NAAC Criterion 7

Institutional Values and Best Practices

NAAC Criterion 7: Institutional Values and Best Practices

This document presents Lala Rural College's commitment to institutional values, social responsibility, and best practices under NAAC Criterion 7. It highlights the institution's initiatives and efforts in promoting gender equity, environmental sustainability, inclusivity, human values, professional ethics, and institutional distinctiveness. These initiatives reflect the college's commitment to quality education, holistic student development, and meaningful community engagement.

METRIC: 7.1.1

Gender Equity & Sensitisation

Lala Rural College upholds gender equality as a fundamental institutional value and actively promotes gender equity through regular awareness and sensitisation programmes.

Key Institutional Initiatives:

- **Gender Equity Programmes:** Regularly organising programmes to promote gender equality and awareness.
- **Expert Engagement:** Inviting eminent guest speakers from diverse fields to highlight the significance, achievements, and contributions of women in society.
- **Gender Sensitisation:** Promoting gender sensitivity as an integral part of the institutional culture and extending awareness to the neighbouring community.
- **Equal Opportunities:** Ensuring equal opportunities for all individuals without discrimination.

Commitment to Equality and Non-Discrimination:

The college upholds the highest ethical standards and ensures equal treatment irrespective of gender, race, caste, colour, creed, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or any other status.

Enrolment & Staff Representation

- The college's unique work culture, healthy traditions, and inclusive ethos have resulted in approximately 70% women student enrolment and 45% women staff — a testament to the institution's genuine commitment to gender equity and a welcoming academic environment.



Gender Sensitisation Programmes

Gender sensitisation programmes undertaken by the college encompass the following key themes:

- Women's rights and empowerment
- Gender justice and legal awareness
- Gender equality in academic and professional settings
- Prevention of gender-based discrimination and harassment

These programmes are coordinated through various Cells of the IQAC and are integrated into both curricular and co-curricular activities throughout the academic year.



Safety, Security, Counselling & Common Rooms

Safety, security, and well-being — along with gender equity and a friendly working atmosphere — are issues of prime concern to the college. Lala Rural College has established comprehensive infrastructure and support systems to ensure a safe, supportive, and inclusive campus environment for all students and staff members.

Safety & Security

- Extensive surveillance network with 64 CCTV cameras across the campus.
- Strict implementation of Anti-Ragging and Anti-Drug campus policies.
- Regular awareness campaigns on women's safety and gender sensitivity through IQAC Cells
- Separate common rooms for boys and girls with dedicated Professor-in-Charges

Counselling Support

- Formal and informal counselling avenues available for both male and female students and staff.
- Academic, personal, and professional guidance provided on a regular basis.
- Dedicated Grievance Redressal Committees for both staff and students.
- Confidential and empathetic handling of all concerns raised.

Common Rooms

- Separate common rooms provided for men and women across the campus.
- Facilities designed to facilitate meetings, discussions, and leisure-time interactions.
- Supervised by dedicated faculty members to ensure a respectful environment.
- Spaces that promote informal peer support and community building.



METRIC: 7.1.2

Environmental Consciousness and Sustainability

Lala Rural College is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through the adoption of energy-efficient practices, renewable energy sources, and systematic resource conservation measures.

Key Institutional Initiatives:

- **Sustainable Energy Practices:** Implementing measures to promote efficient and responsible energy utilisation across the campus.
- **Alternative Energy Sources:** Encouraging the use of renewable and alternative sources of energy.
- **Energy Conservation:** Adopting systematic measures to reduce energy consumption and minimise wastage.
- **Carbon Footprint Reduction:** Undertaking initiatives to minimise the institution's environmental impact.

These initiatives reflect the college's commitment to environmental responsibility, energy efficiency, and sustainable campus development.

Solar Energy

- Solar energy installations harness renewable sunlight to generate electricity for campus operations, reducing dependence on conventional grid power and lowering operational costs.



Sensor-Based Energy Conservation

- Automated sensor-based systems control lighting and equipment usage, ensuring energy is consumed only when and where needed, significantly reducing wastage.

LED & Power-Efficient Equipment

- Campus-wide replacement of conventional lighting with LED bulbs and procurement of power-efficient equipment have substantially reduced overall energy consumption.

NAAC Compliance Options: B. Any 3



METRIC: 7.1.3

Waste Management Systems

Lala Rural College is committed to minimising its environmental footprint through systematic waste management practices, focusing on waste reduction, segregation, recycling, and reuse of materials.

Key Waste Management Initiatives:

- **Waste Reduction:** Promoting practices to minimise waste generation across the campus.
- **Reuse and Recycling:** Encouraging the reuse and recycling of materials to conserve natural resources.
- **Waste Segregation:** Implementing a systematic process for segregating waste into three primary categories:
  - Organic Waste
  - Inorganic Waste
  - E-Waste

These initiatives reflect the college's commitment to responsible waste disposal, resource conservation, and environmental sustainability.

Organic Waste Management

- Organic waste generated through routine campus activities — including paper, food scraps, and dry leaves — is collected by volunteers of the Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIC).
- This waste serves as raw material for the preparation of Vermi-compost within the campus, converting waste into valuable organic fertilizer that can be used for campus landscaping and gardening.



Inorganic Waste Management

- Inorganic waste generated through routine campus activities is disposed of at the designated municipal dumping ground, as the college does not currently operate an in-house treatment plant for such materials.
- The institution works in coordination with local municipal authorities to ensure responsible disposal.

E-Waste Management

- E-waste generated from hardware that cannot be reused or recycled is disposed of centrally through authorized vendors, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and responsible handling of electronic waste materials.

METRIC: 7.1.4

Water conservation facilities

Lala Rural College has integrated water storage and conservation practices into its institutional planning, reflecting a deep commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable campus development.

Water Conservation Facilities

- Construction of tanks and bunds — water storage infrastructure to manage seasonal rainfall.
- Maintenance of water bodies — upkeep of campus water bodies and distribution systems

NAAC Compliance Options (Both Metrics): C. Any 2



METRIC: 7.1.5

Green Campus Initiatives

Lala Rural College has integrated conservation practices and green campus initiatives into its institutional planning, reflecting a deep commitment to sustainable campus development.

- Ban on use of plastic — strict prohibition of single-use plastics within the campus premises.
- Landscaping with trees and plants — extensive plantation drives and green cover enhancement across the campus

NAAC Compliance Options (Both Metrics): C. Any 2



METRIC: 7.1.6 & 7.1.7

Environmental Audit and Disabled friendly, Barrier Free Environment

Environmental Audits & Barrier-Free Environment

Lala Rural College has been working on to achieve the following targets at the earliest possible time:

Quality Audits on Environment & Energy (7.1.6)

- Green Audit — assessment of the institution's overall environmental impact and green practices
- Energy Audit — systematic review of energy consumption patterns and efficiency measures
- Environment Audit — comprehensive evaluation of environmental management systems
- Clean & Green Campus Recognitions/Awards — external validations of the institution's environmental commitment
- Beyond-campus environmental promotional activities — outreach programmes extending environmental awareness to the wider community

Disabled-Friendly, Barrier-Free Environment (7.1.7)

- Built environment — ramps and lifts for easy access to classrooms and all campus facilities
- Disabled-friendly washrooms — specially designed restrooms accommodating mobility challenges
- Signage — tactile paths, appropriate lighting, display boards, and signposts for navigation
- Assistive technology — accessible website, screen-reading software, and mechanised equipment
- Enquiry & information support — human assistance, reader services, scribes, soft copies of reading materials, and screen-reading facilities

NAAC Compliance Options (Both Metrics): E. None

METRIC: 7.1.8

Inclusion and Situatedness

Inclusion & harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal Socioe-economic and other diversities

Lala Rural College fosters an inclusive campus environment based on mutual respect, tolerance, and harmony among individuals from diverse cultural, regional, linguistic, communal, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Key Institutional Initiatives:

- **Inclusive Environment:** Promoting tolerance, mutual respect, and harmony among students and employees from diverse backgrounds.
- **Cultural and Social Diversity:** Encouraging acceptance and appreciation of different cultural, regional, linguistic, and communal identities.
- **Constitutional Awareness:** Sensitising students and employees to their constitutional values, rights, duties, and responsibilities as citizens.

These initiatives reflect the college's commitment to inclusivity, social harmony, and the promotion of constitutional values.

Inclusion and Situatedness

Lala Rural College promotes an inclusive and harmonious campus environment through various sports and cultural activities that encourage mutual respect, understanding, and interaction among students from diverse backgrounds.

Key Institutional Initiatives:

- **Sports and Cultural Activities:** Organising various activities to promote harmony, mutual respect, and inclusivity among students.
- **Code of Ethics for Students:** Implementing a prescribed code of ethics to guide student conduct and behaviour.
- **Code of Ethics for Teachers and Employees:** Maintaining a separate code of ethics for teachers and employees to ensure professional conduct.

These codes are applicable to all, irrespective of cultural, regional, linguistic, communal, or socio-economic backgrounds, reinforcing the college's commitment to equality, inclusivity, and institutional harmony.

Inclusion, Harmony & harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal Socio-economic and other diversities

Commemorative & Cultural Celebrations

- Women's Day,
- International Yoga Day
- Martyr's Day & Patriots' Day
- National Sports Day
- Saraswati Puja,
- Basanta Utsav,
- Milad-Mehfil,

These celebrations establish positive interaction among people of different racial and cultural backgrounds, reinforcing the institution's commitment to "Unity in Diversity."



METRIC: 7.1.9. 7.1.10 & 7.1.11

Human Values and Professional Ethics

The college is committed to developing students into responsible citizens alongside providing a strong academic foundation. Various faculties organise activities to promote national integration and the spirit of **"Unity in Diversity."**

Key Areas of Awareness and Activities:

- **Constitutional Values:** Creating awareness about the Constitution of India and its core values.
- **National Identity:** Promoting awareness of national identities and symbols, with emphasis on a nation-first policy.
- **Citizenship Responsibilities:** Educating students about the Fundamental Duties and Rights of Indian citizens.
- **National Celebrations:** Organising Independence Day, Republic Day, and National Voters' Day celebrations with active participation and enthusiasm.

Students actively participate in these initiatives, reflecting the college's efforts to foster responsible citizenship and strengthen national values.



Human Values and Professional Ethics

Code of Conduct

The institution has a prescribed code of conduct for students, teachers, administrators, and other staff, and conducts periodic programmes to ensure adherence and awareness across all stakeholder groups.

- Code displayed on the website — publicly accessible to all stakeholders
- Dedicated monitoring committee — ensures adherence to the Code of Conduct
- Professional ethics programmes — organised for students, teachers, administrators, and staff
- Annual awareness programmes — regular sessions reinforcing the Code of Conduct

NAAC Compliance Options: A. All

National and International Commemorative Days, Events and Festivals

Lala Rural College celebrates a wide range of national and international commemorative days, events, and festivals every year, ensuring active participation from students and faculty:

- Patriots' Day — 13th August, commemorating Bir Tikendrajit's sacrifice
- Independence Day — Flag hoisting and principal's address on 15th August
- National Sports Day — honouring Dhyan Chand with sports events
- Teacher's Day — acknowledging the special role of educators
- International Day of Non-Violence — 2nd October, Gandhi Jayanti



National and International Commemorative Days, Events and Festivals

- Constitution Day — 26th November, with quizzes and discussions
- Human Rights Day — 10th December, focusing on vulnerable groups
- Republic Day — 26th January, with flag unfurling ceremony
- International Women's Day — 8th March, celebrating women's achievements



National and International Commemorative Days, Events and Festivals

- Chatra Divas — 31st March, commemorating Bodofa Upendra Nath Brahma
- Rabindra Jayanti — 9th May, honouring Tagore's legacy
- Bhasha Shahid Divas — 19th May, remembering language martyrs of 1961
- World Environment Day — Sapling plantation drives on campus
- International Yoga Day — NSS-organised yoga activities for health awareness



Institutional Best Practices

Beyond compliance with prescribed metrics, Lala Rural College has identified and implemented distinctive best practices that set it apart as an institution of excellence, social responsibility, and student welfare.

Best Practice 1: Comprehensive Gender Equity Framework

The college has institutionalised a comprehensive gender equity framework through the following initiatives:

- **Safety Infrastructure:** Installation of 64 CCTV cameras across the campus to strengthen safety and security.
- **Counselling Services:** Provision of dedicated counselling services for students.
- **Separate Common Rooms:** Availability of separate common rooms for male and female students.
- **Anti-Ragging and Anti-Drug Policies:** Implementation of policies to maintain a safe and supportive campus environment.
- **Gender Sensitisation Programmes:** Regular organisation of programmes to promote gender equality and awareness.

Best Practice 2: Free General Insurance for Students

Lala Rural College provides free general insurance coverage to all students as a distinctive institutional welfare initiative.

Key Features:

- **Free Insurance Coverage:** General insurance is provided free of cost to all students.
- **Student Protection:** Provides financial protection against unforeseen circumstances.
- **Financial Security:** Helps reduce students' financial anxiety.
- **Academic Focus:** Enables students to concentrate on their academic pursuits and personal development.

This initiative reflects the college's commitment to holistic student welfare, financial security, and student support beyond the classroom.

Institutional Distinctiveness

Institutional Distinctiveness: Environmental Stewardship

Lala Rural College demonstrates its institutional commitment to environmental stewardship through an integrated approach to sustainability.

Key Environmental Initiatives:

- **Vermi-composting:** Promoting organic waste management and recycling.
- **Solar Energy:** Utilising renewable energy sources.
- **Waste Segregation:** Ensuring systematic waste management and disposal.
- **Water Conservation:** Promoting responsible water storage and conservation practices.
- **Green Campus Initiatives:** Encouraging environmental sustainability through plantation and green campus development.

Community Outreach Initiatives:

- Organisation of NSS health camps.
- Conduct of blood donation drives.

These initiatives reflect the college's commitment to environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and sustainable development, positioning Lala Rural College as a model for rural higher education institutions.