

## **TWO BEST PRACTICES SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED BY THE INSTITUTION**

### **Title 1-**

### **FACILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SC/ ST STUDENTS AND STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

#### **The context-**

Himachal Pradesh University provides best possible support to the students with special needs and students from deprived communities. In this context we have special focus on creating policies and facilities for the students with disabilities and students from SC/ST, OBC and minorities.

In the field of higher education, the University Grants Commission (UGC) is encouraging universities to involve in special education activities which can empower differently-abled persons. In this regard, the HP University has undertaken various initiatives to make the campus barrier free and accessible for the differently-abled persons.

A Pre-Examination Coaching Center for the students from deprived communities was initially running at Himachal Pradesh Institute of Public administration, Fairlawns, Mashobra since 1981 and later relocated to Himachal Pradesh University in 1998. Its sole objective is to prepare the students belonging to weaker section for various competitive examinations, viz Indian/ Himachal administrative services, Banking Examination, NEET, IIT- JEE and NET/SET.

#### **Practice -**

#### **Support for the students with disabilities**

Himachal Pradesh University has appointed a Nodal Officer for Disability Affairs and Dean of Studies as Grievance redressal Officer.

Our website is fully accessible for the users with disabilities as per government of India norms (WCAG-2.0). University has established an Accessible Libraries for persons with disabilities. It has 17 computers with all necessary software.

We provide free education to these students in all courses. Scholarships and 5% reservation in all courses up to Master's level as per the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 is being provided. Hostel accommodation and transportation is provided for free.

The University provides compensatory time of one hour in the examination to the students with visual disability or disability in hands. The eligible students are allowed to avail the facility of a scribe to write in the examination.

The work to construct ramps and Lifts is on full swing in the campus. Toilets are being modified in universal design. This massive exercise is carried out to make the campus accessible for persons with disabilities.

Nodal officer organises various programs to encourage these students to help them select best area of livelihood.

### **The coaching facilities for SC/ST Students**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Nature of Course</b>	<b>Course Details</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Duration</b>
1.	For admission to Engineering Institutes	<p>Joint Entrance Examination (JEE Main) conducted by CBSE</p> <p>Common Entrance Test (HPCET) conducted by HP Technical University for admission to B. Tech/B. Pharma</p> <p>B. Tech (IT/CSE) for admission in UIIT, conducted by HP University</p>	Immediately after the +2 Board final Examinations	Till the preceding day of the date of examination or up to maximum of 2 months
2.	For admission to Medical Institutes	<p>NEET,</p> <p>BAMS/B.Sc. (Nursing) conducted by HP University, Shimla</p> <p>B.V.Sc. &amp; A.H. conducted by CSK HPAU Palampur</p> <p>B. Sc. (Hons.): Horticulture/ Forestry conducted by YSP UHF, Solan</p>	Immediately after the +2 Board final Examinations	Till the preceding day of the date of examination or up to maximum of 2 months
3.	NET/SLET/Lectureship Eligibility Test	<p>Joint CSIR UGC Test for JRF and Lectureship Eligibility</p> <p>UGC-NET conducted by CBSE</p>	During September, October & November	maximum up to 3 months
4.	Banking Jobs	For Bank Probationary Officers (PO) jobs	Twice in a year During May & June	maximum up to 2 months

			During October & November	
5.	Administrative Services	For IAS (Pre) conducted by UPSC  For HAS/Allied Services conducted by HPPSC	During April and May	maximum up to 2 months

### **Objectives of the practice**

- Encouraging students with disabilities in Higher Education
- Encouraging students of SC/ ST category in higher studies and providing coaching for competitive examinations.
- Creating facilities for them to get obstacle free education and movement in the campus.
- Connecting students with disabilities with digitization
- Career solutions for these students (students with disabilities and students from deprived section)
- The ultimate goal of the university is to provide equal opportunity to each and every one regardless of their physical, social and economic status.

### **Evidence of Success- (about 200 words)**

We have 165 students with certain disabilities in our university in current session, studying in different disciplines and courses. We strive hard to provide them best facilities in terms of education and general living conditions. There are many success stories which confirm our success to some extent in achieving this goal. One of our visually impaired students Muskan has been selected as youth icon by Election Commission of India and she also visited U.S.A to create awareness on the importance of participation in elections. Our fourteen students have won the medals in state para sports championship. Many students qualify prestigious examination like NET/ SET. There are many students with disabilities who have completed Ph.D. Student with disabilities in Himachal Pradesh University are aware about their human rights and they seek information from different sections of government whenever required. They are sensitive for the society and participate in different blood donation camps every year.

Similarly, the students of SC/ ST and other sections of deprived societies, after getting free coaching from our center have achieved remarkable success in competitive examinations of state and center government. This is the evidence of our success in achieving our goals of uplifting students from all parts of the society.

### **Challenges encountered and resources required**

The biggest challenge in every society is to locate the students with disabilities and encourage them for the higher education. Our university and faculty members have been working for last several decades to protect the rights of students with disabilities both on institutional and



personal levels which has benefitted the students to trust on the university. The nodal officer has a very natural instinct to communicate with these students and design different programs, policies and activities for them. Himachal Pradesh University is the first university which has made a policy of providing 5% reservation in its admissions for the students with disabilities.

Equally, we are concerned for the students of SC/ ST and other deprived communities of the state and try to provide best facilities for them, a conducive environment of living and opportunities to succeed in their future endeavours.

But we have different challenges in both the areas of disabilities and deprived students in terms of creating facilities and enhancing opportunities. The locational disadvantage of Shimla, a hill destination, is the biggest hurdle for the students with disabilities. All our new buildings are having lifts and ramps but the old buildings need to restructure the architecture, although we have already started constructing lifts in old buildings too but a huge amount of funds are required to convert our campus into hundred percent disable friendly campus.

## **Title 2-**

### **ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**

#### **The context**

Through the education we are refining intellect of a creature which is naturally made wise, tolerant and full of compassion and the success in this mission ensures a happy and civilized society. Himachal Pradesh University exclusively understands this responsibility and putting splendid efforts to provide a conducive environment for the girl students to study and live in the campus and shape a bright career for future. There are multiple areas university is providing opportunities to the female students from the admissions, accommodation to complete reduction of tuition fees. The percentage of female students in this university is about 70% which is an exceptional percentage in any Indian State Universities especially when this is a more than fifty years old University. University has a dedicated center for women studies which reaches to the communities outside the campus and frequently organises awareness camps and skill development training to the women population of these villages.

#### **Practice**

Himachal Pradesh University provides full waiver of Tuition Fees for the female students and one seat is reserved in all the disciplines for Single Girl Child. University tries to offer hostel facility to every girl student and in 2017, it has converted three blocks of boy's hostels into girls' hostel with 240 rooms in total. The hostels provide hygienic food, purified drinking water and hot water through solar panels and takes care of their safety and security. All the girl hostels are fenced and security guards are deputed for 24 hours in every hostel. Small stores of daily needs are established within the premises of hostels and auditorium with good

capacity is built to support their cultural get together and event. It is pertinent to mention that University connects the borders of these hostels gently with notable female personalities of India by naming hotels after the name of Rani Lakshmi Bai, Gargi, Vidhyotma and further linking these buildings with the Vedic Rivers like Chanderbhaga, Iravati and Vipasha. Presently student central association elections are restricted in the university but equal opportunity to the girl is always provided in any of the area of representation.

Sufficient amount of research on women related issues has been conducted in different disciplines of the university and to name few, the list of Ph. D topics is places below-

- An Impact Assessment of Microfinance on the women Empowerment in Himachal Pradesh
- Socio-economic development of women by SHGs through micro credit
- Impact of Education on the Development of women in educationally backward districts of Himachal Pradesh
- Women and Diasporic Context: A Select Study of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and Jhumpa Lahiri's Works
- Women, Culture and Humanism: A Study of Rabindranath Tagore's Novels
- Race and Gender: A Study of Black Women Protagonists in the Selected Novels of Katharine Susannah Prichard, Doris Lessing, Nadine Gordimer, Toni Morrison and Alice Walker
- Empowerment of women in India: a socio-legal study
- Status of women in Himachal Pradesh- a study of constitutional, legislative and administrative provisions in district Shimla

Center for Women Study not only participates in academic work, teaching and research but also organises several significant lectures and events to promote women empowerment to include accepting women's viewpoints, raising the status of women through education, awareness, literacy, and training. There are several villages identified by this centre to conduct week long trainings in making household and decorative items from the pine needle which is in abundance in the forests of Himachal Pradesh everywhere. The center provides pottery making training to the village women and on the occasion on International Women's Day arranges exhibition of these products. Women's empowerment through education and skill training prepares and allows women to make life shaping decisions while going through the different problems in society.

### **Objectives of the practice**

1. Creating awareness for higher education among the society – being a state University, it is the responsibility of this university to create awareness in the society, ensure best environment for girl students and support them to achieve their goals in life.
2. Encouraging female students in higher education, research and social work.
3. Research on women related issues- in every discipline, both the male and female students are encouraged to select research topics for their Ph.D. work on various important topics including women related issues.
4. Activities with women outside the campus and connecting them with employment and skills
5. Tribute to the notable women of Indian history

### **Evidence of Success**

Himachal Pradesh University has noticed remarkable success in women studies, research and providing equal facilities and opportunities in the campus. The number of application forms and securing around 70% admissions by the female students is evidence of success of the objectives this university had set long ago. Not only the population of girls is high in percentage but it is also true that maximum academic achievements, gold medals in examinations are secured by the female students in Himachal Pradesh University. One of the blind girl Muskan is brand ambassador of Election Commission of India who is a Ph. D student of this university. Apart from the inhouse students, there is a significant amount of success visible in the surrounding communities where Center for Women Studies has made efforts in providing training to the village women and converting them to small entrepreneurs. There are several discussions, lectures and seminars held in the university every year on women related issues and empowerment plans. There is a good number of teaching and non-teaching women staff in the university and they hold different important positions.

### **Challenges encountered and resources required**

Himachal Pradesh university is providing sufficient support in admissions and fees, this is one of the rare universities where tuition fee of a female student is totally waived off and a seat is reserved for single girl child in every program. Still, we have challenge to provide them better facilities inside the departments and hostels, facilities of indoor and outdoor sports etc. For the placement of female students, we find certain locational disadvantages and taboos which require attention to reduce by enhancing institute- industry tie ups, exchange programs especially for female students with global institutions and organisations. Strengthening women centre is our next challenge and resources are required to convert this center into a department or institute so post graduate degrees can also be initiated. Female entrepreneurs are still less in number, so we need to set more training programs for the girl students and develop a link between them and the opportunities in different sectors. We care for the communities too and the success is encouraging so more communities can be contacted in future with more resource persons and skill trainers.