



### **7.2.1 Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the institution as per NAAC format provided in the Manual**

#### **Best Practice -1:**

##### **1. Title of the Practice**

**Disaster Management- its Challenges, Risks, Response and Recovery**

##### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

1. To create awareness and build the capacity of the University community about Natural disaster.
2. To educate safety and preventive measures among students, employees, SHGs and rural people against such disaster.
3. To adopt mitigation strategies for reducing economic and social vulnerabilities of potential disaster.
4. To organize disaster management MOCK drill and training programs.
5. To implement standards and guidelines prescribed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Government of India.

##### **3. The Context**

The University is situated at a remote place in Himachal Pradesh prone to natural disaster. The road leading to place are narrow and landslides, obstruction to roads are frequent in rainy season. Rainfall is some time very heavy and leads to colossal damage to roads and property. Students are struck up at the campus. Being in forest, the fire incidence can occur in summers, as grasses catch up fire. Any other disaster may occur, and to Preventive measures and awareness programs were organized for the campus people and local community. The students and faculty members are ensured to follow guidelines prescribed by the World Health Guideline and Indian Council of Medical Research from time to time. A course on Disaster Management have been introduced into the programs and is also the part of Environmental Sciences course taught to the all undergraduate students.

For any such calamities the in campus, the administration is on toes by purchasing JCB machines, the mountain slopes are concreted, the water course is concrete lines to not to allow

water to change its course during raining season. All the building has been provided safety from fire and a full-fledged department have been instrumental in to check such eventuality.

Hospital are sensitized to for preparedness for things including face masks, sanitizers, disinfectants, tissues, water bottles and food etc.

The University provided accurate and easily accessible information about natural calamities (cloudburst, earthquake and forest fire) among the students their parents and faculties. This is done through online and offline instructions given by administration.

Students and employees are advised to keep calm, help others to be calm, and try to run safely to the nearest open space which is not surrounded by buildings trees and overhead power lines.

The University conducts regular training and mock drills for its students and staff on disaster management. The awareness rally and poster making competition on Disaster Risk Reduction are organized to increase awareness among participants and the wider community. The creative expressions through posters and slogans effectively convey messages related to preparedness, risk mitigation, and resilience-building, ensuring that the information reaches a broader audience.

The University is implementing the standards and guidelines prescribed by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Government of India.

#### **4. The Practice**

The education regarding the natural disaster came into practice during:

##### COVID-19 Pandemic:

Indian government implemented a 55-days lockdown throughout the country that started on March 25, 2020 to reduce the transmission of the virus. The academic session was going on and students were held up at the campus. The preparedness to face such eventuality paved in that the session not cancelled. The examination and classes went as smooth as earlier. Immediate some action was taken

- With the help of Panchayat Pradhan, Local community was made aware of covid-19 precautionary measures through posters, health education etc.
- A Protocol/ guideline book for covid-19 was prepared translated into three languages i.e. Punjabi, Hindi and English for local community people and entire campus to become aware of the disease condition and preventive measures.
- High quality screening services, quarantine services, RT-PCR sample testing services were rendered during pandemic to the campus people and local community people.
- The students of Nursing distributed Supplements, Sanitizers and Masks to students and local community people.
- During reported cases of COVID-19 at the campus the mini lockdown was enforced for 15 days. The preventive medicine was given to all. The isolation of reported cases was provided food at their residences.
- All meetings of Board of Management, Academic Council, Board of Studies, Students mentoring were conducted using online platforms.
- The measures taken helped that there was zero motility during covid-19 period.

#### Cloudburst at Baru Sahib:

- The cloud burst occurred on September 26, 2022, at Baru Sahib with devastating losses to the building infrastructure.
- Immediate use of siren for danger signal, cutting of electricity supply, placing the students at safe place was the response to safe guard lives.
- During this response activity were taken to ensure that the needs and provisions of the victims are met and suffering is minimized.
- Students and employees were rescued safely from their residential buildings and were kept in separate building. They were provided with essential needs like food, water, juices, beddings, electric equipment's, clothing and health care.
- Financial assistance was given to the sufferers from the University relief funds.
- At the time of mild earthquakes students and staff members were transferred to the safe places immediately.
- The cleaning of building deluged with mud, spoiling of computer, clothes etc. were rescued with the services of the students.
- The water and electricity supply was restored at the war footing. The academic session was not disturbed and the classes were on within two to three days.

#### Fire alarm and its sensitization:

- The firefighting is full-fledged department with Firefighting controls the fire in the pine forest surrounding the campus and local areas most oftenly in the summer months.
- Every floor of the university and residential building the fire extinguisher with all the three types are fixed.
- For heavy fire, the large pipes (lead) with flexible pipes are available on each floor and their maintenance and replacement as per the its policy are changed or renovated regularly.
- 24/7 hours'/days emergency ambulance service availability for students, staff and local community.
- Special mock drills were conducted by the ----- on these dates-----.
- Specific gathering points have been created in the campus for earthquakes.

### **5. Evidence of Success**

Beware of high-quality based efforts of Hospital and Nursing services, Parent Hospital (Akal Charitable Hospital) was promoted as Dedicated Covid Care Centre (DCCC) and Dedicated Covid Health Centre (DCHC) by the district magistrate of Himachal Pradesh. The medical facilities and services of this centre were so good that no causality of Covid patient was recorded during pandemic. All the classes and exams were conducted online using Moodle platform of the University. Buildings were so resilient and strong enough to withstand the wrath of cloudburst. Check dams and proper drainage system accommodated heavy volume of water and reduced the intensity of water coming from vertical slopes. Cooperative administration, medical facilities

along with charity and donations helped a lot in recovering from this disaster. The gathering points have been created in the campus as a safety measure during the occurrence of earthquakes and floods. The Kalgidhar Trust/University has its own machinery such as JCBs, tractors and trucks etc. which helps in keeping 365 days connectivity to the campus for students and general visitors. The University recruited fire fighters and water storage facilities controls the forest fire that usually happen during summer seasons. Govt. of Punjab honors the exceptional efforts of Akal relief team in 2023. The Akal College of Nursing has received appreciation certificate from district administration (SDM), Sirmour for special contribution to the Covid -19 vaccination drives.

## **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

- a. Special Covid-19 Warriors had to be deputed for handling of Covid-19 situation.
- b. Separate building of the campus was assigned for Quarantine Centre.
- c. Expert task force was deputed for distribution of medicine and meals in the Quarantine Centre.
- d. Govt. funds are required to construct separate buildings in the campus for keeping the people safe during these natural calamities.
- e. A special Govt. relief fund is required to be allocated to disaster-prone areas during adverse situations.
- f. Special task force is required for strengthening the existing infrastructure and monitoring the disaster management plans of the University.
- g. Early warning and weather forecast systems are required in the University campus to analyze and identify potential weather and climate related risks and hazards.
- h. Forest department is required to identify the suitable plants for this disaster prone area.
- i. The Govt. officials must visit, conduct trainings, MOCK-drills etc.
- j. Construction of dams, barrages and embankments to regulate and control water flow.

## **7. Notes (Optional)**

This practice endeavors to provide operational procedures for the natural disasters by making students, employees and locals aware, creating a communication hub, assigning response team responsibilities, practicing plans & protocols. These strategies will help the students to prepare for these calamities beyond the campus.

## **Best Practice -2:**

### **1. Title of the Practice**

Empowering Rural Girls under Educational Skill Development Program to gain sustainable employment for their inclusive growth

### **2. Objectives of the Practice**

1. To impart underprivileged rural girls with modern education blended with spiritual education.
2. To empower them emotionally, morally and intellectually.
3. To build strong character of these girls so they can be future virtuous human beings in uplifting the overall structure of society.
4. To make them proficient in English language skills.
5. To imbibe them with qualities of selfless service and universal brotherhood.

### **3. The Context**

Akal Institute of Rural Women Empowerment (AIRWE) is a free residential program that the Eternal University runs under the aegis of Kalgidhar Trust/Society. It provides quality education to less privileged young women from remote North Indian areas. The purpose of this program is to empower young rural girls emotionally, morally, socially and intellectually by imparting them modern education blended with spiritual rejuvenation. The aim of this program is to imbibe strong values and build a character so they can be virtuous human beings in future. Along with academic learning, University helps them to imbibe the qualities of selfless service and universal brotherhood. The purpose behind their education is to uplift the society. The program also pays special emphasis on building the students' proficiency in the English language, as it is a globally accepted language. Limited access to education is a significant obstacle hindering the growth opportunities of young girls in society. AIRWE is dedicated to using education as a means to dismantle the barriers of poverty. Our mission is to empower young girls to transform their lives by offering free education from graduation, post-graduation to doctorate levels.

### **4. The Practice**

- AIRWE (Akal Institute of Rural Women Empowerment) is a free education program which usually take 4-6 years depending upon the level of education completed by them at the time of admission. After completing education here, these girls become eligible enough to easily secure services in Government, Semi-Government and private sectors. During their stay in the campus, these students are provided with free boarding, lodging, medical and other necessary facilities.
- Students enrolled are provided with safe and secure residential environment with 24 hrs availability of care takers. In house library, indoor games, terrace, projector and newspaper facilities. Hostel corridors are installed with latest safety measures capable of handling emergencies. A few girls with special psychological needs are medically supervised by the faculty of Department of Psychology.

- About 350 girls (2019-2023) belonging to low income groups with several being orphans are graduated in Humanities, Commerce & Management and Music. Annual recurring expenses of per student of Educational Skill Development Program is about Rs. 60,000/-.
- This Educational Skill Development Program guarantees 100% job placement for our women belonging to BPL, Minorities, OBC, SC & ST categories. They become educators, accountants, counselors, music proficient teachers etc.
- Post graduate students work part time and withdraw Rs.5000-7000 per month (stipend) based on their performance and work ability.
- The University provides intensive Educational Skill Development Training in English language and communication skills, pedagogy and computer education. The institute appoints trained staff and latest technology to upgrade English language learning. University is well equipped with latest modern technology, infrastructure for overall development of the students. All students will be uplifted in spiritual concept, moral values and dedicated services to humanity with compassion and love, with a thought that teachers should be role models in all aspects.
- Co-curricular activities such as drawings, picnics, sports, club activities/ competitions, arts, presentations, poster making, plantation drive, celebrating prominent National and International days, conferences, kisan mela, and farewells are organized to nurture the young budding talent.
- The University organizes workshops, seminars, symposiums and induction programs to make them aware about latest developments in Academics, Science & Technology etc.
- Department of Music trains the students in nine heritage musical instruments such as Sitar, Sarod, Saranda, Dilruba, Sarangi, Violin, Taar Sahanayi, Rabab and Taus. Profound artists and experts from the field of Classical Music and Religious Studies Sangeet are being called for the training. A few of them are Pandit Brij Narayan ji, Usttad Surjit Singh ji, Pandit Harsh Narayan ji and Ustaad Sukhdev Singh Ji.

## 5. Evidence of Success

“Placement assured” Women Educational Skill Development Program for 300 students to the targeted rural poor girls for the facilitation of their livelihood, placement of eligible candidates based on their developed skills (including Minorities, OBC, SC & ST) for inclusive growth under women empowerment program, in Baru Sahib, backward & hilly areas of Sirmour District of Himachal Pradesh State (amongst 100 most backward districts in India as notified by Planning Commission, Govt. of India). English language and communication skills, pedagogy and computer education helps the students with language learning disorders to recite divine scriptures with correct pronunciation. Able to acquire basic English skills and a few of them have got through ILETS exam in first attempt. Voluntarily participate in self-service. 100% job placement on the basis of academic and work performance. The public campaigns organized by the University encouraged the women to apply for various Indian Governmentschemes like ‘Beti Bachao -Beti Padhao’, ‘Rashtriya Mahila Kosh’ etc. The institution has identified major changes in the attitude of girl students on various parameters. Overcome of shyness more participation in seminars, conferences and other curricular activities, positive attitude with teachers, other students and

society. Video clippings, photos, media reports, annual reports and University magazines are the documentary evidences.

## **6. Problems Encountered and Resources Required**

- Need to establish a “**Women Resource Centre**” in the University.
- The institute is keen to invite professionals, expert trainees and speakers from outside, University is unable to host programs due to lack of financial resources.
- Lack of financial aids from the central govt., state govt. and others NGOs.
- More infrastructure is required to meet the need of the girl students.
- Lack of women friendly curriculum. Gender, women’s and sexuality studies program.
- More vocational courses are needed to be introduced in the University to facilitate the girls with skills to become financially independent.
- Special computer training programs for making girl student’s techno friendly and skilled are required.
- Both indoor and outdoor sports arenas are needed to be strengthened.
- Need to strengthen existing knowledge and build new knowledge on women in Indian perspective.
- Need to conduct more awareness programs in the nearby rural areas on the theme “To Education the Girl Child”.

## **7. Notes (Optional)**

There is a need to make an online/offline platform where all the issues related to women education, empowerment etc. can be discussed. All the institution must collaborate towards creating a more inclusive and secure environment for women in India through schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Working Women Hostel, One-Stop Centre, Women Helpline, and many more.