

BEST PRACTICES

Making higher education accessible to underprivileged sections. Our goal is to create an equal society by spreading higher education among underprivileged sections such as women and individuals belonging to SC/ST/OBC and minority communities. This aim is guided by the principle that in a democratic nation like India education aims to be inclusive. In fact this idea has been the basis of many educational policies adopted by the UGC and the State Government. Birbhum Mahavidyalaya was established to cater to the educational needs of the people of the Suri sub-division. The college is situated in a region that is semi urban and agricultural. The majority of our students (approx 60) are 1st generation learners coming from SC/ST/OBC and minority communities (approx 42) of the students are female. Keeping these local needs in mind, the College has adopted some strategies for widening access to higher education. 4. The Practice: Some of the strategies adopted to widen access to higher education for a wide range of rural students from underprivileged communities are mentioned below.

- Reservation of seats for admission of SC/ST/OBC students: The College follows the government policy regarding reservation for SC/ST/OBC students.
- Relaxation of cut-off marks percentage for admission of SC/ST students: The College follows the norms prescribed by The University of Burdwan.
- Remedial coaching classes for SC, ST, OBC and minority students are taken regularly to improve their academic skills. IDEA conducted classes to prepare them for employment.
- Scholarships for SC/ST/OBC and female students : Most of our SC/ST/OBC students receive stipend from the Government. Female students also receive financial assistance as per Government norms.(Kanyashree etc.) Annual prizes are given to students of different departments to boost their morale and inspire their juniors.
- Problems Encountered and Resources Required: One major problem that we face is lack of awareness among underprivileged students regarding the facilities and opportunities available to them