

Leadership Matters

- Ravindra Kumar Mishra

Located at Howly, about 12 km from the district headquarter, District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Barpeta, Howly is the only premier and nodal institution in the district of Barpeta for providing academic and resource support towards universalization of elementary education and qualitative improvement of the education scenario of the district. It came into being in 1994 in compliance to National Policy of Education (NPE), 1986. DIET, Barpeta, Howly is implementing various educational programmes and schemes like SSA, RMSA, In-service Teacher Education programmes and PSTE courses under CSSTE.



Leading a team of 38 teaching and non teaching staff and hundreds of student teachers, Dr. Kula Ranjan Deka, the principal of the DIET is hailed across for his vision and has many feathers to his cap. “Transforming and sharing knowledge is equally important as Acquiring Knowledge”, he says. Accessible to all, Self confident and committed Dr. Deka always strives for the growth and development of institution in a holistic way. Mentoring and hand holding is an inevitable part of his routine. In his career of more than two decades, he is famous for punctuality and intention to refrain from procrastination. His being diabetic never encumbrances in his dedication. His rapid and effective management skills have added value to the institution.

There are sizeable number of untrained teachers in the district. Bringing them into the ambit of training through open and distance learning has been a challenge. Despite constraints like limited infrastructure, shortage of requisite number of faculty members, experts and absence of equipment did not deter his purpose to bring untrained teachers into the domain of attaining a professional course. The first challenge was ascertaining the number of untrained teachers in the district. This is because of different category of teachers have been appointed during the course of time and UDISE being data being one year old. He started convening meetings of pertinent officers and officials of the district and it took a fortnight to arrive at a number of untrained teachers. It seemed that number is too large to manage at DIET level. He discussed it with his team at DIET and delegated responsibilities among them. Each afternoon was devoted to planning and management, review of progress, beginning with admission of untrained teachers, their seating arrangement, self learning material, acquainting and mentoring faculty members so that they do not lose heart due to constraints.

“An orientation workshop on implementation of D.El.Ed through ODL mode organised by SCERT in collaboration with UNICEF Assam was an edge over the hurdles” says Dr. Deka and his team.

Dr. Deka and his team organised cultural programmes on independence day and teachers day and felicitated trainees in these events. This opened opportunity of interaction between Pre-service trainees and untrained teachers. This opened the door of awareness and untrained teachers throng at DIET for admission to ODL course.

It was an occasion for Dr. Deka and his team to disseminate information and meeting the requirement of study centres and resource persons for effectively running the ODL course for untrained teachers. The very next day probable resource persons were at DIET with their application and document for preliminary discussion. It was all his team members and time to time support from SCERT and UNICEF played pivotal role from scratch to planning, designing and roll out of ODL course . Today untrained teacher are admitted, classes are being held regularly, faculty and RPs are optimally utilizing the time and space under the able guidance, support and hand holding of players in the team.



Faculty members at DIET unanimously proclaimed that it is Dr. Deka whose non discrimination towards faculty and students, sharing small – small things, participatory approach and looking and using every opportunity of professional development of faculty member has enhanced the capacity of the DIET as a whole. Full credit goes to Dr. Deka, the Principal in preparing a group that is full of team spirit and going place.

Dr. Deka and his team shares that they would leave no stone unturned for hundred percent success of untrained teachers. He wishes that he wants every untrained teachers must learn how to impart learning and substantiate his certificate with knowledge for the benefit of children.

I wish every success to Dr. Deka and his team in their determined effort. May you achieve many more like this:



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