ASUTOSH COLLEGE
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7.2.1 – Describe at least two institutional best practices

OBJECTIVES Asutosh College has a long history of providing quality education and training, not only through conducting the Degree courses of the University of Calcutta, but also in imparting job-oriented training. In this pursuit the college had established the Asutosh College Training Centre in 1991, the Platinum Jubilee year of the institution. Various disciplines in this centre have helped innumerable students who have succeeded in various fields of industry and service. To further extend this effort, the college decided to play a role in helping the student community with newer job-oriented courses, as recommended by the UGC, by establishing the autonomous Community College and also by starting the Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.) curriculum under the University of Calcutta. The purpose of initiating the B. Voc. courses was to attract students who needed to seek early employment to meet the financial demands of their families and realise their own ambitions. It also had the added benefit of opening up self-employment opportunities. THE CONTEXT In concordance with the University Grants Commission proposal of 2014 inviting colleges to develop career-oriented courses under the Community College scheme and B.Voc. system, the college authorities framed project reports required for applying for Community College affiliation and introduction of the B.Voc. curriculum. The courses applied for were • Mobile Communication and Software Development under Community College system • Software Development and Industrial Aquaculture and Fisheries under the B.Voc. system. Designing the proposal was not an easy task in the available time, but the involved personnel worked hard and the project proposals were submitted on time. Both proposals were accepted by the UGC after an interface meeting, enabling the college to move forward in initiating the curricula as soon as the grant-in-aid was received. Asutosh College thus became the first college and only college under the auspices of the University of Calcutta to start such courses. In the academic session of 2014 itself the academic activities of these courses commenced in the sprawling second campus at

Bhasa, South 24 Parganas. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: MOBILE COMMUNICATION AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT The course was designed in consultation with the experts in the relevant sector of the industry. Industrial groups were approached through the MCC Merchant Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Kolkata. The Industry house readily became our partners in the endeavour and extended their full-fledged support to the effort. The University also endorsed the course designed without any modification and agreed to start a B.Voc. course under its umbrella. EVIDENCES OF SUCCESS The classes are held regularly in the newly-built classrooms in the second campus. Active support for teaching these courses from specialists deputed by the Industry partners has been the mainstay of this endeavour, meant chiefly to cater to the needs of the suburban fringes of the metropolis. Basic laboratories as required have been set up. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED AND RESOURCES REQUIRED The course is designed to run with active partnership from industry. This is a new way of teaching-learning and so quite expectedly some lacunae are there in the process of communicating with the industry. o The institute-industry relationship requires continuous nurturing and monitoring, as well as identifying communication gaps and trying to fill them up for the smooth running and betterment of the teaching-learning system remains an area of concern. o We have already developed the basic laboratories to meet the minimum requirement of teaching-learning. But the constant change and upgrading of technologies demand more sophisticated laboratories that can adapt the modifications in technologies into the training. o There is also the need of a workshop of our own. This requires more funding which is currently unavailable with us. Stagnation is therefore, a real threat. If such constantly changing laboratories are unavailable then there is a possibility that with time, the courses may lose their relevance. The course contents also need regular revision to include the continuous changes in the technology. TITLE OF THE PRACTICE: AQUACULTURE AND INTEGRATED FARMING PROJECT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES The chief objectives of the project were • To present it as a model to the students of Fisheries Science. • To generate revenue for the college by optimum utilization of resources: selling of fish reared in the pond. • To augment the aquaculture production. • To increase the agricultural production from the land

holding. • To keep the pond banks clean and stable through the cultivation of agricultural crops throughout the year. • To augment food supplies for hostel students by utilising the vegetables cultivated on the land and collecting duck eggs for consumption. • To cultivate several varieties of winter and summer vegetables. THE CONTEXT Aquaculture and Integrated Farming is a multidisciplinary approach to agriculture where along with fish culture, rearing of livestock or cultivation of crops is practised. Integrated Farming System (IFS) is an interdependent, interrelated often interlocking production system based on few crops, animals and related subsidiary enterprises in such a way that maximize the utilization of nutrients of each system and minimize the negative effects of these enterprises on the environment. This multidisciplinary approach to agriculture has revolutionised fish farming, especially for those with a small land holding that includes a waterbody. Earlier, fish culture limited to only a pond gave a small return. The integrated approach has enabled the fisherman to increase not only the aquaculture production from such small landholdings in terms of fish but also production from the livestock and other vegetable crops, thus enabling the farmer/fisherman to earn more money from a single unit. The Project started under the leadership of Dr. Dipak Kumar Kar, Principal of the College from 2009. THE PRACTICE The basic practice and principles of IFS are dependent on the following parameters: • Productivity: one of the main benefits of IFS is to increase the yield of different components in terms of per unit area or per unit of cost involved. • Profitability: Utilising the by-products of each activity component as raw material for other components, helps reduce cost of cultivation/maintenance as well as enhances soil fertility for sustainable production, leading to a higher BC ratio through managing waste of by-products. Thus, there is a full utilization of investment. • Sustainability: With respect to long-term aspects, the linking of different components acts as an organic supplementary through effective utilization of available resources, providing an opportunity to regain potentiality of production. • Environmental Safety: Effectively recycling the waste material of one as the raw material for others through IFS models helps minimize environment pollution. • Recycling: Effective recycling of waste material (crop residues and livestock wastes) helps to make a farm self-sufficient in terms of avoiding outside inputs – fertilizers, agrochemicals, feeds, energy, etc. • Employment Generation:

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Provides scope for employing family labour round the year. Combining different enterprises increases the labour requirement significantly and helps in reducing the problems of underemployment to a great extent. • Increased input efficiency is another important aspect of IFS. EVIDENCES OF SUCCESS The fish pond at Asutosh College Second Campus at Bhasa is a practical model of integrated fish culture with duck culture and cultivation of agricultural crops. The pond measures about 7.5 bigha in area. Initially, the pond was not created for fish culture but created for earth filling of adjacent low lands by the sellers of the land. Hence, the pond cannot be considered as a true fish culture pond. (from fisheries point of view) due to its great depth. In spite of these shortcomings, the fish culture operation along with crop cultivation, and duck culture are successfully going on. Fish culture is carried out on the basis multiple stocking and multiple harvesting methods. Fingerlings of Indian and exotic major carps are released in the pond after harvesting. An extensive method of fish culture is being practised here. Ducks are simultaneously reared with low expenditure as a lot of feed for the ducks is obtained from the pond. Different crops are grown on the pond banks depending upon the season. The ultimate objective of this practice is to maximize the yield of all component enterprises to provide steady and stable income along with the rejuvenation of systems productivity.

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