

UNAI MEMBER ACTIVITY REPORT 2016/2017

Assam Don Bosco University

India

During the 2016/2017 reporting period, Assam Don Bosco University undertook a number of activities that underscore its commitment to UNAI and its principles. The following examples stand out as particularly noteworthy:

➤ *Swastyayan... a commitment*

A series of activities, namely, evening-tutorial for school children, life-skill education and awareness programme, community counselling were conducted throughout the year as part of the Swastyayan... a commitment. Apart from providing free tutorials to school children, the project addressed their growth and developmental needs as adolescents in a climate of rapidly changing and often hostile environments. In the tutorial programme Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences and English were taught. Several personality enhancement programmes were conducted for the children by our students. Some of the activities were awareness on health and hygiene, spoken English, competitions on singing, dancing, essay, story and poem writing, social group work on dealing with challenges faced by students, group activities to foster spirit of unity, care and support for each other, and screening of documentaries and movies on themes relevant to the needs of children and adolescents.



**ASSAM
DON BOSCO UNIVERSITY**



While the spirit of commitment and volunteerism of the students and faculty of the university were as usual at its highest, help and support for the programme also came pouring-in from well-wishers all around. In the past year, over 200 school children from the neighbouring communities have benefited, while over a hundred students and faculty from the university participated as volunteers to tutor, inspire and motivate them.

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➤ *Swabalamban*

The Department of Computer Science, Engineering and Information Technology, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, and Department of Social Work jointly organized a five-day free training programme on Desktop Publishing and Design of Solar-powered chargeable LED lamps in two separate batches. The objective of this annually conducted program is to enhance the employability and entrepreneurial skills of unemployed youths, and to promote self-employment among them.

The training programme was sponsored by Assam Railways Employees Co-operative Association Ltd. and Globinno Engineering Solutions and supported by the staff and faculty of the involved departments.

➤ *Adult Literacy Programme*

The women of the villages around the university expressed eagerness to attend literacy course on Basic English, Child Development, Parenting, Health Education, Rights and Responsibilities, and Literacy on Governmental schemes. Therefore, a group of faculty and students initiated an



adult literacy programme in the Hatimura Village of Dimoria Development Block (Kamrup Metropolitan), Assam, India.

The weekly sessions focused on learning alphabets—reading, writing; words—two-lettered words, three-lettered words, four-lettered words; sentences—reading, self introduction, family introduction; conversation, use of articles, translations; numbers, numbers in words, simple arithmetic—Addition, Subtraction; filling up forms, and writing applications.

These well-attended sessions enhanced the capacities of illiterate women as it helped them in understanding the study-requirements of their children. It also gave them the self-confidence to walk into government or business offices and do their work independently.

Goal 5: Gender Equality

"Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls"

- *Vanitagrata.. computer literacy for women and girls*



The primary objective of the VanitAgrata 2016-17 was to carry out a drive towards providing basic computer literacy training for women so as to make them able to use computers, internet and related technology efficiently. The initiative was conceptualised by the Department of Computer Science Education and Information Technology, Assam Don Bosco University. For a beginning, one-day training was conducted on 21 November 2015 for lady teachers of Rangmahal High School, a rural government school located at North Guwahati, Assam.

The second training was afforded for ten neighborhood women on 24th and 25th November 2016 at Assam Don Bosco University. The training was conducted in a full-time mode involving lectures, practical sessions, demos and hands-on practical laboratory sessions on different topics related to basic use of computers and Internet.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

- *Assam Don Bosco University- University College Dublin Volunteers Overseas Students' Exchange Programme*

Several activities designed to produce positive results for the communities around the Tapesia Campus as well as the participating students and faculty were carried out successfully in the programme. Some of the activities conducted were Community interaction, mobilization and awareness creation – health, hygiene, education, women's rights, environment; Community meetings – villagers, Self Help Group (SHG), women group, youth; Infrastructural renovation and re-instalment; Renovation of four Anganwadi centres – Patarkuchi 1 and 2, Goriyaghuli and Upper Tapesia; Instalment of water pump (in Ural Basti); Cleaning of water tank in Hatimurah; English classes and Games and Sports; English classes for school children in Hatimurah,



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Patarkuchi, Goriyaghuli and Upper Tapesia; Language (English) classes for women group in all the four villages; Language (English) classes for youth in Hatimurah; Games and sports with villagers – Men, women, Youth and children of all the four villages; Workshop on participatory development for the volunteers; Workshop on challenges in community mobilisation and development; Workshop on Strategic/Development Communication (Grassroots Comics) for volunteers; Street plays in Sonapur market - land issues, school drop –out, health problems, financial mismanagement and domestic violence; Children's day celebration in Ferrando Speech and Hearing centre, Barapani, Meghalaya; Community cum Cultural Day Celebrations – Hatimurah, Patarkuchi, Goriyaghuli and Upper Tapesia; Cultural Day celebration – Closing ceremony in ADBU campus for all the four villages.

Goal 13: Climate Action

"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts..."

➤ *Disaster Response Programme*

A Disaster Response Team, comprising faculty, staff and students organised a relief-distribution programme to survivors of the floods and river-bank erosion in the Morigaon district of Assam on the 10th September 2017. The team mobilised resources from within the university campuses at Tapesia and Azara and was able to arrange food packets for 500 families, and books and stationery items for 500 school children whose schools were washed off by the floods.

The flood survivors were camped in temporary shelters as their villages were eroded away by the river Brahmaputra. The programme was planned in consultation with the flood survivors, while Morigaon Mahila Mehfil, a local NGO guided the team in identifying the flood affected population.

Link: <http://dbuniversity.ac.in/>