Memo No.: NLC/R&D Policy/2021/3570   **Date: 21.09.2021**

NOTIFICATION

The draft of the North Lakhimpur College Regulations for the Research and Development Policy, 2021, which has been approved by the 9th Meeting of the Academic Council, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) held on 9/8/2021 vide Resolution No. (5) and giving effect from the academic session 2020-2021.

The Regulations is given along with this Notification.

Issued with due approval.

(Dr. B.C. Chetia)
Principal
North Lakhimpur College
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Copy to:
1. The Controller of Examinations, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
2. The Member Secretary, Academic Council, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
3. The Member Secretary, Research Council, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
4. The Coordinator, IQAC, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
5. Vice Principals, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
6. HoD, All PG Department, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
7. The Chairpersons of the DRCs, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)
8. College Website
9. File

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NORTH LAKHIMPUR COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), LAKHIMPUR
DRAFT RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1.1 Prelude:

आ नो भद्राःक्रतवोयन्तुविश्वतः– ऋग्वेद, १–८९.

Let noble thoughts come to me from all the sides, Rig Veda, 1 – 89.

As the National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP) envisions India's long tradition of holistic and multidisciplinary learning, from universities like Takshashila and Nalanda to the extensive literature of India combining subjects from various fields, it stipulates that knowledge must not be confined to a particular dimension. The North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), a premier institution of Assam dedicated to quality and interdisciplinary research, also advocates the belief in the accumulation of knowledge from all directions. Rapid growth in scientific knowledge reflects a quest for novel opportunities in economic and societal development. Research is the foundation of knowledge, bringing new energy, promoting research publications, developing collaborations, and becoming part of an active community that shares mission objectives. Taking these factors into account, North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) resolves to implement the research policy outlined below.

North Lakhimpur College provides an open platform for academic excellence and scholarly research activities. It is committed to inculcating research culture among faculty and students to lay the foundation for the Institution's future development. The research policy of the college aims to develop and promote all learners' scientific temperament and research aptitude; realise the college's vision and mission; and identify research areas of academic, pragmatic and socially relevant, thereby contributing to national academic advancement. It also aims to ensure that the college's research activities adhere to all applicable rules and regulations of UGC and NEP and the established standards and norms relating to safe and ethical research conduct.

1.2 Objectives:

The research policy of North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) establishes a broad framework for research activities with the following objectives:

- To encourage interdisciplinary research in a multidisciplinary environment.
- To motivate faculty and students to excel in research, funding, publications, and patents.
- To create a conducive environment for faculty, students, and visitors to conduct research.
- To provide/facilitate infrastructure for conducting research, such as basic and advanced instrumentation.
- To encourage faculties and students for FIP research, Workshops, conferences, and seminars.
- To assist faculty and departments in becoming self-sufficient in research by facilitating, applying for, and receiving funds from various funding agencies such as DST SERB, DBT, UGC, DAE, CSIR, RUSA, DRDO, and others.
- To support faculty and departments for easy operations of various funded projects.
- To conduct a financial audit and provide funding agencies with a certificate of utilisation.

- To uphold high ethical standards in research and publication and focus on second-level data verification.

- To initiate and promote Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with industries and R&D organisations for consultancy, collaborative research, sponsored projects, industry-institute interactions, and so on.

- To encourage and motivate students to present papers at national and international conferences and projects and aware students of original research and the importance of IPR.

- To provide its faculties with the necessary financial support to attend prestigious international and national conferences held in various parts of the country.

- To facilitates programmes for extension with research and encourage community engagement, Innovation, incubation and startups.

1.3 Research Code of Ethics:

The college had mandated the research supervisors, research scholars, faculties, and students to adhere to the highest level of academic integrity and originality in writing UG and PG research dissertations, M.Phil and PhD theses, books, book chapters, and articles following the college's stipulations and the University Grants Commission's (UGC) rules. The college agrees to abide by the provisions outlined by the UGC in its policy titled "Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018," with policy no. F. 1-18/2010(CPP-II) dated July 23, 2018. The *code of ethics in research* has been attached as **Annexure I.**

1.4 Research Council:

A Research Council (RC) will be appointed to monitor all research activities at the college. The Research Council is the apex body that administers the research programmes of the college. The RC is responsible for all strategic decisions, corrective actions, policy preparation, and updating policies under UGC guidelines. The Principal of the college will head the RC. The members of the council are as follows:

(a) Principal – Chairperson.

(b) The Controller of Examinations – Member.

(c) The Member Secretary, Academic Council – Member.

(d) The Coordinator, Internal Quality Assurance Cell – Member.

(e) Three (03) Associate Professors/Assistant Professor with PhD Degree, representing each discipline to be nominated by the Principal – Members.

(f) Three (03) Professors/Associate Professors, from each discipline as Nominated by the Principal – Invited Members.

(g) All the Chairpersons of DRCs.

(h) Member Secretary, Research Council.

The principal purpose of the research council is to ensure quality research and integrity in the overall research environment of the college.

The Research Council will head some other subordinate bodies to impart quality research in the college as per the UGC's guideline. These institutions are:

1.4.1 Board of Studies (BOS):

i) Composition of Board of Studies: The composition of Board of Study (BOS) is as follows as per the recommendation of UGC.

a) Head of the Department concerned (Chairman).

b) The entire faculty of each specialization.

c) Two subject experts from outside the Parent University to be nominated by the Academic Council.

d) One expert to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor from a panel of six recommended by the college principal.

e) One representative from industry/corporate sector/allied area relating to placement.

f) One postgraduate meritorious alumnus to be nominated by the principal. The Chairman, Board of Studies, may with the approval of the principal of the college, co-opt:

g) Experts from outside the college whenever special courses of studies are to be formulated.

h) Other members of staff of the same faculty.

ii) Term: The term of the nominated members shall be three years.

iii) Meetings: The Board of Studies shall meet at least twice a year.

iv) Functions: The Board of Studies of a Department in the college shall:

a) prepare syllabi for various courses while keeping the college's objectives, stakeholders' interests, and national requirements in mind for consideration and approval by the Academic Council;

b) propose methodologies for innovative teaching and evaluation techniques;

c) recommend a panel of names to the Academic Council for the appointment of examiners; and

d) Coordinate research, teaching, extension, and other academic activities in the department/college.

1.4.2 Departmental Research Committee (DRC):

i) Composition: The Departmental Research Committee (DRC) is the College's Research Committee for a P.G. teaching department. In each Department, a Departmental Research Committee (DRC) will be formed as follows:

a) Chairperson* - Head of Department.

b) All eligible Ph.D. Supervisors of the subject concerned.

c) Any other member may be nominated to the DRC with the approval of the research council as and when deemed necessary with minimum 4 members including the chairperson.

d) If the Head of the Department does not have a Ph.D, then the Principal of the college may appoint any eligible supervisors of the department (preferably on seniority basis) as the Chairperson. He or she will serve until the Head of the Department is qualified to be a Supervisor.

e) Provided, however, that in the case of Departments where the Head of the Department is a single eligible recognised Supervisor, the Principal of the College shall nominate at least two members for the DRC of such Departments from the allied Departments in consultation with the Chairperson, DRC.

ii) Functions of the DRC: The DRC will take into account all aspects of the research work in the subject(s) concerned. The DRC's functions are as follows:

a) It will be in charge of all activities related to entrance and admission to the Ph.D. programme. Coursework must be completed in accordance with the admission criteria and procedure.

b) It shall conduct and carry out all necessary procedures for the evaluation of the Ph.D. Work on the course.

c) It shall take into account the Doctoral Committees' recommendations regarding the registration of Ph.D. research Scholars. It will only recommend a Ph.D. proposal (synopsis) for registration after the Scholar has presented it to the DRC.

d) It will hold periodic seminars/presentations for the Ph.D. Scholars appear from time to time.

e) It shall review the progress reports of Ph.D. research Scholars on a regular basis and make recommendations to the RC.

f) The DRC will organise the Ph.D. Pre-submission seminars. Scholars and the panel of examiners from the Doctoral Committees receive the abstracts and make recommendations to the Academic Officer concerned for further action.

g) The DRC will consider any other issues related to the scholars' Ph.D. work.

2.1 Research Activities:

The research activities of North Lakhimpur College are classified under the following sections:

2.1.a. Research Programmes:

The college is planning to offer the following research programme shortly as per the power conferred by UGC in clause 2 paras 11 of the "Guideline for Autonomous College" of 2018 and 11.9 & 11.10 of NEP, 2020:

a) Undergraduate Research.

b) PhD Programme.

The details of the Regulation for PhD Programme has been notified on the college website as **the NLC PhD Regulation 2021.**

2.1.b. Research Proposals:

The research council primarily encourages its faculties to submit research proposals for funding for major and minor research. The norms for submission of a research proposal, by any staff member from college, for funding from an outside agency, including the University, Government, Industry, or Non-Government agency, not inclusive to all disciplines, are as follows:

1. The Head must first approve a Research Proposal from a faculty member of the concerned department. Non-teaching staff who are not affiliated with any academic department may submit their research proposal directly to the Principal, who will present it to the college's research council.

2. The Research Proposal is then submit to the research council for approval wherever and whenever required.

3. The Committee will review the proposal in a maximum of one week and hold a meeting with the researcher to suggest changes. So that inter-disciplinary issues can be adequately addressed.

4. The Personal Investigator (PI) then submit the edited proposal for the final signature of the Principal.

5. The Principal will then give their approval for the proposal to be sent in hardcopy or submitted online.

2.1.c. The Seed Money Scheme of the College: FIRST Scheme: Faculty's Innovative Research For Social Transformation Scheme

This scheme aims to promote research with a social impact. The college encourages its faculty to come up with innovative research ideas that can result in social transformation. This scheme is thus an initiative of the college's RC. A one-time grant has been issued to the college's faculties for outstanding research proposals to contribute to society. So far, only a few research projects have been submitted by faculties who have benefited from this scheme. A sufficient amount of assistance for a Minor Research Project in Sciences; Humanities, Social Science, Languages, Literature, and Arts will be granted by the research council. Provision for an additional grant for projects that engage in collaborative research with a reputed organisation by the council is also there. The project's tenure and implementation will last one year. The Details of *the FIRST Scheme* is attached in **Annexure II.**

2.1.d. Extension Activities in NEP:

The core concept of the National Education Policy, 2020 is to provide a comprehensive, holistic education with a multidisciplinary approach with a flexible and innovative curricular structure that blurs the division amongst regular, vocational and professional courses and promotes high-quality research. Pedagogy shifting from significantly less rote learning to an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, analysis and opportunity for cross-disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking is also one of the underlying ideas which this policy. It opts to offer with thrust areas in community engagement and service, environment and value-based education. Hence, to align with the perception of NEP, 2020 following programs in the form of project/activity are being proposed for consideration.

Broad area: Community engagement and services:

a.   Uplifting the academic performance of students at schools.

b.   Participation in Urban governance.

c.   Disaster and community involvement.

Broad Area: Environment:

a.   Waste Management.

Broad Area: Issues with response to contemporary global challenges:

a. Participation in Public health programs for providing access to health care for people in the unorganised sector.

Broad Area: Research-based Activity

a. Culture in transition.

The details of *extension activities in NEP* will be published on its official website as **Annexure III**.

2.1.e. Consultancy:

As an institute of higher learning, North Lakhimpur College is committed to promulgating knowledge through consultancy services to the government, educational and research organisations, and industries for the welfare of society. The research promotion policy will incentivise faculty to provide consulting services consistent with the college's strategic identity, vision, and ideology. The policy will encourage revenue generation for the college in financial benefit through consultancy, enhancing credibility, and expanding faculty members' expertise. The details of *consultancy services policy* has notified as **Annexure IV.**

2.1.f. Innovation, Incubation and Startup:

1) The college has a MHRD – Institution Innovation Council (IIC).

2) The Innovation & the incubation cell shall be headed by the Principal, as the chairman. A five-member committee from faculty and Placement Officer will look after the cell. The cell will appoint a coordinator among the members to look after the activities of the cell.

3) Some Invited members outside the organisation will also be invited as the member of the cell. The committee will decide the number of such members, depending on the need.

4) The college shall promote the institute to the regional Startup Hub in Upper Assam, with a bigger mission of developing Lakhimpur into Assam's Startup Hub.

5) The college shall create innovative culture by organising programmes such as ideation programmes, collection of Innovation from research undertaken in academic and extension areas.

6) The college shall provide a two to three-year entrepreneurship fellowship to college students, in the line of fellowship by leading entrepreneurial schools like School for Social Entrepreneurs.

7) The college shall make arrangements for the students and entrepreneurs nearby to access mentors and investors.

8) The college shall make efforts for capacity enhancement training. For that, the cell will organise various capacity building training to entrepreneurs and innovators in the North Lakhimpur College, like a) Basic financial tools, valuation/how to present financials for funding; b) Legal compliance & accounting; c) Branding & Marketing / Digital Marketing; d) training on Central & State govt facilities, the support they offer; e) Pitching – presentation to the investor; f) Communication, g) innovation workshop, h) technological upliftment workshops etc.

9) The college shall make efforts for market connect. Startup incubators will also be provided market connect support by linking them with various programmes exposure visits, buyer-seller meet, exhibitions and other related opportunities. The cell will aim for greater industry-academic linkages and interdisciplinary research, including humanities and social sciences research.

10) College shall award the faculties and entrepreneurs for their innovative research activities and successful entrepreneurial projects with proper appreciation and incentives. The guidelines for the award will be decided by the cell.

11) The cell will also process innovative, successful projects of the faculties and students for procuring patents on completion. The cell will provide appropriate recognition and monetary incentives to them.

2.1.g. Research Collaboration:

The college encouraged extensive research collaboration with institutions, labs and industries government and private of great academic reputation. The research collaboration will foster research connectivity with different academic and research institutions, labs, and industries to speed up research and the college's academic environment.

Dr. Biman Chandra Chetia

Chairman, Research Council

North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)

Principal
North Lakhimpur College
(Autonomous)
Lakhimpur, Assam

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ANNEXURE - I

RESEARCH ETHICS

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CODE OF ETHICS IN RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

☐ All research works carried out in the North Lakhimpur College (including publications) should be original in nature.

☐ Research works carried out in the North Lakhimpur College should reflect rational attitude and scientific temperament. The research works should be free from personal biasness, prejudices and self-reflexivity of the researchers.

☐ Research works should be carried out in a manner which is not antithetical to Indian values and the principles of Indian Constitution.

☐ The North Lakhimpur College abides by the ethical guidelines vis-à-vis research and publication issued by the regulatory/statutory bodies and it further accentuates upon following any future guidelines that may be issued from time to time by such concerned bodies.

☐ All the research works must be checked for plagiarism and certificates need to be furnished containing signatures of both research scholar as well as supervisor before submission of dissertation and thesis.

☐ As part of its vision, the North Lakhimpur College encourages research and publication on issues related to Ancient Indian Knowledge system and Sanskrit literature.

☐ The North Lakhimpur College disapproves of all sorts of discrimination of researchers and research participants based on gender, caste, religion, language and other such parameters.

☐ In case of social research, the researchers ought to protect the dignity, integrity, privacy and confidentiality of personal information of the respondents or research subjects.

☐ For sensitizing the students, researchers as well as faculty members on issues pertaining to ethics of research and publication, the North Lakhimpur College will, from time to time conduct workshops and orientation programmes.

☐ The North Lakhimpur College is determined to ensure authenticity of publication and accordingly Plagiarism detecting software has been provided to all the faculties.

☐ The North Lakhimpur College will establish Internal Ethics Committee for monitoring the ethical issues related to research.

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Dr. Biman Chandra Chetia

Chairman, Research Council

North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous)

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FIRST SCHEME: FACULTY'S INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION SCHEME

1. INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES:

This scheme is to encourage research that has a social importance. The North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) the prime institution of the region always encourages it faculties to come up with innovative research ideas which can bring a social transformation. This scheme hence is an initiative of the Research Council of North Lakhimpur College by which a onetime grant has been issued to the Faculties of the College for outstanding research proposal that can contribute something to the society.

2. ELIGIBILITY/TARGET GROUP:

The North Lakhimpur College will provide financial assistance to the permanent/regular/contractual working teachers who wish to undertake, along with teaching work, a Minor Research Project. A working teacher can avail only one project under the scheme at a time. The one, which is offered and accepted first irrespective of Principal Investigator must be completed before the other offer is accepted. Failure to abide by this rule shall make the Principal Investigator liable to refund the entire amount paid by the Institution in all such schemes. It would be the responsibility of the Principal Investigator for total accountability of the project. After completion of one project (date of finalization of accounts of the project) if a teacher desires to undertake another project, a gap of one year will be necessary. The Principal Investigator should publish at least one paper in a reputed journal in the form of Books/Article/Presentation in seminar etc. from the said project completed.

3. NATURE OF ASSISTANCE:

The quantum of assistance for a research project will be as under:
Minor Research Project in Sciences - Rs. 30,000/-
Minor Research Project in Humanities, Social Science, Languages, Literature, Arts – Rs. 25,000/-
(Another Rs. 10,000/- will be issued to those projects which engage collaborative
research with reputed organisation.)

4. TENURE AND IMPLEMENTATION:

Tenure and Implementation is within One year. The effective date of implementation of the project will be mentioned in approval – cum – sanction letter.

5. PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING:

All eligible teachers mentioned above in college may submit their Minor Research Proposal applications from 10th June, 2019 to 10th July, 2019 in the prescribed proforma to the concerned Research Council of North Lakhimpur College, Khelmati, North Lakhimpur or can be sent through Email at – researchcouncilnlc@gmail.com.

6. PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL:

The received proposals will be assessed with the help of a subject expert committee constituted by the Research Council. The final decision will be taken by the Research Council on the basis of recommendations made by the Committee and the availability of funds under the scheme.

7. PROCEDURE FOR RELEASE OF GRANTS:

The first instalment of the grant shall comprise of 80% of the total grant approved by the Council for the total duration of the project. The grant will be released to the Principal Investigator. On receipt of Annual Progress Report, statement of expenditure and utilization certificate of the 1st instalment of grant, the remaining 20% of the total grant will be released as the final instalment. The Remaining 20% will be released on receipt of following completion documents as final reimbursement:
1. Copy of the final report of project along with soft copy.
2. A consolidated item wise detailed statement of expenditure incurred during the complete project period in the prescribed proforma duly signed by the Principal Investigator.
3. A consolidated Audited Utilization Certificate for the amount actually utilized towards the project duly signed and sealed by Govt. Internal Auditor/ Chartered Accountant as well as the Principal Investigator in the prescribed proforma.
4. The unutilized grant if any, may be refunded immediately through demand draft drawn in favour of the Principal of North Lakhimpur College.

The Principal Investigators are expected to settle the accounts immediately on completion of the project. In case the balance grant, if any, is not claimed within six months from the date of completion of the project, the same will lapse and no representation will be entertained on this behalf.

7. GENERAL

a) After finalisation of the selection procedure of the Minor Research projects the names of the selected PIs will be posted on the College website. The PIs should check their names and send their acceptance certificate duly signed by the PIs of the institution immediately to the concerned Research Council Offices to enable the institution to send the approval/sanction letters.

(b) Project is not transferable in any case.

c) If the PI is transferred from his/her original place of work to another Institution No Objection Certificate should be furnished for the transfer of the project from both the Institutions stating that necessary facilities will be provided by the Institution in which the awardees are transferred for the smooth functioning of the project.

d) If a Principal Investigator fails to complete the project, he/she has to refund the entire amount released with interest.

e) No extension in tenure is permissible in any circumstances.

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EXTENSION ACTIVITIES IN NEP

The core concept of the National Education Policy, 2020 is to provide a comprehensive holistic education with multi-disciplinary approach with a flexible and innovative curricular structure that blurs the division amongst regular, vocational and profession courses and promotes high quality research. Pedagogy shifting from significantly less rote learning to an increased emphasis on communication, discussion, debate, research and opportunity for cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary thinking is also one of the underlying ideas which this policy opts to offer with thrust areas in community engagement and service, environment and value-based education. Hence, to be in consonance with the perception of the NEP, 2020 the following programs in form of project/activity are being proposed for consideration.

Broad area: Community engagement and services

1. **Uplifting the academic performance of students at schools**

The accessibility to extra coaching for the students below poverty line is a distant dream and that affect the academic performance of the student. Moreover, the inability to understand the basic concept of certain subjects especially, Science and Mathematics in general and English in particular for students of vernacular medium creates a fear for the subject which hinders the interest and in the long run puts a negative impact on the professional career and overall personality of the student. Further, girl students, being the vulnerable one in terms of opportunity usually are being left out in the process of academic activities. To address such issues to a certain extent, the students of institute of higher education can come up with voluntary services in form of identifying the target group and rendering free coaching.

- Objective: To promote inclusivity in learning process and promote overall academic growth within the school students through extra coaching.
- Mode of operation: The students would reach out for the pupils at school level and figure out the subjects in which remedial/coaching is required. Accordingly, the same would be provided by the students of the concerned departments. Further, efforts would be undertaken to overcome the fear and reluctancy towards Mathematics and Science and to facilitate the learning process of these subjects, towards which a sizable number of students are avert to.
- Assisting Centres: Women's Studies Centre, NSS
- Collaborating agencies: Assam Science Society and various NGOs
- Program Outcome:
  (i)   Delegating with authorities in knowing the intricate issues faced by the students while learning certain subjects.
  (ii)   Enhancing one's communication skills
  (iii)   Enriching one's concept in the concern subject.

2. **Participation in Urban governance**:

The urban area of Lakhimpur falling under the jurisdiction of Lakhimpur Municipality has been facing issues related to proper garbage disposal, problem of drainage and non-functioning of street lights. These issues have led to serious problems related to flash flood, water clogging especially during the monsoon, public health hazard and safety of pedestrians especially at night. Moreover, there is a lack of community participation in keeping the locality clean and beautiful within the citizens.

- Objective: To introduce the students to urban governance through community service and inculcate the leadership quality amongst them by engaging them in mobilizing community participation .

- Mode of Operation: The students will initiate a survey to have a first -hand information about the problems faced by the residents and identify the localities that have been reeling under such issues. They will further be responsible in drafting applications after receiving consent of the people residing with problems of these sorts. The students would alsokeep a track on the steps taken by the authorities to deal with the issue. Further, the students would arrange for mass participation in activities like cleanliness drives, tree plantation and wall paintings in various public places. In such activities, advise and help from renowned artists and different art schools would be sought. participating in urban governance
- Assisting Centres: NSS, Green Club, NCC
- Collaborating Agencies: Lakhimpur Municipal Board, Public Health Office,
- Program Outcome:
  (i) Understand how urban planning and its implementation works
  (ii) Be a mediator between the authorities and local people, which would lead to learning of negotiation skills.

3. **Disaster and community involvement**:

As a district receiving floods every year, Lakhimpur has somehow not been able to mitigate the tensions regarding the disaster equally throughout the district. The headquarters of the district has been on the focus given its urbanized setting and relatively active residents. But the rural areas which constitute the periphery of the town have not been given the due facilities within a strict time frame which would help them deal with the situation.

The National Policy on Disaster Management 2009, says that in the process of handling disasters, there should be interlinkage of stakeholders like centre, state as well as local authorities.

- Objective: To adhere to holistic involvement in disaster management, the institution North Lakhimpur College, Lakhimpur, Assam has initiated a program involving the innovative thinkers of the next generation to understand and involve with the communities facing flood. They shall deploy skills to help these people combat the disaster and later would actively engage in study with respect to rural and urban initiatives by the authorities. This will be an attempt to establish a participatory research aided with insightful understanding from the field.

- Mode of Operation:
  (a) During the disaster: The students would first try to understand how the communities mitigate during the time of disaster. After that, they would help them rectify some of the issues of sanitation by provisioning them with items essential to maintain their health like sanitary napkins, first aid tool kit. Then they would get in touch of NGOs to facilitate the provision of clothes and other necessities for the people (depending on the area). And on an academic note, the students would conduct research on the area and compare the difference with the flood relief activities at urban space to rural areas.

  (b) Post disaster: The students would target people from the category of 'poorest of the poor' and check the policy of NRLM and its applicability. Further they would collaboration with the existing NGOs in the region and help in arranging the women into self- help groups. This will enable the people to take loans and other monetary facilities from the government. The students can also opt for internships with NGOs working in rural livelihood to broaden the understanding of the approach to be deployed when working in the field afterwards. They can get in touch with the ASNRLM which is the body that implements the NRLM scheme in Assam. The district of Lakhimpur too has its office, the students can go and check with the implementation of it especially the Mahila Kisan Shasaktikaran scheme.

- Assisting Centre: Disaster Management, Innovation Centre, NCC, NSS
- Collaborating Agencies: NGOs, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. Of Assam
- Program Outcome:
  (i) Interacting with communities facing disaster would help the students have their first hand experience on a field that need much attention.
  (ii) The students would be engaged in promoting activities by researching about the already existing schemes. This shall help them in outlining the problems of implementation where they could actively participate in solving it.
  (iii) Collaborating with NGOs would give them the chance to explore the development sector, thus giving them the avenue to decide on the domain for their further studies

Broad Area: Environment

Waste Management

Waste management pertains to waste generation, characterization, minimization, collection, separation, treatment and disposal of wastes. Further, it also addresses waste management policies, education and economic and environmental assessments. It has emerged as a field of concern and for a holistic approach towards environmental education, waste management emerges as a relevant field in which the students could be engaged in extension activities.

- Objective: To generate awareness amongst the students towards the hazardous impact on environment and health due to mismanagement of waste materials and to introduce them to scientific ways of managing waste and help them in propagating their learning to the society.
- Mode of operation: The students would first collect the various wastes generated within the college campus. Later, the wastes would be segregated according as solid, bio-degradable and non- bio degradable. Under the supervision and training of the teachers, the wastes would be managed, disposed and treated accordingly. Students would also be trained on hand to produce organic fertilizers through simple yet effective training. The activities can also be extended beyond the college campus.
- Assisting centres: Green Club
- Collaborating Agencies: Municipality Board
- Program outcome:
(i) The students response towards environment would be sensitized through practical realization.
(ii) It would enable the students to understand the core meaning of sustainable development.

Broad Area: Issues with response to contemporary global challenges

Participation in Public health program for providing accessibility to health care for people in unorganized sector

The issue of public health has gained tremendous attention since the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic. The pandemic has taught that the nations with robust public health infrastructure could withstand the horror of such outbreak. With the trajectory of growth of human population taking an exponential form and penetration of the mankind to the forbidden territory of the nature, such waves of pandemic in the future cannot be ruled out. With the world turning out to be a global village, no country can remain safe until every country does their bit in public health. The transmission of Covid 19 from China to the entire world is a living example of it. The outbreak of corona virus pandemic has taught a lesson to the mankind which was least realized before. The lesson is that that no one, how mighty or wealthy s/he may be, could not survive if a level of equality, at least in terms of basic needs, does not exist within the different strata of the society. This is the high time that the mankind realizes to look beyond individuality and focus on collective growth especially in the field of healthcare.

- Objective: To help people in unorganized sectors, especially who had been engaged in facilitating the students with basic facilities like food, sanitation, day to day chores in the hostels, people working as household, people engaged in construction and any one working in unorganized sector by keeping a check on their health and sanitation issues and creating awareness on problems caused from lack of sanitation and ignorance on general, maternal and mental health. The project is introduced with a vision to engage in advocacy about public health to the people engaged in the unorganized sector who lack social security
- Mode of operation: the idea propagating through this project is to activate mobile healthcare . For this, the students would first locate the ASHA workers or the primary

health workers . Then the students would collaborate with them to check the health of the target group and understand their health status facilitate the health care needed through the health workers. Since a sound health also encompasses a sound mental health, the students would also focus on the status of the mental health of the people. Further, the students would also address issues relating to gender disparity amongst them. Since the college houses a Stress Management Committee, Yoga Centre and a Gender Sensitizing Cell, the issues of mental health and gender sensitization can be taken care of, which are usually ignored in public health.

- Assisting centres: Stress Management Committee, Yoga Centre, Gender Sensitization Cell
- Collaborating agencies: Health Care Centres, Public health Departments, NGOs
- Program outcome:
(i)   Awareness on segregated concepts of personal and public health.
(ii)   Recognizing mental health and gender sensitization as an integral component of well-being, both at individual and societal level.

Broad Area: Research based Activity
Culture in transition
Introduction : Culture- (American Sociological Association)- "Culture is understood as the languages, customs, beliefs, rules, arts and knowledge and collective identities and memories developed by all members of social groups who make their environment meaningful".

In this definition of culture, there is the space to explore the relatively wide area of it which tends to change over time and geography. It is imperative to understand that the term culture has not been rigid and is given the flexibility to change with respect to time, involving many factors. This is what contributes to the studies by anthropologists, sociologists and historians about communities having misconceptions about culture, tradition and heritage.
In the world of globalization, it is easy to get involved in practices which might not have been traditionally followed. These sets of practices could be economic, social and even cultural. It might have boosted the economy (like strengthening the trading system) or have brought threat to the traditional sets of norms of the society. In whichever way, it is important to note that the change is prevalent.
The change in culture is hugely influenced by the "popular culture" generally tagged as pop culture. With the globalization and quantum leap in communication technology, the impact of the pop culture is realized almost in every indigenous practice which is seen evolving every now and then.
Methodology: To study about this change and the diversifying definition of culture, there is a need to approach the concept from a changed 'worldview'. This could be achieved by looking at the society and the inception of the way of life of the people and the aspects that have brought changes in that.

To develop the understanding of culture and not constraint to the traditionalist outlook it is needed that we continuously deploy the accommodative temperament to understand the changes taking place in the society/community. The institute would start the process of learning with the objective to unlearn the preconceived notions of 'culture' as a tradition which has to be followed. This would result in a concrete outcome of discrete understanding of culture, practices and heritage aided by history of the place studied. This could be done by adopting the following procedures:
(i)   Reviewing the literature pertaining to indigenous practices (for example in case of food habit), indigenous texts (for example lyrics in folk music) or indigenous techniques (for example in case of crafts and artifacts).
(ii)   Investigate the changes it has undergone in course of time due to migration, availability of resources, influence of modernity or commodification of culture.
(iii)   Compare them with the prevailing scenario and also with other evolving/evolved culture and study the differences it made specially in the field of socio- economic development.
(iv)   Impartial analysis and arriving at a conclusion without prejudice.

Program Outcome:
(i)   Inculcate the inquisitive nature of the students through research.

(ii)   The ability to document the findings as well as critical thinking would be developed within the students.

(iii)   Going into the depth and arriving at a rational conclusion after a series of investigation and rational analysis

(iv)   Deter the student from being judgemental and thus moulding him/her as an accommodative human being.

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ANNEXURE - IV
Consultancy Policy

Objective: To establish a framework to support consultancy activities at the North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous).

Eligibility:

- This policy applies to all faculty and staff of North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous).
- The faculty members involving in the conduct of a consultancy service can avail on-duty for industrial visit and meeting industry person for discussion related to consultancy work.
- The faculty or staff must ensure that the consultancy work does not create a conflict of interest with the role of the faculty in the college.

Circumstances under which consulting activity may be permitted

- The organization requiring consultancy services from faculty or the department shall write to the principal indicating the expertise required.
- The principal on receiving the request from the organization shall inform to the department concerned.
- The Principal shall nominate the faculty or a group of faculty having the required expertise.
- In considering whether or not permission will be given for consulting activity, the principal will take into account such factors as the compatibility of the activity with the responsibilities and commitments of the faculty member(s), potential conflicts of interest and the use of institution resources.
- An MoU may be signed between the organization and the department towards the nature of consultancy work and the commercials involved in the presence of the principal.
- The faculty or a group of faculty engaged in the consultancy work shall periodically report the progress of the consultancy work to the principal through the head of the department.

Publications:

- Publication arising from consultancy work shall include the faculty affiliation of the college and acknowledge for the facilities used from the college.

Intellectual property Rights (IPR):

- College IPR may be used where not in conflict with rights of third parties or any commercialization plan.

Other Commercial Rules:

- College facilities and resources may be used and must be charged in line with the guidelines from the principal, from time to time.
- Meeting related to consultancy work with the organization(s) may be conducted in college premises.
- Tax is applicable for the revenue generated through consultancy work.

Policy for Revenue Sharing in Consultancy:

- North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) encourages faculty members to do consultancy service to support external engagements that facilitate knowledge and technology transfer contributing to economic and social impact. Such activities serve to link institute and its faculty members more closely to the industry.
- Consultancy work can bring financial benefits both to the institution and its employees.
- In view of encouragement the management has decided to share the revenue generated out of consultancy services to the faculty or group of faculty as follows.

S. No.	Particulars	Faculty	Management
1.	Use of institute space and or equipment	40%	60%
2.	For providing solutions/expertise to problems of the industry	60%	40%

Price:

- This is the price the client/organization will pay for the consultancy work. To avoid confusion or dispute later, care must be exercised to ensure clarity as to the inclusion or exclusion of items such as travel and subsistence as well as any special charges for materials or use of facilities in the institution.

Costs:

- This is the calculation made for internal use only to determine the costs towards faculty expertise and resources including the use of college space and equipment.

(Dr. Biman Chandra Chetia)
Chairman, Research Council
Principal, North Lakhimpur College
(Autonomous)

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