

1. Title of the First Practice:

Tradition and continuity: A cultural practice with the adopted villages in playing and crafting of the musical instrument



Elderly Musical Experts tutoring our students

2. Objectives of the Practice:

The Practice has the following aims and objectives-

- To acquaint students of the institution with the tradition and practices of the musical instrument
- To foster interest of the students for traditional practices of culture
- To continue the centuries old practices of Muri and Kham

The crux of the concepts:

The institution considers it as the best practice considering the fact of the old tradition practice by the Dimasa Community. The college is located in the old capital of Dimasa Kingdom wherein the Dimasa had their capital during 16th to 18th century. The place is a cultural hub since the time of Ranachandi. Maibang Degree College is a higher educational institution rendering its services to the people of a larger area. It believes to ascertain the extended activities having a step towards cultural practices. The institution has a distinct view on tradition and continuity of the Dimasa Culture and Maibang Degree College encourages the students to explore more of the tradition and to patronise the continuity. Therefore students are engaged in learning Muri and Kham and making of the traditional items.

The Concept:

The institution has realized that the Dimasa Culture and tradition has a unique identity of their traditional and cultural practices. The instrument of Muri and Khram, Bi-Dima Dance and their traditional house hold items have a unique identity handed down generation after generation. The institution is well aware about the responsibility to acquaint, and to foster students towards traditional practices. The rapid change of science and technology, life style etc. may change the habit and nature of the people. Therefore it is important to harmonies the students with the practices of traditional musical instrument and crafting of so. This idea has been developed coming across a seminar held in Maibang Degree College in 2006. The seminar was organised by Maibang Degree College in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati. The Dimasa community is one of the tribal groups belonging to greater Cachari Dynasty. Most of the songs and practices are prevailing orally. Musical instrument accompanies oral songs and dancing practices. The institution involves the students to be a part of the traditional practices.

Execution:

In order to attain at the objectives of the practice the institution organised programmes involving the experts from the villages. It involves the community people, teacher and student. The practice is executed having the following steps:

- Selection of the students
- Visit to the village
- Interactions with the village elders
- Practicing it in Baikho

Knowledge and Practices:

Students are learning to play musical instrument i.e. Muri and Khram and making of it. They are also accustomed to the dancing practices. Students are acquiring the traditional knowledge and practices. They are accustomed to the dancing practices too. The college involves the student in participating in the cultural events to represent Maibang Degree College.

Limitations of the practice:

- Rapid urbanization affecting on the interest of the students
- Elderly generation is reducing

Evidence of Success:

The institution has identified three villages adopted i.e. Delenbra (Longshep), Didaodip and DimaHaplai; the practices brings the community involvement with the institution. i.e. teachers, students and non-teaching staff. Students are involved to interact with the village elderly person to know about traditions and culture handed down generation after generation. It has increased the interest and understanding of the students about the musical instruments, dance format and making of the musical instruments. It encourages socio-cultural interactions and helps the institution to get a unique identity to the platform of cultural practices. A group of 20 students are benefitted from the practices of playing and dancing of Muri and Khram. There is a group of 05 students directly benefitted from the practice in making of Muri and Khram. Initially students were learning Bi-Dima dance; and the associated songs accompanied by musical instruments. Both the male and female students are involved in the practice. In the second phase the students learn about Jaubani Dace. In the third phase students are learning Jaukhinbani and Bi Khrisha Dance. Students are taking part in the Central BusuDima Festival held on 27th January. Students are also taking part in different programmes and cultural events held in the region i.e. Falcon Festival etc. The college is well equipped with the musical instruments and it believes to hand over the tradition to new generation of the college.

2. Title of the Second Practice: Awareness against Jhum Cultivation and Unsafe Drinking Water



The crux of the concepts: Jhum Cultivation is also known as Terrace Cultivation or Shifting Cultivation. This is age old practice of the community living in Maibang and across the district. Jhum Cultivation is a Slash-and-burn cultivation. It is a form of farming practice that entails clearing a land parcel by felling and burning trees. Therefore the institution believes to aware people against Jhum Cultivation realising the fact of environmental degradation. Drinking Water is a major concern in the district. People depend on the river and streams water. Therefore promotion for the safe drinking water is a need of the people.

The Concept: Maibang Degree College initiates awareness programme against Jhum cultivation. The institution has also patronised safe drinking water campaign to aware people for drinking of filtered water. Cultivation and Drinking Water are basic need of the people living in the region. The hilly terrain people are unaware of direct and indirect effect to their environment and health. Therefore the institution believes in bringing awareness against Jhuming. Indeed people of the locality need a strong consciousness for safe drinking. Henceforth Maibang Degree College prioritizes making people responsive in drinking safe water.

Execution: The College has taken initiatives in the neighbouring locality of Maibang to aware people against Jhuming and unsafe drinking water.

Evidence of Success: People are gradually becoming aware of Deforestation, Loss of fertility of a specific site, Soil erosion and Air pollution especially dwelling in Gidingpur. People are getting access to open bore well water and filtration.

Best Practices: Photo Gallery

First Best Practice: Musical instrument playing and crafting



Second Best Practice: Awareness against Jhum Cultivation and Unsafe Drinking Water

