

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING BOARD OF STUDIES
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SOPHIA COLLEGE, (AUTONOMOUS)
held on 28th April 2021.**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9307058696?pwd=MVdFSCtzZVI0eVFzenZGUEFjN0p5QT09>

Meeting ID: 930 705 8696, Passcode: 234765; Sophia College, Mumbai – 400026.

The 6th Meeting of the Board of Studies, Department Of Education, Sophia College, (Autonomous), was held on Wednesday, 28th April 2021, at 4 p.m., on the ZOOM platform; with a warm welcome, by Dr. Andrea Coutinho (Head, Department of Education and Chairperson), being extended to the members of the Education Board of Studies.

Members Present:

The following five members were present: the Chairperson, Dr. Andrea Coutinho, Dr Ivan John, the Subject Experts, Mumbai University, Dr Vini Sebastian and Dr Hema Bhadawkar, and the Expert from the industry Ms Dipti Ajgaonkar. The remaining three members had excused themselves, as they had prior professional and personal appointments.

The Agenda of the Board of Studies Meeting is:

- 1. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Fifth Meeting of BoS (8th February 2021).**
- 2. A Report of the Activities conducted by the Department of Education in the Academic Year 2020-2021.**
- 3. Approval of proposed modifications in the BA Education Syllabus (2021-2022).**
- 4. Any other matter, with the permission of the Chair.**

1. The Minutes of the Fifth Board of Studies Meeting (Education) which was held on 8th February 2021, were presented and accepted unanimously.

2. **A Report of the Activities conducted by the Department of Education in the Academic Year 2020-2021.**

3. Approval of proposed modifications in the BA Education Syllabus (2021-2022), for all the sixth semesters; for implementation in the academic year 2021-2022.

Odd Semester-End-Exams (January 2021)

With reference to the tentative plan of conducting the Semester 1-3-5 online examinations through MCQ-type items exclusively, I have some concerns about the efficacy of using only MCQs for such a significant summative assessment.

I must say that it is pedagogically sound to elicit at least 30% to 40 % (ie. 15 to 20 marks out of 50 marks) of descriptive type answers, in an online summative examination.

In addition our students are increasingly adept in uploading their handwritten assignments and short answers, within a given deadline.

I have been in touch with the BEd teachers and school teachers about online assessment, as my TYBA students are studying the challenges of online assessment, in their practical work. School assessment is primarily through handwritten submissions, that include 2 short answers and 1 essay type answers, to be handwritten and submitted within the given deadline.

In addition, the hand-eye coordinated psychomotor approach to written examinations, in an online environment, is a more inclusive and reliable assessment method.

To some extent, a handwritten answer could minimise the probability of resorting to plagiarism and unfair means.

Due to the online instructional and assessment mode, it was explained that the 50:50 assessment scheme for all Education courses was suitable. The online MCQ based tests for internal assessment were approved and passed by the Board of Studies. Approval for passing the 50:50 assessment scheme was proposed by Dr Vini Sebastian and seconded by Dr Hema Bhadawkar. It was also unanimously approved by the Board of Studies with special mention made with regard to self instructional units in the theory modules and the practical work constituting the internal assessment component of 50 marks.

2. The Chairperson Dr Andrea Coutinho and Dr Ivan John explained the process of digitization of the access for students, faculty and administrative staff.
 - a. Each student, faculty member and administrative staff was given a Sophia College Domain ID (andrea.coutinho@sophiacollege.edu.in).
 - b. Each department head and faculty member was given a paid licensed ZOOM account. Although full freedom was given to faculty members to use the Google Meet platform for smaller classes.
 - c. The Google Classroom was mandated as the official reservoir and repository for all classwork instructions, student submissions, online (IA and SEE) assessment and faculty documentation.
 - d. Internal Assessment for formative evaluation was a combination of objective-type questions (including MCQs) and descriptive questions, that warranted handwritten answers uploaded into the Google Classroom.

3. The Chairperson presented the outcomes of the two One-Credit-Courses to be started by the Department of Education: Gender Inclusivity 2020 and Educational Technology 2021. Mrs. Dipti Ajgaonkar suggested that students register for short online courses and MOOCs.

4. During 'Any Other Matters placed before the Chair', these matters were discussed:
 - a. Dr Nandini Manjrekar underlined the need to maintain rigor in all the courses alongwith maximum online participation of all students.
 - b. Dr Vini Sebastian discussed the need for using an LMS for each paper/course and the need to use online interactive tools.
 - c. Dr Ivan John underlined the need for experiential learning in online instruction, with the need to offer new courses that are unable to online instruction and assessment. Each course would need the suitable goals and outcomes that are amenable in the pandemic situation.
 - d. Dr Ivan John also spoke of the need to constantly address student isolation and specially mentioned the need to include gender related topics like gender inclusion.
 - e. Dr Nandini Manjrekar spoke of a course 'Education and Inequalities' which could include inequalities like gender, religion, caste and class; especially with reference to NEP 2020.

- f. Dr Vini Sebastian spoke of the gender audit which is required in the annual AQAR and the need to study gender in the NEP 2019 draft document.
 - g. Dr Nandini spoke about the NEP 2020 being low on social commitment to gender issues, and that it being culturalist, is a matter of grave concern.
5. Dr. Andrea Coutinho informed the Board members that the 6th meeting of the Board of Studies (Education) would be held in late March or early April 2021.
 6. The Education Board of Studies meeting closed at 5:10 p.m. on a collaborative note, and gratitude was expressed to all.



10th Feb 2022

Dr Andrea Coutinho
Chairperson, Education Board of Studies
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