



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Internal Academic Audit

Department: Sociology

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

Strengths:

- Our programme is based on an engaged pedagogy with a focus on experiential learning. Students do projects that involve primary and secondary source. The courses also offer students opportunities to actually do fieldwork, collect and analyze data, and relate theory to social phenomena.
- Our strength lies in the availability of numerous platforms to reach out to students. For instances, tutorial discussions, mentor-mentee interactions, Sociology Cabinet (teacher-student) meetings and cultural events serve as valuable avenues for interaction and learning.
- The courses offered are contemporary, practical and reflexive. Students get the opportunity to study social phenomena and develop methodological enquiry in order to understand a subject.
- Open discussions, film screenings, student presentations and lectures by eminent scholars further make the courses exciting and encourage students to come up with new ideas.
- The courses on Visual Culture and Techniques of Ethnographic Filmmaking (TEF) help the students develop an appreciation of the visual aspects of culture and society. The TEF course gives them skills in filmmaking. Few of them have also started working in the world of media.

Weaknesses:

- Online teaching has its own limitations in terms of student peer interaction, lack of access to library, limited data packs and devices, increased screen time, etc. The pandemic times were significantly difficult, especially for the underprivileged students.
- With the used of digital platform, we need to upgrade our skills and resources. Faculty and students' workshop for effective learning of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools is necessary. For example, giving orientation on how to access to digital library.

Opportunities:

- The global pandemic has changed teaching and learning process. A blended mode of teaching and learning has become the 'new normal'. This has created new opportunities for collaboration with universities and academia around the world. It enhances students' learning in a virtual environment, opens new vista of study and helps build academic relationships.
- Students of BA Honours Sociology believed that internships and collaboration with research organisations help students gain exposure and prepare them for their future careers. Collaboration with sociology departments of other colleges and career-related interactions and tie-ups help students in their academic and professional pursuits.
- The BA Sociology programme provides a vision for students to go into different kinds of professional and academic pursuits. Our alumnae have got admissions in prestigious institutions and enviable professional positions.

- GE students felt that being aware of the gender issues and dynamics makes them sensitive to the cause of women and opens up an interesting field of study for them. It also helps them to be self-aware and engaged with gender issues related to their everyday lives.

Challenges:

- The opportunities for collaboration with think tanks and policy-making bodies are few and far between for students. The challenge is to tap these organizations for collaborative work.
- Challenges for the department could be at the level of resources and capacities. Adequate resources and capacities could serve a long way in supporting students coming from underprivileged sections of society.
- Keeping the teaching and syllabus updated is a challenge. Students today have access to new developments in the field/ topics being taught through Information Technology (IT). Therefore, updating the reference list time and again is a key challenge.
- Online mode of teaching, during the pandemic, makes it difficult for teachers to understand some of the problems face by students. Even with mentor-mentee platform, students may not feel comfortable sharing their personal or career related concerns with their teachers, especially when there is no face-to-face physical interaction.



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