

9th Board of studies online meeting, Department of Psychology Sophia College (Autonomous) 6th October 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

The 9th BOS meeting was held on the 6th of October 2022 at 5.30 p.m. on the Zoom platform. All the members of the Board of studies were present for the meeting. The Head of the Department, Sister Patricia D'Souza, began the meeting by welcoming the panel and introducing the new faculty of the Department. She shared the agenda of the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were shared and scrutinised. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been passed by the BOS members, Sister Patricia then discussed the developments in the department. She spoke about and the exponential increase in demand for the subject and the subsequent increase in number of students applying for Double major in Psychology. This year we had two divisions of Double major students. She then apprised the panel about the increase in the strength of the department owing to the higher student strength.

The discussion then shifted to the changes and developments in syllabi across the three years. Ms Radhika Shanbhag, shared about the introduction of the 6th Edition of Ciccarelli's textbook for the FYBA Class instead of the current 5th edition. The reasons for this were the presence of more structure, informative diagrams, and research findings in the latest edition.

Ms Simi Susan Shibu suggested changing the name of the 'abnormal psychology' paper to 'psychopathology'. Dr Neeta Mehta expressed her concern about this since abnormal psychology is a uniform term used by all colleges. Dr Nilesh Thakre suggested checking with other colleges and authorities because as per the APA, the name of the subject is abnormal psychology. The department accepted the suggestion and decided to consult a few more people and resources before considering the change. The department also informed the BOS that the practical syllabus was modified since there had been a transition from the online to the offline mode.

Ms. Simi shared the proposed chapter allocation change in the two semesters. Depressive and Bipolar Disorders would be part of Semester 6 and Paraphilic Disorders, Sexual Dysfunctions would be shifted to Semester 5. The BOS members had a few suggestions regarding the syllabus. Dr Cicilia Chettiar noticed that childhood disorders aren't a part of the abnormal psychology syllabus. While Ms Simi mentioned that substance abuse and neurodevelopmental disorders are a part of the extra resources given to students, Dr Chettiar was of the opinion that adding childhood disorders to the syllabus would be beneficial to students for their future careers. Dr Neeta Mehta shared that her department had eliminated paraphilic disorders from the syllabus and kept childhood disorders instead. Dr Smita Desai also voiced her support for this proposed change as many psychology students take up school counselling after their BA. The department accepted these suggestions and planned to explore this possibility further.

The list of paper setters and examiners was displayed, and the following resolution was passed:

The Board of Studies - Department of Psychology, Sophia College, Autonomous, hereby approves of the updated syllabus and passes the list of examiners and paper setters for 2022-2023.

The meeting ended with the HOD thanking the BOS members for their presence and valuable inputs.