

Institutional Distinctiveness: 2021-22

Digitalization



21st century is a time when the entire world is turning digital. Starting from basic mode of communication, payments, to the use of AI in various sectors, this century is witnessing a major communication and digital revolution. The scope of virtual world is enhanced to that extent where we can communicate with any person at any place at any time in the world, can pay or get multimedia information in just one click. The free flow of information has greatly benefitted the world and it is easy to create more information and to upload in e-sources for personal as well as professional benefits. Being digitally active is now the need of the hour.

Krishnai is a rural area which is still in a developing stage. Habraghat Mahavidyalaya, being the higher institution of the locality accepts it as its responsibility to uphold and improve the society circling the institution. By administering diversified practices this establishment has retained its distinctiveness and one such distinctiveness this year is its noteworthy step towards "**Digitalization**" of the people of the locality and the students of the college. The programme continued as "**Digital Inclusion for Digital Equity**". Along with imparting education, the institution has decided to help the local communities in using smartphones and computers for various purposes. Besides offering basic computer education to the students of the college, this esteemed institution has highlighted the need of digital literacy among the general public.

keeping this noble objective in focus, the Mahavidyalaya has circulated the information calling several meetings verbally among the general public. In these meetings, the local people made us aware about their lack of knowledge in this regard. There were other gatherings made with the students to learn about their extent of information. They are also enquired about their family members and whether they are able to make the best use of digital platforms. After

gaining information, the institution has collaborated with NEILIT and has organised a workshop. The name of the workshop was “Digital Inclusion for Digital Equity”.

1. The process of digitalization started with the students as they have been offered basic computer course in the college lab. The students are selected on the basis of their interest and are enrolled accordingly.
2. The faculties started using smart classroom methods in day-to-day classes which have generated interest among the students.
3. The communication through Google Classroom, Google meet and zoom has compelled the students to use digital platform which has further benefits.
4. Alongside, basic computer course is offered by the college to interested candidates in every session.
5. Along with these steps, the college has taken a major step to provide digital understanding among the people of the community as well. For this purpose, the college has collaborated with NIELIT Guwahati and brought home a week-long workshop “Digital Literacy for Digital equity”.

At the outset, the faculty members have personally visited the local residences and informed as well as invited the people of the locality to participate in that workshop. Secondly, the students are asked to inform their parents regarding the workshop and extend the invitation.



Thereafter, the workshop was organized in four categories:

- a. It constituted 2 days workshop for farmers on “Use of ICT Technologies for Effective Farming and Marketing”. In this workshop, the farmers from the localities are informed by the experts regarding the use of ICT for effective farming. They are introduced to different apps through which they can access to information regarding the process of farming in different fields.




- b. There was a 3 days' workshop for women on "Awareness on use of Mobile Applications for Digital Payment, e-governance services, IT Applications and Cyber Security". This workshop extensively demonstrated women about how to make e-payments as well as how to use applications ensuring their digital safety.
- c. It further consisted a one-day workshop on "Cyber Security and Emerging Technologies" for Students. This workshop proved to be very useful for the students as they were informed regarding different types of applications as well as different sources of information which they can use in their studies. Withal, they are also informed about the secure use of IT and how to protect their data from getting circulated in the web.
- d. The last workshop in this series was for elderly on "Use of Mobile Application for Digital Payment and E Governance Service" where the elderly people were informed and trained about the basic and fundamental use of IT facilities through mobiles.



After the commencement of such informative and enlightening workshop, this esteemed institution observed that the students as well as the community people have certainly benefitted from this initiative taken by the college. In a rural setting like

Krishnai where it is very difficult to make all the people aware about digital activities is quite challenging. We must admit that the changes cannot be brought overnight and it will be a gradual process. However, the following signs of success are observed. The primary marker of success is evident among the students. It has been observed that the students have started accessing online study materials and sharing them in class. In terms of assessing the proof of success among the women and community members, a general verbal survey has been done through the students. From the reports of the students, it has been observed that the community members have started using a few applications for payment. The increasing numbers of UPI code in small scale shops are a marker of success for this programme. Although there is a lot more needed to be done in this regard, but this step to increase digital literacy and equity is certainly a move towards making Krishnai a digitally rich locality.

The college aspires to continue providing such services to the community in future.



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