

Jesus and Mary College

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Accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade



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ACTION TAKEN REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

In a meeting, the Department has comprehensively analyzed and discussed the data received from the IQAC regarding the feedback from various stakeholders. The 'self-assessment proforma' has been used to reflect on the various processes of the Department. We are cognizant of our strengths and shall work to address the challenges that lie ahead.

Dr. Nivedita Ghosh
(Teacher-in-charge)



Please use the following format to assess your own Department over the last 5 years (from 2015 onwards) along with a brief rationale for the same.

DEPARTMENT SELF ASSESSMENT FORMAT

	The department:	1	2	3	4	5	Remarks/ Supportive statements (with examples and documents)
1	Indulges in curriculum enrichment	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a very great extent The faculty members of the department have been contributing to curriculum revisions actively. (Revision of syllabus docs)
2	Takes feedback from students each semester	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Often The official feedback is taken regularly by the college. The department faculty members do so in less formal way, individually. Students are encouraged to express freely any concern that they may have.
3	Caters to student diversity	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent The college is committed to accommodating a diverse spectrum of students. As a department we also are aligned to that value. In our

							everyday engagements with our students we value and respect the diversity of our students not just in terms of regional, cultural and other diversities but also the diversity as students/learners.
4	Takes interest in promoting opportunities for experiential learning for students	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent The department of sociology has the privilege of taking our discipline outside the realm of classroom. Fieldwork has been one of the best practices of our department. (Docs about the field trips)
5	Facilitates the students' cognitive, social and emotional growth through teacher student mentoring process	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent The mentoring of our students is an ongoing process. Each of the faculty are accessible to the students for any consultation related to the subject, or career, or some other concern.
6	Identifies strengths of students and encourages them with appropriate level of challenges	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent As mentioned earlier, the department teachers are sensitive to student diversity at different levels. At the academic level, simplification of complex ideas for some and providing additional reading material to others who

							wish to explore an idea beyond the curriculum, are two ways in which the diverse student aptitudes are responded to.
7	Makes efforts to engage students in review and continuous quality improvement of teaching learning process	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	<p>Almost always</p> <p>Informal feedback is a consistent practice in the department. The students are aware that they are free to give any feedback about the teaching-learning process. Additionally, as teachers we are present to the response of our students through a sensitive attentive attitude towards their learning experience. We fine tune our teaching-interaction to our students' responses.</p>
8	Encourages student participation in co-curricular activities	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	<p>Almost always</p> <p>The students look forward to participating in the co-curricular activities, as these are sources of their personal growth, achievement. These co-curricular activities assist the students in self-expression of their personal qualities, interests and skills. The department encourages and facilitates several such co-</p>

							curricular activities. (Lot of documents possible here)
9	Puts specific efforts to inculcate soft skills, life skills and employability/ financial independence	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Often In our interactions with our students, we have ample occasions to refine/appreciate/acknowledge their soft skills and life skills. Teamwork, special responsibilities, and peer-interactions are areas where we coach our students in soft skills and life skills. Most of our students are not looking for immediate employment, but they do seek higher education (masters in sociology and other allied areas such as social work, international relations, development studies, and management as well).
10	Systematically encourages reflective practices in the pedagogy and assignments	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	Almost always Our subject in any case is founded on reflexive thinking about oneself, inter-personal and the broader society. Our pedagogy is based on reflective thinking. We encourage such thinking through class discussions and in their writing.

11	Changes the assignments given to students each semester	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	<p>Almost always</p> <p>Not just the assignments but also the pedagogy does not stay the same from one semester to the other. Each class, each pedagogic exchange is different in many significant ways. And so, the assignments also change in different semesters.</p>
12	Has extension activities and outreach	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	<p>To a very great extent</p> <p>Our students participate in outreach activities at the level of college. The students engage in such activities through such avenues.</p>
13	Uses student centric methods for enhancing learning experiences	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	<p>Almost always</p> <p>The pedagogy is student centric. A student friendly atmosphere of interaction is ensured, the student experience is enhanced through the extensive use of real-life examples and case studies. Students are encouraged to share their thoughts as concepts are being discussed. This ensures a meaningful and relevant learning. Often some such ideas, concepts, theories become a source of future</p>

							choices of students – of career, of higher education and sometimes as a valuable insight.
14	Analyses student results	Almost always	Often	Sometimes	Seldom	Never	<p>Sometimes</p> <p>Result analysis has been a practice at the level of the institution. The department meets the head of the institution to assess the results. We, as individual teachers also assess our student's results.</p>
15	Uses analyses of results for future planning	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	<p>To a moderate extent</p> <p>The results are not always an indicator of students' learning. We understand that often extra-academic factors may impact the results. However, results help us reflect on the students' progress over the semester. We are then able to reflect back on the overall internal performance of students. We take students' feedback on their thoughts on their performance for a rounded perspective. This helps us reflect on the next steps, if any.</p>
16	Keeps track of student progression	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent

							A student's performance during class discussions, attentiveness, assignments, projects these all help us track a student's progress. We provide specific feedback as and when required – appreciation and ways to improve some aspects.
17	Tracks alumni	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent We have been holding an alumnus meet for department alumni. (Alumni meet and their records from the past years)
18	Organizes student activities	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a very great extent Student centric activities are a strong point of our department. We encourage and organize events that cater to a wide range of student enriching experiences and events. Some such activities are – the freshers' debate, the M.N. Srinivas Declamation, Department festival, Cinema outing, picnics, field projects, reflexive assemblies, intercollege ethnographic film festival, ethnographic film making projects and more such. (Pictures and documents)

19	Creates opportunity for enriching teacher quality	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent Our faculty members have been actively engaged in self-development activities. Some of us have been working on our doctoral research, all have been enrolled in some or other forms of self-development through --- Faculty Development Programs, Orientation courses, Refresher courses and reading-writing for publishing our research.
20	Follows fair evaluation process	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a very great extent The evaluation is fair not only in terms of bias-free assessment but also a constructive evaluation where each student is assessed at each point independently of their previous performance. We try our best to not let a fixed perception affect any student's evaluation.
21	Has timely evaluation process	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a very great extent The evaluation timeline is regulated at the level of the institution. We adhere to that.
22	Evaluation process is meaningful to the students	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a very great extent.

							<p>The department conducts regular and time-bound evaluation. Students are given detailed comments and feedback on their written work. They are also given additional opportunity for improvement, in case where they feel they have not performed as per expectation. Assignments submitted by students are also checked for plagiarism.</p>
23	Has library support for research	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	<p>To a very great extent</p> <p>The department effectively utilizes the budget allocated to it for procurement of latest books and journals. The Sociology section of the library is stocked with a rich collection of books which the students and faculty regularly consult for academic and research purposes.</p>
24	Supports faculty for undertaking research	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	<p>To a moderate extent</p> <p>Faculty members of the department regularly present their research at national and international conferences. They also have several publications to their credit. The department has consistently supported faculty</p>

							members in completing their PhD degrees.
25	Provides opportunity to students for research outside curriculum	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent Students of the department have actively conducted research outside the curriculum and have also regularly interned at several organizations. The department encourages and supports them in their research initiatives.
26	Supports in-house collaboration (intra and inter department collaboration)	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To a great extent The department conducts several competitions and events on a regular basis both within and across departments in college. Inter-college events are also held from time-to-time wherein students from other colleges actively participate. The faculty of the department also collaborate with faculty members of other colleges for curriculum development.
27	Supports collaboration with external bodies	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	To some extent Scholars from various institutions and academic bodies are invited on a regular basis to interact with students and faculty of the department.

28	Has physical facilities that supports your plan	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	<p>Average</p> <p>The department has been allotted a separate room where department meetings etc. are held. The students also use the Department Room for preparation of the several department activities. Projectors and filmmaking equipment (for the course on Techniques of Ethnographic Filmmaking) is also available to the students and faculty.</p>
29	Has provision for learning resources	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	<p>Average</p> <p>The department ensures that the readings prescribed in the syllabus is made available to students, right at the beginning of the session. The library is also equipped with the latest books and journals in the field.</p>
30	Has access to learning resources	To a very great extent	To a great extent	To a moderate extent	To some extent	Not at all	<p>To a moderate extent</p> <p>Reading material is made accessible to the students at the beginning of each academic session. Classrooms are equipped with projectors that enable digital learning.</p>
31	Has IT infrastructure	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Poor	Average

							Classrooms are equipped with projectors, and Wi-Fi connection to aid digital learning.
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- What are your Best practices?

- The Sociology Department adopts a reflexive pedagogical approach, constantly encouraging its students to develop and cultivate a critical, sensitive, empathetic, and multi-dimensional perspective. Through an emphasis on experiential learning and fieldwork, in courses such as Methods of Sociological Research and Techniques of Ethnographic Filmmaking, students are exposed to the pertinence of linking theory with praxis.
- The department encourages its students to read and write beyond the syllabus. The students of the department have instituted a Reading Circle – the book club for extensive reading beyond the syllabus. The department also comes up with an annual magazine, Meraki. Guest lectures, talks, debate competitions, quizzes, film screenings are also held from time to time.
- Moreover, processes in the department are well streamlined – timetables, workloads, calendar of events, and faculty responsibilities are prepped well in advance. Additionally, a departmental report is collated at the end of each academic session, documenting the academic, research, and other extracurricular work undertaken by the department.
- The department, through a strong tutorial and mentor-ward system ensures that each student is given individual attention so that her academic and extra-academic problems are suitably addressed. The department also has a feedback system in place, which helps the faculty in updating their skills and approach vis-à-vis the teaching-learning process.

- Do you align yourself with best practices of college?

Yes

- Reflect on the department's strength and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- The department facilitates interaction of students across all three years for organization and active participation in department events
- It ensures exposure of students through talks by eminent scholars in the discipline.
- Teachers have diligently taken online classes despite the Covid -19 lockdown
- Having inculcated a sense of social responsibility, students of the department have actively participated in student societies such as National Service Scheme (NSS), Women's Study Centre (WSC), National Cadet Corps (NCC), Peace Society, and Green Society

Weaknesses:

- The students are offered a limited choice of optional papers

- What are your plans for next:

- 1 year

- Start a virtual online board or a department blog featuring quarantine reflections, artifacts of the week---book, film, poem, song, painting, artwork with a few lines about how they made a difference. This can be managed by students and supervised by a teacher.
- Organize the department fest Carpe Diem—an online exhibition on the topic, a lecture.
- Organize an online inaugural lecture once the students of first year join college
- Online alumni meet
- Organisation of workshops on publication process, applying abroad, job prospects.

- 3 years

- FDP for teachers
- Focus on publications