



A Tribute to **Jalpaiguri Govt. Engineering College**

Alumni Corpus Fund for Development of JGEC

Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College Alumni



Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
INTRODUCTION	4
WHY NOW?	4
THE FUND – WHAT FOR ?	4
1. FACULTY.....	5
2. STUDENTS.....	5
3. INFRASTRUCTURE	6
4. PLACEMENT	7
WAY FORWARD	8
STEP – 1: Core Committee Formation.....	8
STEP – 2: Individual Year-Wise Feedback.....	9
STEP – 3: Preparation of Master Plan	9
STEP – 4: Fund Utilization Areas.....	9
STEP – 5: Modus Operandi for Fund Utilization	10
CONCLUSION	12



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CORPUS FUND is the capital of an organization - the fund generated and kept for the existence and sustenance of the organization. Normally, a corpus fund denotes a permanent fund kept for the basic expenditures needed for the administration and survival of the organization.

< Plan is to build a fund of one million USD >

- Part of the fund could be utilized for asset creation; rest of it will be kept in Fixed Deposit.
- Interest from this FD will be used for financing different schemes for all round and continuing development of JGEC.

This theme paper deals with:

1. The objective behind this fund collection exercise
2. Means and modalities of collection
3. Guidelines for fund management – disbursement, auditing etc.



INTRODUCTION

Most of us, **JOLUITES** feel that we owe our present position, wealth and status in the society, (primarily) to the B.E. degree from our Alma Mater – Jalpaiguri Govt. Engineering College. The institution has a special place in our hearts and every single one of us would love to express our gratitude towards JGEC.

Piecemeal efforts have been made over the years by individual alumnus of different cities and batches like '67, '81 etc. to pitch in towards this goal. Recently, the Alumni based out of the College Campus and also the one in Kolkata are making special efforts towards this goal. Even the newest chapter in Dubai and the veteran ones in Durgapur, Raniganj and New Delhi etc are seriously deliberating on what can be done from their end for the betterment of the college.

It is high time now come to show, that our beloved institution has not only churned out fine engineers over the years, but, these engineers are fine human beings too, with a strong sense of responsibility towards their Alma Mater.

And, the most appropriate way to do so is to coordinate the efforts of all the individuals and the alumni to prepare a **plan**, organize the **funds** and agree on a **modus operandi** to implement the plan.

WHY NOW?

Our college dates back to 1961 with the first batch coming out in 1966.

Why, then, we decided to take this drive now? Two primary reasons:

Advent of Online Social Networking: Social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter etc. have made it very convenient for us to establish communication with our batch mates, as well as other JOLUITES. This in turn, has strengthened the college oriented bond amongst all of us.

2011 Golden Jubilee Year: Through the Golden Jubilee celebrations, numerous contacts have been reestablished, sincere efforts have been made to generate funds, arrange functions and programs successfully. All in all, the connections have created the right dynamics to embark on this ambitious project of fund collection.

In addition, recent reports in media about Alumni of different institutions across the country (like IITs, St. Xaviers, Presidency) donating huge fund to their Alma Mater, have also motivated many of us.

Finally, as stated in the beginning, the urge to do something for JOLU is in the hearts and minds of most of us, and now some of us are just trying to take the initiative to channelize this urge and translate it into something more tangible and productive for the overall benefit of our college.



Necessity of the Fund:

Among many things, an educational institution builds its reputation primarily on the strength of its faculty, students, infrastructure, research projects, external funding from private - public sources and placement etc.

These prime factors with relevance to JGEC are addressed individually in the following slides

1. FACULTY

During the '70s and '80s, we had some renowned professors viz. Dr. B. Sen, Dr. N.C. Sinha, Prof. N.K. Majumdar. However, JGEC has hardly ever had its full complement of faculty in last 50 years. Our Alma Mater being a government institution, we do not have any direct control over the faculty scenario.

Nevertheless, interaction with present and past faculty reveals us how we can strive to attract and retain quality teachers. For example, faculty could be motivated through:

1. Sponsoring the education of the wards of the faculty members
2. Better living conditions with swimming pool, indoor courts, better housing etc
3. Encouragement for Ph.D. etc in foreign universities by offering air fares & stipend
4. Initiate a 'Faculty of the year' cash award with a substantial sum
5. Fully paid trip to anywhere in India, if they can publish a paper in a reputed journal in India or abroad
6. Professor Emeritus chairs for different departments

These are just a few examples of what can be done to attract good faculty

2. STUDENTS

Despite mushrooming of private engineering colleges over the last decade, JGEC still attracts a good crop of students every year.

1. But, after passing out, competing with the IITs, NITs in the job market is not easy. 25 years ago, PSUs recruited engineers in bulk through written exams, there was hardly any IT sector to speak of, and even in places like Jadavpur, Shibpur or Durgapur, campus interviews used to offer placements only to a few of the students.
2. Time has changed, PSUs do not hire as much anymore. Campus Interview is a critical component in the placement equation now. And, this is where our students are getting hurt.
3. Remoteness, Industry's / Recruiters' lack of knowledge regarding the quality of our students and inadequate marketing are hindrances to getting more companies to the campus. Occasional recklessness on the part of students themselves (e.g. getting arrested for ragging, students expiring mysteriously inside the campus etc) adds to the woes by attracting negative publicity.
4. Finally, the inability of majority of our students to communicate effectively in English puts them at a disadvantage during campus interview, GD etc.

With the help of the fund, a lot can be done to ameliorate this situation

Some of the measures that come to mind immediately for improvement are:

1. Start a **web site** with some nice pictures, incorporating



A Tribute to JGEC

- a. All relevant information on admission, departments, faculty, library, hostel, sports and entertainment facilities, anti ragging initiatives, affordable mess bills.
 - b. Remoteness of the institution should be touted as a plus point – absence of usual distraction of metros and the feeling that they are slightly out of sight for the rest of the world, could actually motivate the students to work harder.
 - c. Emphasis should be put on the proximity to Himalayas and Dooars, offering the unique opportunity of making trips on a shoe string budget to some of the most beautiful tourist spots in the country.
 - d. Annual socials and other inter college events to be highlighted.
 - e. Brief write up on high profile ex students who have been successful in Research, Academics, Industry, Govt. Jobs, Politics, Social Service or any other field.
2. A group of ex students, up to date with all the recent info of the college, needs to set up a **help desk** every year at the counseling venue to educate Joint Entrance qualifiers and motivate some of the good ones to join the college.
 3. Education department offers a number of need based scholarship every year. To appreciate, recognize and motivate meritorious students, three toppers from every department to be awarded cash prize every year.
 4. Students who perform well and show the inclination to go for higher studies in reputed universities abroad can be encouraged by updating them about the education scenario in UK, US, Singapore, Canada etc. If they succeed to secure admission with financial assistance in a good foreign University and if they are from a needy background, their air fares and small start up sums can be arranged
 5. Any student faring well in any type of competition outside the college, can be rewarded .
 6. Tete`-a-tete` with ex students during College socials or Foundation day ceremonies can be given a fillip with primary aim to instil confidence in them and help to remove the slightest trace of inferiority complex (vis Jadavpur, Shibpur, NITs and IITs) in them.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE

This is a core area and can offer maximum visibility when we try to sell our college to the outside world. Dilapidated buildings, cramming of students even in the senior most hostel , antiquated auditorium etc. do not exactly send the right signal of being a top flight institution.

1. **Hostels:** For many years, the student intake stagnated at ± 150 . With new departments, the strength has gone up 3 times. At least one hostel is an immediate necessity
2. **AC auditorium:** 1,000 seater with modern gadgets & facilities is a must
3. **Labs and workshops:** Adequately equipped for post graduate level research etc
4. **Library:** A well stacked library, properly catalogued and with comfortable seating arrangement that can encourage students to spend time in there
5. **Indoor Badminton Court:** Once the auditorium is in place, the old one can be refurbished into small complex with two badminton courts if possible
6. **Guest House:** A building with Global alumni office, a small reception and a conference hall to accommodate 25 -30 people on the ground floor. Dining cum living hall and 5-6 tastefully decorated rooms on the upper floor
7. **Swimming Pool:** there is no swimming pool worth the name in the entire Jalpaiguri town. An international standard swimming pool will definitely enhance the image of the college
8. **Research Projects:**



- a. Research has never been a priority area in our college and to bring about a change in that mindset will be a challenge. But, it is critical for overall improvement of college standard and earn acclaim in the academia.
- b. If there is adequate opportunity in the College for value added research, it would motivate quality individuals to join as Faculty and will also encourage the industry to invest in the specific projects.
- c. Faculty has to submit concrete proposals for research and if they do not get positive response for funding from the college, the corpus fund can always pitch in, through funding for sophisticated instruments / equipment etc.
- d. Also, the incentive and similar other options for publishing papers in journals will motivate research minded professors.

9. Private and Public Funding:

- a. It is not easy to get outside funding, especially with recession all around. But, there are always windows of opportunities e.g. jubilees of PSUs (when they open their string), special schemes from MNC or large private sector firms. Our ex students in these organizations need to be on the lookout to put forward appeals on behalf of our college wherever and whenever possible. Even if two out of twenty attempts succeed, it can mean an extra few Lakhs worth of fund.
- b. Alumni chapters spread across the country and abroad arrange different functions and get together from time to time. 10% of the collections for organizing these events can be set aside for augmenting the Corpus Fund.

4. PLACEMENT

This is probably the single most important criteria from student's and parents' point of view while selecting the college. Slide 6 kind of highlights the shortcomings that are plaguing the issue of Placement in our college.

1. **Training and Placement Officer (TPO)** is a crucial post. We need to have more say in this appointment and if necessary use a part of the fund to motivate (outside Govt. system) the right candidate (preferably a Joluite, but with right credentials) for this post. Also, funds can be allocated for TPO's expenses to meet the recruiters from the different companies.
2. **Teacher exclusively for spoken English** to overcome the shortcoming as mentioned in slide 6, should be a priority. We can arrange with British Council / USIS or some other reputed institution to appoint one. He / she should be stationed at or near the College and take classes everyday. The enrollment should be optional and with a nominal fee, just to keep the non serious students out. The same teacher should be capable of preparing them for job interviews through mock interviews and GDs and help the students improve their overall personality.
3. **Ex students** in influential positions at their work place need to be on the lookout for any **vacancies in their organizations** that are planned to be filled through campus interviews and accordingly inform the TPO and the alumni to follow it up.
4. **Ex students** who own companies and can afford to **hire pass out students** even for a short period, should always try to do so.

ONE MILLION USD, too much – not really !!

- a. **45 batches passed out so far. Say, on average , there were 125 students in each batch.**
- b. A conservative estimate of total ex student strength = $45 \times 125 = 5625$



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- c. We need to approach at least 90% or ~5,000 students.
- d. The following table in INR will give us an idea what we should aim for :

Fund Collection Table (proposed)

Distribution		Contribution, Rs.	
Percentage	Number	Per Head	Group
50%	2500	5000	12500000
25%	1250	10000	12500000
15%	750	20000	15000000
7.5%	375	25000	9375000
2.25%	113	50000	5625000
0.25%	13	100000	1250000
Total		Rs.56250000	

This may sound a bit too ambitious for some of us.

But, if we plan it well and approach everyone in right earnestness, there is a good chance it will work. Even if we collect 90% of what we have proposed in the table, we will achieve our target.

WAY FORWARD

STEP – 1: Core Committee Formation

1. Form a **Core Committee (CC)** of 8 to 10 ex students to implement the fund plan
2. All the alumni in India and abroad to propose names for this committee.
3. Also, by virtue of their positions in the industry, academia, Govt. or for their entrepreneurship skills, notable contribution in any field like sports, media, entertainment, science, medicine, art, culture, literature etc, 3 – 5 ex students to be appointed as permanent invitees to the CC. The total strength of core committee should not exceed 15.

The first job of CC will be to sell the idea of the \$1M corpus fund to as many JOLUITES as possible, within 4 weeks of formation of the committee.

Once a broad based acceptability of the plan is reached on principle, CC is to concentrate on **identifying couple of key students from every single batch.**

Primary selection criteria for these **key students** should be:

- Proven organizing capability & the inclination to devote time & effort for this exercise
- Aptitude & patience to listen and react rationally to every view point
- Acceptability among their own batch mates
- Integrity



STEP – 2: Individual Year-Wise Feedback

These key students, henceforth called **Focal Points (FPs)**, will interact with their batch mates to get feedbacks on:

- a. Modalities of fund mobilization
- b. Best ways of utilization
- c. Policies to prevent misappropriation
- d. Progress monitoring of different projects

FPs will also :

1. Prepare a list of all their batch mates with details of their profession, family and also their e-mail +telephone contacts
2. Make an estimate (based on the financial conditions of their batch mates) how much they expect to collect from their batch.
3. What kind of corporate assistance (if any) every individual batch 'as a whole' can bring in – for funding of labs, special courses or departmental chairs etc .

FPs, will then prepare their draft reports for submission to CC

If necessary, each of the FPs will be allotted a minimum amount of fund to bear the administrative expenses for getting the feedbacks and preparing the reports

STEP – 3: Preparation of Master Plan

Armed with the reports from the FPs, CC should begin deliberation to give shape to a **Master Plan (MP)** for the development of the college.

It should also initiate the effort to select the names of the signatories (3 in no.) to the bank account for this corpus fund for the time till the entire amount is collected.

Another tricky area will be to bring all the Alumni under the umbrella of one central organization.

One way to keep out of controversy and at the same time ensure whole hearted participation will possibly be:

- ✓ Rename the alumni working out of College campus as the Global Alumni and make all other Alumni spread around the country and abroad, chapters of the Global Alumni.
- ✓ Secretary of the present Jalpaiguri chapter will be the secretary of the Global Alumni. President of the Calcutta based chapter will be the President / Chairman. And, if registration law for a society or organization permits, then a post of President will be created to be rotated every two years among the other alumni.

If a consensus cannot be reached on the issue of forming a Global Alumni then the CC will coordinate all the activities, till the target of 1 Million USD is achieved. Then, a detailed deliberation can take place for further progress.

STEP – 4: Fund Utilization Areas

One important issue, which will need attention, is what the areas to utilize the fund are

Let us first detail the college requirements under two heads: **Hard** and **Soft**

Hard ones would include:

1. Infrastructural projects, e.g. more hostels and class rooms, international standard auditorium, better facilities in the labs, library and workshops, swimming pool, indoor courts for badminton etc.
2. Recruitment of additional faculty



3. Getting deemed university or special institution status
4. Starting new departments and improving the Post Graduate facilities

Alumni may not be in a position to directly exert any influence on the above. But, it can always use its contacts in the corridors of power to initiate proposal and get those approved. Once a project (specially, the ones under #1) is approved, alumni can also approach our ex students in PWD etc to expedite the same.

So, unless for a special case, the fund should not be expended on Hard requirements, as Govt. routinely allocates funds for the same.

Example of special cases can be – say, fund is approved for a swimming pool, and a few Lakhs of rupees extra from the corpus fund, can get the pool ‘temperature controlled’, or say, reluctance on the part of the Govt. to fund an expensive instrument for research.

Considering the huge benefit of having a year round useable international standard pool in the college campus, or the value addition of a sophisticated instrument in the research lab, exception for grants can be made in such specific cases.

Soft requirements can include

1. Providing incentive for the existing faculty as well as new but competent recruits to usher in an overall improvement in the quality of teaching and research in the college
2. Making the students more marketable by preparing them for job interviews and improve their spoken English capabilities (Refer slide 11, #b)
3. Encourage the students to participate in the different inter college cultural and sports festivals both inside West Bengal and in other states.
4. Restore the common rooms in the hostels to the previous glory and motivate the students to participate in the indoor games like TT, carom etc.
5. Start debating and trekking society etc and sponsor treks to Eastern Himalayas
6. Improve the landscape along the entrance roads from both the College gates, around the main building and near the hostels by gardening etc.
7. Open a help booth for the new students and their families at the College Campus for the first couple of days during the start of every academic year.

This soft requirement area is a live one and will need the continuous input of all stake holders (present and past students, faculty, non teaching staff, governing body or any well wisher of the college for that matter) to make it purposeful.

STEP – 5: Modus Operandi for Fund Utilization

1. Once the fund is in place, the core committee can operate as a standing body to oversee the disbursement and monitor the proper utilization of the fund. The committee can be expanded to include, the college principal, couple of teaching and non teaching staff and one or two students as well.
2. 20 – 30% of the initial collection can be spent for some capital project on the campus. This will offer visibility and send a strong signal that the fund is being spent properly
3. Remaining amount (at least Rs.35 million) should be locked into a FD, interest on which should provide the budget for proposals to be taken up round the year. This will allow CC to disburse around Rs.2.5 lakhs (~Rs. 3 million interest p.a.) every month
4. The expanded CC can meet twice a year, during College social (March) & College foundation day (Aug 7th) to review and approve projects and release the necessary fund.
5. The CC will appoint a three member Monitoring Cell (MC) from within CC



A Tribute to JGEC

- MC will visit the College every quarter to review/audit ongoing projects and recommend for increased disbursement/ discontinuation of funding for the same as necessary.
- MC will report to the CC on a regular basis. CC will in turn, keep the different Alumni chapters updated on the utilization of fund and status of the ongoing projects.
- MC's report will also form the basis of the evaluation done during the bi annual meetings of the extended CC at the college as mentioned in #4
- To keep the fund allotment and monitoring process transparent, one third of the members of both the CC & MC should step down every year in favor of new members.

SI #	Mile stones	Target Date	Remarks
1	Core Comittee (CC) formation	May end 2012	From Jan 2013 onwards till the end of the collection campaign, every month the three men account operating committee will post the collection details on the JGEC website
2	Identifying Focal Points	June end 2012	
3	FP Draft Report submission	Mid Aug 2012	
4	Draft Master Plan (MP) from CC	Sept end 2012	
5	Review and final acceptance of MP	Nov end 2012	
6	Complete formalities & open Bank A/C	Dec end 2012	
7	Collect & exceed fund target	July end 2013	
8	Officially launch the MP	Foundation Day 2013	

2012								2013							
May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16



CONCLUSION

A corpus fund of this quantum will not only enhance the stature of our College and make us proud, but it will also give us the satisfaction, that we succeeded in putting in our best efforts to do whatever possible on our side.

Once the Global Alumni starts functioning, the ex students will have a common platform from where the bondage among all of us can only grow and GOD WILLING, become a model for many other institutions in the coming years.

Achieving the target of one million USD is just the starting point of a continuing process. We must be able to allocate $\pm 25\%$ of the total fund (5 Million USD) every year for asset creation, and then replenish the fund so that, the FD amount of INR 35 million remains intact or is even added to. We can convince the present students to set aside 10% from their budget for college Social every year to keep the corpus fund alive and growing.

With more than 5,000 ex-students some disagreements on how to conduct this massive exercise are expected, but, none of us should ever lose sight of the perspective, that this fund will be for the improvement of JGEC. So, we should not allow our personal sentiments or for that matter, any other issues to come in the way of making this plan **a grand success.**

Finally, we have to achieve the targets detailed in this write up before 2020.

Then, the ones among us, who will be fortunate enough to be still around to attend the Diamond Jubilee celebration of our Alma Mater, can be there with a genuine sense of pride and satisfaction!!!