

**DON BOSCO COLLEGE, ITANAGAR
ARUNACHAL PRADESH**

Institutional Good Practices across Don Bosco Higher Educational Institutions in South Asia

Title of Best Practice of Don Bosco College, Itanagar:

Academic Excellence and Student Empowerment through a Culture of Recognition, Regularity and Inclusive Support

1. Objectives of the Practice

Objective 1: To motivate students towards academic excellence, regular attendance, leadership and overall performance through systematic recognition and awards.

Objective 2: To promote inclusive and equitable access to higher education by providing financial support to deserving students, particularly girls and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

2. The Context

Higher education requires more than academic achievement. Sustained motivation, regular attendance, leadership, recognition and financial support are important for students' successful participation and development. In Arunachal Pradesh, geographical conditions and the economic circumstances of some families can create additional challenges in accessing and continuing higher education.

Recognising these realities, Don Bosco College, Itanagar has developed a structured system of awards and financial support. The practice brings together academic awards, attendance-based recognition, leadership awards, special recognition for girl students and freeship for deserving students. The initiative to recognise regular attendance was introduced to promote regularity and attentiveness in class, particularly in an environment where attendance was often not given adequate importance. Thus, the practice seeks to build a positive institutional culture in which academic performance, regularity, leadership, gender inclusion and financial need are given due importance.

3. The Practice

Throughout the academic year, the College implements nine complementary awards and support initiatives:

- i. **SUPER STUDENT Award:** This award is instituted by DBC for the student who excels in the University examination every year. Student obtaining highest marks across all Programmes and Departments in the University examination receive this Cash Award at the end of the academic year. Total Marks of two Semesters are counted for this award.

ii. **BEST STUDENT Award:** The Best Student Award is for every department (4 batches together) and it is decided at the end of the academic year after the RGU result. The highest scoring student in each department receives this Cash Award.

iii. **BEST CLASS CAPTAIN AWARD:** This award is given at the end of the Academic Year to the best performing Class Captain - Boy's Captain and Girl's Captain. Selection is based on the overall performance of the Class Captains for the entire academic year.

iv. **BOSCO CENTENARY AWARD:** This award is instituted in 2023 to mark the centenary of the arrival of the Salesians of Don Bosco to North East India (1922-2022). The first group of 11 Salesians led by Fr. Louis Mathias (later Monsignor Louis Mathias) arrived at Guwahati on 12th January, 1922 and on 13th January they reached Shillong, which would become the centre of the Salesian work in the North East for a long time. At present, there are three Provinces in the North East: Guwahati (1959), Dimapur (1981) and Shillong (2012). This award gratefully remembers the contributions of the Salesians of Don Bosco to North East India and particularly to the State of Arunachal Pradesh in UG & PG courses. This award is given to the toppers of each department for both Odd and Even Semesters. There are 12 departments in DBC and hence 52 students receive this award in a Semester ($10 \times 4 = 48$; $2 \times 2 = 4$) ($48 + 4 = 52$). The college grants cash award and certificate to the toppers.

v. **DR. FR. R.K.G. NICHOLAS AWARD:** This Award is in memory of Late Dr. Fr. R.K.G. Nicholas, the former Principal of Don Bosco College (2011 - 2017). The college grants cash award and citation to the Rank Holders in the Final Examination of the University. Their names are also entered in the HALL of FAME.

vi. **FR. THOMAS SALEW AWARD:** This Award is instituted in memory of Late Fr. Thomas Salew who was the Vice Principal of DBC. Students who secure 100% attendance in a semester receive this cash award as acknowledgement for their regularity in class.

vii. **DBC Award:** This Award is given to encourage the students who make efforts to be regular for class. Students who secure 90% and above attendance in a Semester receive cash award.

viii. **BETI PADHAO Award:** This award is instituted to promote the education of girls. Girls obtaining highest marks in 1st, 3rd & 5th Semester in UG & PG RGU Examination receive this Cash Award. Five girl students receive this award every year from 1st, 2nd & 3rd Year UG & PG.

ix. **FREESHIP:** Don Bosco College, Itanagar provides complete freeship to truly deserving students from across Arunachal Pradesh who face financial difficulties in pursuing higher education. Each Salesian Centre in Arunachal Pradesh nominates two deserving students from the respective Centre's jurisdiction. There are 15 Salesian Institutions and Centres in Arunachal Pradesh and a total number of 30 deserving students received Freeship in the College (2 nomination from each of 15 centre) The beneficiaries are sincere and dedicated students who may otherwise be unable to afford higher education in Don Bosco College. The initiative contributes to the broader mission of the Don Bosco College to eradicate poverty through education.

4. Evidence of Success

The practice has established a multi-dimensional system of student recognition covering academic achievement, University performance, attendance, leadership, gender inclusion and financial need.

In the 2024–25 academic session, the College secured 38 Top Ten rank holders in the Rajiv Gandhi University Examination, comprising 5 Gold Medalists (2 in Commerce, 1 in English, 1 in Sociology and 1 in Social Work) and 33 other top-10 rank holders (1 from Social Work, 3 from Economics, 7 from English, 3 from History, 2 from Political Science, 8 from Sociology and 9 from Commerce) across different disciplines. The names of University rank holders are also recorded in the College Hall of Fame.

The attendance awards have contributed to improved regularity, with the majority of students now securing more than 80% attendance. The BETI PADHAO Award has encouraged a competitive academic environment among girl students. The freeship initiative has enabled deserving students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education at the College.

5. Problems Encountered and Resources Required

- i. Sustaining financial support: Regular awards and freeship create an additional financial burden on the College despite limited resources.
- ii. Infrastructure and connectivity constraints: Shortages of ICT equipments, internet connectivity problems and fluctuations in electricity affect academic activities.
- iii. Human-resource constraints: Non-availability of technical staff and faculty members can affect the effective implementation of academic initiatives.
- iv. Identification of freeship beneficiaries: Verifying and identifying genuinely deserving students through nominations from different parts of the state can be challenging.
- v. Limited external support: Greater support and coordination from government and other agencies would help reduce resource constraints and strengthen the initiatives.

6. Resources Required

The practice requires financial, human, technological and institutional resources. Financial resources are required for cash awards, certificates and freeship support. Faculty and administrative staff are required for monitoring attendance, verifying academic results, coordinating awards and supporting beneficiaries. ICT facilities, reliable internet connectivity and electricity are necessary for academic monitoring and University-related activities. Institutional coordination with Salesian Centre, government agencies and other supporting organisations is also important for effective implementation and future expansion.

7. Any Other Points to be Noted:

The College intends to sustain and strengthen the existing system of recognition and student support. Future efforts may include greater collaboration with government and other agencies to expand financial support, strengthen infrastructure and improve the reach of the freeship initiative. The College also aims to further institutionalise data-based monitoring of academic performance and attendance so that the practice can be strengthened and its outcomes documented more systematically.

Figure 01: Hall of Fame – 38 Top Ten Ranks for DBC in RGU

