



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Internal Academic Audit

Department: Botany

Academic Year: 2021-22 (from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022)

Strengths

- The Department of Botany has very good infrastructural facilities for carrying out teaching learning and research activities.
- All the faculty members of the Department are well qualified and dedicated towards academic and co-curricular activities.
- The laboratory staff are qualified and lend very good support for the smooth conduct of not only routine laboratory work but also projects during the summer internships offered by the Department.
- Being one of the very good among colleges of the University of Delhi, the Department attracts meritorious students from different states of the country.
- We have a strong mentoring process in the Department. Each student is assigned a mentor who provides support in all the academic and personal matters throughout their undergraduate programme.
- The cut off percentage for admission in the Department is very high. The passing percentage of our students is 100% or nearly 100%.
- The Bridge Course is offered to first year students to facilitate their smooth transition to the undergraduate course with a basic understanding of the laboratory tools and methods.
- The Department established a Herbal Garden with a well-planned layout in 2019, and has been gradually increasing the number of plants with medicinal value.

Weaknesses

- The number of seats available for outstation students in the college hostel is limited. Therefore, most of our students have to stay in private hostels. Hence, they take more time to get accustomed to the new environment.
- Since the implementation of the OBC expansion there has been a need for an extra laboratory for holding regular practical classes.

Opportunities

- Our college is located very close to the main department. Teachers and students can easily participate in conferences, lectures and meetings. Being located in the North Campus there are several colleges nearby providing an opportunity for students to participate in various inter-college activities.
- The organization of workshops, conferences and lectures by the Department provides students the opportunity to interact with reputed scientists and explore the scope of Plant Sciences.
- The educational visits and outstation excursions allows students to get a hands-on experience of the subject.
- The Department offers summer internships to students belonging to Miranda House as well as of different colleges of the University of Delhi and other Universities.
- Short term add-on courses on Bioinformatics and Environment are also offered by the Department to the students of the different colleges of the University of Delhi and other Universities

- The career counselling sessions organized by the Department gives students a glimpse of the possible opportunities that lie ahead after their undergraduate course.
- The release of the monthly newsletter and annual magazine gives a platform for students to express and develop their creative writing and artistic skills.
- The DBT Star College Scheme grants have been an immense support in upgrading and maintaining the labs, and in organizing workshops and educational visits.

Challenges

- The students who have studied in Hindi medium find it difficult to understand because the medium of instruction is English. Nevertheless, with the support of teachers and their own efforts the students are able to fare well.
- Financial support for the purchase and maintenance of instruments is limited.
- The funds provided for educational trips and the Botany Museum are inadequate.
- Organization of various activities for students takes away the teaching time. To compensate for the missed classes teachers, hold extra classes.

Future Plans

- To undertake research projects and involve undergraduate students in the projects. This will enable students to understand the importance of research and inculcate scientific temper in them, and encourage them to present their work orally and as posters in conferences.
- To increase the accessions in the Departmental Library to facilitate the learning process.
- To improve the documentation of various matters relating to the Department, such as syllabi, botanical society activities, other activities, specimens, permanent slides, ecology and physiology experiments.
- To include all the plants that are routinely required for taxonomy and systematics practical classes in the Botanical Garden.
- To offer garden-based internships to undergraduate students so as to introduce to them the basic understanding of gardening, development of rock garden and vermicomposting.
- To strengthen the alumni network of the Department.



Dr. Nisha Vashishta
Coordinator, IQAC