

BIJANBARI DEGREE COLLEGE

PRIORITY AND THRUST AREAS.

Bijanbari Degree College is the only higher educational institution that caters to the educational needs of students encompassing the surrounding areas of Bijanbari, such as Rimbick, Kainjaley, Relling, Goke, etc. Located around the rural belt of the tea growing region of the Darjeeling hills the college works towards the empowerment of students belonging from socio economically weaker section of society through quality higher education. Keeping with contemporary times the institute aims to become an epicentre of knowledge, teaching, learning and extension activities. To achieve this goal, we have a highly motivated staff and faculty who support, engage and motivate students for their holistic growth and development. Our main thrust is to make an impact in the rural areas through education, extension activities and students support system. We believe that by encouraging students to take up higher education in our college we can prepare individuals with character, ability, culture and compassion who can work towards the betterment of our society. To accomplish this, we have been visiting the surrounding schools and carrying out promotional activities for our college. We have talked with the principals, teachers and especially students of these schools and explained to them all the benefits that can be gained by joining our college. By doing this we want to ensure that we have maximum enrolment from the schools surrounding our college and that no student is left behind when it comes to the pursuit of higher education. We are providing counselling and guidance to students and their parents in regards to admissions, fees, course structure and many other activities of the college. We want to ensure that high school students of Bijanbari area choose our institute for further studies and that they receive all the support needed to fulfill their dreams of getting a degree from a recognised institution. Following our efforts, the number of students admissions in our college has increased over the years. Another positive factor that is very encouraging, is that we have a high female enrolment ratio and the number of dropouts has significantly decreased in recent years.

Since its establishment in 1995, till date we have had only two full time Principals appointed as head of the institution. In the intervening period the part time teachers and the state appointed assistant professors had been working as 'Teacher in Charge' and leading the college for many years. With limited resources, funds and teaching staff the college did not let any shortcomings get in the way of its functioning. Through the years the college has been efficiently managed by its dedicated staff and faculty. Since its inception, the college has been successfully run the with close aid and guidance from its founder members, governing body and teachers. Since 2015, the college also received Assistant Professors from West Bengal College Service Commission in subjects like Economics, Nepali, English, History, and Political Science, along with Honours course in English, Nepali, History and Political Science. The college today stands shoulder to shoulder with many colleges of the state and can deliver in any metrics required of a higher educational institute. It has well adapted to the new semester structure of the Choice Based Credit System and all that was introduced post Covid 19 era. Further, as the college is a government aided institution, it does not receive any development funds from the government, other than the salaries of government employees. All the other

activities from infrastructure augmentation, maintenance of college, bill payments to expenses for extension activities are taken care of by the college fund only.

We are now in the process of bringing in new courses and programmes and also want to add in a few courses in the science stream. We also have plans on adding a few vocational courses so that it helps our students in gaining specialized practical skills. We are working on establishing a soft skills center and providing coaching for competitive exams for our students free of cost. We have started counselling and guiding sessions for students who want to go for post graduate education. Our institution is committed to the cause of education, with the aim of providing an impartial and inclusive learning space where financial and social constraints do not impede a student's desire for learning, knowledge and growth.

Swami Vivekananda said 'Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in man', hence we believe in not just imparting learning pertaining to the curriculum structure but also providing holistic development for our students. The college aims to be an institution which gives priority for the edification of the character of its students. In our college students are urged to follow a routine and adhere to a strict code of conduct with the intention for them to become empathic, ethical and moral individuals. We as an academic institution function in a way such that, apart from imparting knowledge and information we want our students to be confident in their skills, capabilities, potential and talents.