

Best Practice No 1

Title of the Practice: Contributing towards the socio-economic upliftment and cultural promotion of the region.

Objectives of the Practice:

1. Providing trainings in entrepreneurship and livelihood opportunities for the rural masses of the region.
2. Up keeping the rich and cultural heritage of the region by providing trainings in Bodo dance and indigenous musical instruments.

The Context:

The best practice proposed here are in accordance with the Mission of the University which instructs the necessity to promote entrepreneurship and impartment of value based education for the holistic development of students. Further, it is also one of the important mission of the University to protect, preserve and promote ethnicity and cultural heritage pertinent to the location in particular and country in general for furtherance of national integrity.

In this context, socio-economic upliftment and empowerment of rural entrepreneurs in mushroom culture and farming especially women entrepreneur is carried out by providing trainings to farmers and rural entrepreneurs, so that they can initiate the process of cultivation of mushroom and can find domestic market with easily cultivable mushrooms (Oyster, Milky & Paddy Straw Mushroom) through rural technological intervention.

The Practice:

For attainment of Objective 1

Bodoland University under different Govt. Schemes like DBT-GoI-TIC (Technology Incubation Centre on Mushroom), DBT-GoI Biotech Hub Programme and KISAN Hub, BU, strives towards the commitment for providing entrepreneurship opportunities to the rural masses and thereby contribute in the socio-economic upliftment.

Major research in mushroom cultivation and production carried out in the university has established the potential of mushroom not only as a health food and source of nutraceutical, but also as a tool for developing rural entrepreneurship and sustainable development. Further, agro

climate of Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD, 6th Schedule Area) in particular and North Eastern States (Eastern Himalayan States) in general make mushroom cultivation highly suitable and feasible through a series of easily understandable entrepreneurship & skill development trainings for the purpose. Further, virtues like minimal resource requirement, very low capital investment, less water requirement, less land requirement and wide availability of organic agro waste and presence of potential domestic and international market make mushroom cultivation venture as a model tool for stand up India & start up India concept. Mycophagy is a common practice in tribal community. Most of the people and rural youth of BTAD are from tribal & other communities and mostly belong to economically backward families (BPL) who have started emerging as potential Indian youth despite having a recent hard past.

In this context, the university has been continuing its service in providing relevant trainings of as many as 21 variants of mushroom cultivation and transfer of knowledge and skills to rural entrepreneurs with regard to employment generation. The practice also has the objective to provide alternative income to rural entrepreneurs by eco-friendly green energy.

For attainment of Objective 2:

“CENTRE FOR BODO STUDIES (CBS)” started functioning in 2014 on the basis of Memorandum of Settlement of Bodo Accord, 2003 (Annexure-IV under Appendix C, Sl. No. 1 of the MoU in the Bodoland). Bodoland University designed the centre to facilitate scholars, thinkers and interested individuals in augmenting new approach of study on the Bodo Ethnic Group of North East India with reference to national and international viewpoints. The primary concept of the centre is to contribute enormity of Indian diversity in nation building approaches.

The stated Vision of the Center is to reconstruct the endangered Bodo culture, language and antiquity which was about to disappear in the midst of globalization process. The Bodo language and culture need to be developed suitably to cope with the other language and culture of the country. India being the multi-cultural and multi-lingual nation offers scope for self development and self identity to all small communities.

The mission of the Centre is to carry out extensive study in organized ways for creating and enhancing domain of fundamental knowledge with new tools and methods in scientific way through quality study, research, consultancy, learning & teaching, documentation, archiving and digitization, exchanging ideas of culture, language, racial identity and so forth.

Centre for Bodo Studies (CBS) is an interdisciplinary concept in its own realm with quest for true knowledge and disseminating to truth. It intends to become a pioneering force in the development of scholastic potential among its ethnic group in the region. It shall have facilities and provision for extension and exchange of knowledge and studies with other likeminded institutions of India and abroad.

Some of the activities carried out by the centre are:

- Month long training Programmes on Bodo dance.
- Certificate course on DTP writing in Devnagiri scripts.
- Workshops and National Seminars on languages, ethnicity, history and typology of the language and literature of the region.
- Seminars and Conferences on Research scope in language literature and folklore.

Evidence of Success:

Objective 1:

1. Total 203 trainings have been conducted since 2012. A total of 4447 farmers have been trained in the process.
2. Value added fortified mushroom food products with FSSAI and ISO certification has been produced and scaled up through women entrepreneurs.
3. The follow up action of mass and holistic entrepreneurship development of Kokrajhar through mushroom based technology has led to the recognition of mushroom as ODOP (One District One Product) for Kokrajhar district.
4. The Mushroom Unit has been supporting 11 existing entrepreneur initially and helped in setting up of 24 new mushroom Unit at BTAD region.
5. The Center, through NGOs and DEVELOPMENTAL BLOCK of Districts, the Mushroom Unit has collected the data for the families to be helped.
6. Till now the centre has distributed more than 32 quintals of Mushroom spawn and has earned revenue accordingly and as many as 650 families are helped (with the help of Aaryanak, Art of Living, ATREE, KVK, Kokrajhar). It has been estimated that a total production of mushroom in BTAD and adjoining areas has been enhanced by 20 to 25 tons annually.

7. The centre has made value addition of mushrooms such as *Mushroom Pakora, Mushroom Soup, Mushroom Cake* and *Mushroom Custard, Mushroom Rasgullas* etc. and the farmers have been trained in this for their start up venture.
8. A helpline number for the farmers and Spawn booking by SMS etc. has also been initiated.
9. Presently, 48 small scale entrepreneurs are currently groomed by the centre.
10. FSSAI license have been achieved with registration no 20319108000037

Objective 2:

Activities of the Center for Bodo Studies so far:

1. One month Bodo dances Training Programme on Bagurumba, Mwsaglangnai and Bardwisikla from 3rd July to 31st July, 2014.
2. National Seminar held on 28-29th May, 2015. The theme of seminar: Quest for Survival of Languages of the Ethnic Communities of North-East India: In the Face of Globalization.
3. Felicitation programme on 12th February, 2016 to Dr. Kameswar Brahma, President of Bodo Sahitya Sabha and EC member of Bodoland University, for his Padmashree Award.
4. Celebration of the occasion of 16th November, Bodo Literary Day Certificate Course on Bodo Language for the session 2017 to 2018.
5. Tribes North East India: The Bodo-origin, Antiquity, Identification, Society and Religious Life, Organized by Antiquarian Studies Section, held on 07 April, 2017
6. Regional Seminar on History and Typology: Literature and Language of the Bodos, Organized by Literature and Language Section, held on 28, April, 2017
7. The Source for the reconstruction of History of North East India, Organized by Antiquarian Studies Section, held on 3, May, 2017
8. Celebration of on the occasion of 16th November, 2018 Bodo Literary Day in Association with Constituent College of Kokrajhar.
9. Seminar on HISTORY AND TYPOLOGY: LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE OF THE BODOS” Held on 28/04/2017, Organized by the Literature and Language Branch, CBS, BU.
10. WEBINAR on the Topic: “Research Scopes in Language literature and Folklore in 21st Century” on 21st & 22nd August, 2020 at 4.00 pm.
11. Certificate Distribution Programme, held on 3rd November, 2021, at Centre for Bodo Studies, Bodoland Univesity.

12. A workshop on “Research manuscript writing and publication in reputed Journal” was organized by Centre for Bodo Studies, Bodoland Univesity on 7th October 2021.
13. SEMINAR on the Theme of the seminar on “ETHNOBOTANY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OF THE BODOS” Held on 10/12/2021, ORGANIZED BY CENTER FOR BODO STUDIES, BU.
14. Certificate course DTP writing in Devanagari scripts program held from 8th January to 23rd March, 2021, March to May, and June to Oct, 2021. Certificate course in Traditional Bodo Dance and Music” held from 8th Feb, 2021 to till now at Centre for Bodo Studies, BU.

Problems Encountered and Resource Required

1. With the growth in the activities and services of the centres, there has occurred a need of greater manpower to carry forth the functions of the centres.
2. Need of resources including financial assistance for maintenance and augmentation of infrastructure.