glass sealing, and the selection of fish based on their preferred environment. Our students have successfully passed all stages of Aquarium making and decoration was done by themselves based on available resoursces keeping in mind the reduction of cost per aquarium compared to market price. The “Aquarium House and Aquariculture centre” was launched on July 2023 and later officially inaugurated by Sri Tankeswar Rabha (CEC, RHAC, Goalpara, Assam) on 14

March 2024. At present this Aquarium House and Aquariculture centre holds as many as 18 varities of exotic fishes and 12 varities of indigenous fishes with two breeding tanks . The positive outcome of this certificate course has resulted our students to develop their skills and pursue their career on entrepreneur as the international ornamental fish market is estimated to be worth $5.9 billion, with more than 120 countries engaging in the trade. Also ornamental fish culture provides excellent opportunities for entrepreneurship growth and self-employment. Furthermore, this Aquarium house and Aquariculture center is open to adjacent institutions for study purposes in fish behavior and ecology, and it will educate and influence students and locals about the need of ornamental fish conservation. It will be a major benefit to education, research, and institutions.

The "Aquarium Making and Ornamental Fish Culture" project was selected for the Project proposal under UBA at Northeast Startup Ideation and Entrepreneurs Conclave 2024. This project was the top five best project proposals at the Northeast level. The main vision of the project is to give hands-on training at the institutional level to college students (which is initially complete as batch 1 outcome) and to extend and engage self-help groups of the adopted villages of Bikali College, Dhupdhara. To help and make them self-independent by ensuring an appreciable sustained level of income over a period of time.

Fig.1. Selection of the Project proposal and securing 2nd position among the top three best startup ideas under UBA at Northeast Startup Ideation and Entrepreneurs Conclave 2024.

Fig.2. Images of Aquarium Making and Aquariculture

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