

## **Institutional Distinctiveness of Kohima College: Promotion of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Systems**

Kohima College is the only government college- offering Arts and Commerce streams in Kohima District. It has good infrastructural facility and the most experienced faculty. Students from all tribes of Nagaland vibrate for seats each year to further their academic studies and ambitions. Currently, one of the most important distinctiveness of Kohima College is its commitment towards learning and re-learning and preserving Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Systems. Given the sweeping forces of modernisation, westernisation and globalisation, we felt the need to promote and preserve the traditional knowledge systems of the local people.

In keeping with the NEP 2020, which aims to make education more holistic, the college aims to promote Traditional Indigenous Knowledge on Naga traditions. In this regard, two papers of 50 marks each (2 Credits each) have been submitted to the Academic Council of Nagaland University for approval. This is to expose students to Indigenous Knowledge system with special reference to Nagas. Three research projects related to Traditional Indigenous Knowledge are also being undertaken by faculty and students in line with NEP 2020 which envisages importance of research, innovation and development in education.

As part of this distinctiveness, indigenous sport is also being promoted. Naga wrestling has been a prominent feature of our sports week for many years now. It is patronised by the faculty. Dr. Libanthung Ngullie, the former Principal of the college has agreed to donate Rs. 10,000/- every year till his death for this particular cause. We have seen renewed interests in traditional Naga wrestling among students who went on to represent the college and their community at the state level. We look forward to such more feats at the national and international levels. We plan to introduce more indigenous sports and games and also conduct research on these games to revitalise these traditional knowledge systems.

In keeping with our distinctiveness, we are also planning to introduce/provide platform to indigenous communities to popularise traditional crafts/skills and knowledge which will also promote livelihood avenues for our students. A book on traditional knowledge system and its application is also being planned very shortly. This distinctiveness goes hand in hand with our college's best practices on cultural conservation where we promote cultural conservation through various activities such as Cultural Wednesdays, Annual Cultural Day and dissemination of such relevant information through our social media handles.