

Sophia College (Autonomous)
Board of Studies in Sociology

AGENDA for the Meeting on 17th July, 2023

An online meeting of the members of the Board of Studies in Sociology to be held on 17.07.2023 on Zoom from 3.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 2023
2. To review the First Year Syllabus for Semester I as per the new N.E.P guidelines
3. To share the new evaluation and assessment criteria for the first-year students
4. To review the conduct of Certificate Course in Social Research Methods
5. Any other related matter with the permission of the Chairperson

Department of Sociology

Sophia College (Autonomous)

Sophia College (Autonomous)

Board of Studies in Sociology

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Studies in Sociology

Date of Meeting: 17th July 2023

Venue: Online Meeting (Zoom)

Time: 15:30 pm to 17:30 pm

Members Present-

1. Dr. Anagha Tendulkar (Chairperson, Board of Studies)
2. Ms. Wilma Monteiro
3. Ms. Sukanya Menon
4. Dr. Shashi Mishra
5. Dr. Vibhuti Patel
6. Dr. Ranu Jain
7. Dr. Shanti Seshadri
8. Ms. Gayatri Maniar Shah

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 2023
2. To review the First Year Syllabus for Semester I as per the new N.E.P guidelines
3. To share the new evaluation and assessment criteria for the first-year students
4. To review the conduct of Certificate Course in Social Research Methods
5. Any other related matter with the permission of the Chairperson

The chairperson of the Board of Studies (henceforth referred to as BOS), Dr. Anagha Tendulkar began the session by welcoming the board members. She informed them that Dr. Joseph Pereira (Industrial expert) would not be joining the meeting as he was traveling.

Agenda I:

The first point on the agenda was to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting, which had already been emailed to the members. They were also informed about the successful industrial visit the department had undertaken to Yeola (to observe the Paithani weavers at work) and to Nasik, Sula Vineyard. Dr. Anagha informed them that the visit was quite an eye-opener for students. At Sula, they learnt about the sustainable

practices which the organization undertakes, and at Yeola the students got to interact and learn more about the working of the informal sector (which is a part of their syllabus for Paper VA). This allowed the students to compare the formal sector with the informal sector. It was suggested that this practice be continued in the upcoming academic years. The minutes were proposed and seconded by Dr. Vibhuti Patel and Dr. Shashi Mishra respectively.

Agenda II

The second point on the agenda was to discuss the First Year (F.Y.) syllabus for the academic year 2023-2024. The board members were informed that with the National Education Policy (NEP) being rolled out, the department would no longer be conducting the Foundation Course lectures. Alternatively, at the F.Y. level, five new papers were undertaken. Three of them would be Department Specific Courses (DSC) and two of them would be open for all the students.

The papers are:

1. Department Specific Course (DSC) Major in Sociology called '*Foundations in Sociology*'
2. Department Specific Course (DSC) Minor in Sociology called '*Doing Sociology*'
3. Vocational Skill Course (VSC) for students who have opted for a DSC Major in Sociology called the '*Sociology of NGOs*'
4. Open Elective (OE) open to all students across the streams called '*Getting Rights Right in India*'
5. Skill Enhancement Course (SEC) called '*The Craft of Social Writing*'

Ms. Wilma Monteiro shared the syllabus for the DSC Major paper called Foundations in Sociology. The unit 1 covers the emergence of the discipline and the historical orientation of the same. Dr. Ranu Jain and Dr. Vibhuti Patel suggested the need to include development of Sociology in India, and also to look at Coloniality and Enlightenment. The names of scholars like Andre Beteille, M.N. Srinivas, A.R. Desai, T.K. Oommen were suggested for sub unit 1.3 .

In unit 2, the focus is on introducing basic concepts, social stratification, gender, age, caste and class would be looked at. Dr. Ranu Jain stated that Ethnicity be included. Dr. Vibhuti Patel commented that Ethnicity and Religion intersected, and it was relevant to understand how it together operated in the identity creation. Dr. Ranu Jain suggested the need to study it using sociological methods, it was unanimously agreed by the board that the F.Y students were too new to the discipline to appreciate it fully.

In Unit 3, it was suggested that Antonio Gramsci be looked at while studying Politics, State and Government to understand Hegemony and Change. While Patriarchy was included in Unit 3.2 as Religion and Patriarchy, it was moved to sub unit 3.3 along with the concept of Family, Marriage, and Kinship. Unit 3.3 was alternatively titled as Religion, Caste and Tribes.

In Unit 4, the title was changed from Emerging Sociological Areas to Emerging Areas in Sociology. While Dr. Ranu Jain suggested introducing Education and Nation building other board members felt that it could be handled in the next semester and to focus on aging, media and policy making in the first semester.

Before moving on the remaining papers, Dr. Anagha explained how DSC Minor is different from DSC Major. The paper titled 'Doing Sociology' has four units, each of which has 3 sub-units. Ms. Sukanya Menon covered all the areas in the Minor syllabus. No major changes were suggested in any unit, as it was unanimously agreed that the syllabus should aim to introduce the discipline to the students and try to link the subject with its practical application as much as possible.

The BOS also approved the SEC titled 'The Craft of Social Writing', syllabus which was presented by Ms. Sukanya Menon. Ms. Gayatri Maniar agreed and approved of the idea of linking social issues with movies and other media representations. Ms. Wilma Monteiro explained the syllabus for the O.E. titled 'Making Rights Right in India'. Dr. Vibhuti Patel suggested a field visit could be organized to prison to give empirical exposure to the students about the same. No changes or comments were suggested for the VSC, the Sociology of NGOs, presented by Ms. Wilma Monteiro.

Agenda III

The third point on the agenda was to take the BOS through the new evaluation and assessment criteria for the first-year students.

The following points were shared:

- There would be a single head of passing (For Internal and summative assessment together)
- Attendance is mandatory for both rounds of evaluation, but the final mark will be based on the cumulative score.
- DSC Major and Minor Papers are of 4 Credits and the OE, SEC and VSC Papers are of 2 credits

- With respect to the 2 credit courses, there will be no summative assessments, however, 2 continuous assessments will have to be taken (one test and one project)
- The 2 credit courses thus do not have a centralized semester end exam, and thus the HOD can decide with the department the pattern and conduct of assessment. The rubric for the same will be released by the Examination Committee.

Dr. Anagha pointed out a clause about the examination and assessment pattern. In case of any changes suggested by the higher authorities of the institution, the HOD is authorized to make changes in the assessment pattern as deemed necessary. Subsequently the changes will be communicated to the BOS in the next meeting. This was unanimously agreed and passed by the board members.

Agenda IV

The fourth agenda was to approve the Certificate Course in Social Research Methods and Academic Writing, which the department would continue to conduct this year as well. Dr. Anagha informed the board that Ms. Sukanya Menon would now be taking charge as the coordinator of the course.

Agenda V

The final agenda for the meeting was to discuss the future plans, especially with the National Education Policy. Dr. Anagha mentioned that while the Department of Sociology continues with the Masters in Gender Studies, in the subsequent years, the four-year course of B.A. (Hons) may also be rolled out, which should then be extended to the PhD level. However, it was agreed that this would take a couple of years more.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Shashi Mishra appreciating the student-friendly nature of the syllabus and Dr. Vibhuti Patel commented on the commitment of the department to the discipline, to give the students a holistic view of the subject. Dr. Shanti Seshadri agreed that the syllabi discussed were impressive. Ms. Gayatri Maniar congratulated the department and concluded that the success of the courses could be seen in the positive feedback received.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the chair.

Department of Sociology
Sophia College (Autonomous)

Images



