

7. Institutional Values and Best Practices

Some of the best practices that department adopt for promoting institutional values are the followings:

- ✓ Organization of national level seminars/workshops for students and faculty.
- ✓ Conduction of M.A. dissertations work and viva for the same for inculcating research interests among students.
- ✓ Mentoring and guidance of the students for choosing right path of career.
- ✓ Putting necessary information on the Notice Board for the students.

7.1 Future Plans

To cater the pressing demands of Central Board of Secondary Education (C. B. S. E.), New Delhi and increasing competition in academia, it has been proposed to revive P. G. Diploma in Guidance & Counselling in ensuing academic session. To infuse the skills and employability in the students of postgraduate and doctoral levels as has also been emphasized in of policies of Central government, MOU with institutions like All India Institute of Medical sciences (AIIMS), Bhopal, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-science (NIMHANS), Bengaluru, Central Institute of Psychiatry (CIP), Ranchi and some industrial organizations is being materialized for skill-based training. To upgrade the academic and research standard of the department commensurate with the changing need of the society, a cognitive science Laboratory equipped with modern computer software-based instruments has also been planned. The department of Psychology will launch an accredited Clinical Psychology Degree course like M. Phil in Clinical Psychology.

There are three fronts on which future plans of the department of Psychology are focused. They comprise Improvement teaching standard, enhancement of quality of research and extending community services and strengthening the bond of the discipline with the people in terms of their day to day problems.

To improve the quality and standard of research, the future planning is centered around the following activities:

- i. Establishment of Cognitive Laboratory equipped with latest computer-based software programmes to keep pace with the current research trends in Psychology.
- ii. Collaboration with other national organizations/institutes/laboratories to exchange academic and research skill/knowledge.
- iii. Increasing the number of lectures/workshops/seminars of experts of the field.
- iv. Formation of Innovation committee at departmental level

To improve the extension services to the community and the public, following changes will be brought:

- i. Scale up the facility for regular counselling and extension services to all
- ii. Collaboration with local schools to enhance achievement of children
- iii. Workshops for mental health awareness

To improve the teaching standard, the following measures are to be adopted:

- i. Increasing the number of books and references to students with up-to-date coverage.

- ii. Conversion and Development of classes at least into two Smart Classes to improve teaching efficiency.
 - iii. Activity-based teaching to develop interest in the discipline
 - iv. To encourage writing among students an annual publication of articles at Departmental magazine will be started.
 - v. Development of computer-based Software with the help of internal and external resources to conduct practical/s of curricula at least at postgraduate level
 - vi. Development of teaching/learning/study materials for students
 - vii. Special/remedial classes for weaker students
 - viii. Optional courses to instigate Skill development in students
- Development of New thrust areas and facilities in research and extension services:
- i. Forensic Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Tribal & disability
 - ii. Formation of Placement cell, recruitment & Career Guidance

7.2 Extension activities

- 1. The Department of Psychology has been associated with the extension activities with its inception. Envisaging its social responsibility towards the local community and the nation at large, with the financial contributions of Rs. 2, 51,000 /- availed to the department by M/S Bhagwandas Shobhalal Trust, Sagar, through Seth Dalchandji Jain, the B. S. Centre of Neuro-psychology and counseling (1981) was started by the then Head of The Department Prof. H. S. Asthana, with the aim to provide a platform for extending help to people with psychological distress. Since then the Centre is continuously organizing sessions on the last Saturday to assist such persons.
- 2. The faculty members of the Department continuously providing their assistance by organizing Family Counselling to couples by resolving incompatibility in their marital life.
- 3. The faculty members also extend their expertise to Thanas (Police Stations) and other governmental agencies to settle the problems of interpersonal nature with psychosocial background in origin.
- 4. The issues of personality and skill enhancement involved in Entrepreneurship Development are well managed by delivering expert lectures by the faculties of the Department. In all these efforts the role of the students are praiseworthy.

7.3 Beyond syllabus scholarly activities

- Lectures to other institutions by Faculty members (Prof. S. J. Singh, Prof. P.K. Rai, & Prof. V. Shrivastava)
- Counselling services to IGNOU Students by faculty members (Prof. S. J. Singh, & Dr. G. K. Tiwari),
- Course Coordinator-ship of P.G. Diploma in Psychological Counselling run by the Institute of Distance Education of the University ((Prof. S. J. Singh, Prof. V. Shrivastava & Dr. G. K. Tiwari), &
- Organization of Refresher Courses by the faculty members from time to time
- U. G. C. – A. S. C. Director for four & half years (Prof. S. J. Singh)

7.4 Contributions of the department in generating new knowledge

- By carrying out researches on new issues on the different new branches of psychology i.e. Positive Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychology of Affective Processes, Cognitive Psychology and Social Psychology.
- By organizing special lectures/refresher courses/ training programmes/workshops
- By regularly organizing Guidance and counselling sessions for students and teachers of University with their family members.
- NACO has identified the Department as the centre of excellence for HIV/AIDS Counselling.

7.5 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Challenges (SWOC)

Strengths

- Diversified research areas,
- Experienced Faculties,
- Use of ICT (PPT, Audio-visual Aids) in teaching and training,
- A culture of providing extension services (B. S. Centre of Neuropsychological counseling, student counseling, Family Counselling, Mahila Thanas (Women Police Station),
- Rich Laboratory and Psychological Test materials.

Weaknesses

- Inadequate modern infrastructural facilities i.e., Computer-aided research Laboratory, class-rooms, reading rooms
- Inadequate faculty strength
- Lack of quality students,
- Lack of latest books, references and online-access of research journals,
- Lack of skilled & trained technical and ministerial staffs

Opportunities

- Materializing collaborations and MOU with institutions of repute to enhance research and extension activities,
- To develop software-based Psychological Laboratory for research purposes,
- Development of Department for advanced studies in specific areas of Psychology i.e. Cognitive, Tribal and Disability,
- Enhancement of Facilities for community services in the area of Guidance and Counselling,
- To develop skill development programmes, i.e. Communication Skill, Personality development, Entrepreneurship development programme, Stress management programme.

Challenges

- Enhancing quality and applicability of research and extension services,
- Attracting brighter students especially students from weaker sections of society,
- Community orientation of the discipline,
- Enhancing Innovations in students as well as Faculties and
- Development of skill & job-orientated courses.
- Development of National character and value-orientations in students