



KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (KISS)
Deemed to be University, Bhubaneswar - 751024
(Declared under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

6.5.1 IQAC initiatives

Q: Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) has contributed significantly for institutionalizing the quality assurance strategies and processes, by constantly reviewing the teaching-learning process, structures & methodologies of operations and learning outcomes, at periodic intervals.

Describe two practices institutionalized as a result of IQAC initiatives within a maximum of 500 words

A: Since its inception in 2019, IQAC has been working on processes and procedures for improving quality of teaching-learning and research in the institution. It has developed quality benchmarks for various academic and administrative activities of the university and making out gap-analysis. The IQAC has contributed significantly for institutionalizing many quality assurance strategies and processes in the University. The following are two important practices:

1. Innovative Teaching-Learning Pedagogy

To improve students' learning, a variety of cutting-edge teaching-learning strategies are used, such as experiential learning, participatory learning, problem-solving techniques, brain-storming, concentrated group discussions, peer teaching, internet contact, etc. Students benefit from these teaching-learning processes by developing their creativity, originality, intellectual and thinking abilities, empathy, life skills, etc. The faculty members typically prepare MOOCs, e-learning resources, and integrate ICT for effective teaching with Learning Management Systems (LMS). ICT support for education is advocated for students.

Through specially created activities like lesson plans, the use of and integration of technology, field trips, internships, out-reach activities, etc., universities offer opportunities for teachers to build their competences and skills in numerous areas for student-centric learning.

University provides exposure to students on recent trends and developments in the field of education through special lectures by experts Professors Emeriti, seminars, practical training by Professors of Practice. The institution also encourages the students for innovative indigenous entrepreneurship in their own locality and community. Students are encouraged to capitalize on their felt experiences, converting them into academic knowledge for wider dissemination. Constant review of teaching learning process is sought through continuous evaluation, feedback mechanism and self-satisfaction survey reports.

2. Mentor-Mentee System

The Mentor-Mentee System is one of the best practices of KISS Deemed to be University. It has been put in place and monitored by the IQAC. Inspired by the exemplary ideal of the ancient Gurukul System, the practice aims at strengthening the bond between 'teachers' and 'students' (Mentor and Mentee). Since KISS-DU students live on a residential campus and most students are first-generation learners from marginalized communities, providing them with a "Home away from Home" experience through strong interpersonal connections with the teachers beyond the classroom is necessary to reduce any felt sense of alienation and optimize their academic and extracurricular potential. The IQAC has therefore initiated a robust mentor-mentee system. Every faculty member is entrusted with the mentorship of 1:11 students. Every mentor holds interactive sessions (every Saturday) with their mentees, listening to their extra academic concerns and helping and counselling them to settle down to

a life of intensive academic and sporting engagement. The mentors play a vital role in recommending particular remedial programmes for the slow learners. Moreover, they often visit the hostels, checking out how the mentees are faring. They keep track of the physical and psychological health of the mentees, encouraging their aspirations and addressing their anxieties. Over time, mentees treat their mentors as extended family members and vice versa. The mentor-mentee system has been a roaring success, to the extent that the students live a home away from home experience on campus.