

Sophia College (Autonomous)

Board of Studies in Sociology

Minutes of the 11th meeting of the Board of Studies in Sociology

Date of Meeting: **2nd November 2023**

Venue: Online Meeting (Zoom)

Time: 16:30 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 share the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th January 2023
2. To approve the First Year Syllabus for Semester II as per the new NEP 2020 guidelines
3. 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. Dr. Ranu Jain from Tata Institute could not join in the beginning as she was travelling, but with the permission of the VC Nominee and other members the 11th BOS Meeting began.

Agenda I:

The first agenda was to discuss the minutes of the previous meeting, which had already been emailed to the members. They were informed about the new papers which were initiated in the previous semester under categories such as DSC Major, DSC Minor, Vocational Skill Course (VSC), Open Elective (O.E) and Skill Enhancement Course (SEC). Ms. Wilma Monterio and Ms. Sukanya Menon- who were in charge of these papers, spoke about their experience and the feedback they received with the new papers. Dr. Anagha also explained to the BOS about 2 credit system which was being followed and how attendance and internal assessments were compulsory for students to be eligible for the summative assessment. The agenda was proposed by Dr. Vibhuti Patel and passed by Dr. Shashi Mishra.

Agenda II

The second agenda was to discuss the First Year (F.Y.) syllabus for the second semester for the academic year 2023-2024. Dr. Anagha began the presentations by mentioning the papers which were done in Semester I and informed the BOS that a decision was to be taken with regard to the titles for DSC Major and DSC Minor Paper in Semester II. SEC and OE papers remain the same.

The DSC Major paper, which was given '*Basics in Sociology*' (as a working title) was presented by Ms. Wilma Monteiro. The first unit titled 'Western Sociological Thought' covers post-enlightenment as well as classical and contemporary thought. Dr. Vibhuti Patel raised the pertinent question of bringing forth post-colonial critique of mainstream sociology. Dr. Anagha asked whether this could be handled as an SY Paper, since FY papers were more about basic concepts, which the board agreed to. Dr. Vibhuti suggested adding Cultural Plurality to the syllabus which was added to Unit 2.2. Understanding Change in Society was the title of Unit 3, where Dr. Vibhuti suggested adding 'Fractured Modernity' when discussing the concept of Modernization and Modernity in the global context. Unit 4, was titled 'Crime and Deviance'. Dr. Vibhuti Patel stated that crime and deviance are "contested terms", of which the latter was a largely value-loaded term. Dr. Anagha suggested calling them theories, so that they may be critiqued, and assured that the board that this would be discussed in class. Furthermore, the Chairperson asked if the title of the paper should be changed since Unit IV was not a 'basic concept.' Dr. Vibhuti suggested calling it "Advancements in Sociology," and Mr. Joseph suggested Sociology- II. Dr. Seshadri suggested that the paper be called 'Latest Concepts in Sociology,' which Dr. Patel suggested would not be correct for the concepts shared within the syllabus. DSC Major paper after much discussion was retitled as '**Development of Sociology.**'

Ms. Sukanya Menon presented the syllabus for the DSC Minor paper which was given the title 'Sociology and Society.' Dr. Anagha Tendulkar mentioned that the title could be discussed by the BOS and reworked upon. Ms. Sukanya began the presentation by rationalizing the title; that the objective of the paper was to understand the interrelation sociological thought had with regard to several areas in a society- which was the crux of the syllabus. Unit I was looking at Global Stratification, Unit II Gender, Unit III on Environment and Unit IV on Economy. Dr. Vibhuti mentioned the need to include Gender Spectrum in Unit II. Ms. Sukanya explained that Unit III Environment was introduced based on the feedback received during the Academic Audit as a critical area which must be discussed. Dr. Vibhuti mentioned the need to include 'Emic' and 'Etic' approach within the syllabus. Dr. Ranu Jain suggested 'Understanding Society' as an alternate title which was approved by the BOS Members.

The third and final paper was a 2-credit paper, having 2 units for the Vocational Skill Course (VSC) titled 'Sociology of Care'. Dr. Anagha talked about the need to study and understand the need to be empathetic about groups. She explained that this would be a logical extension of the paper done in the earlier semester 'Sociology of NGOs'. Dr. Anagha Tendulkar explained the two units- introduction and caregiving agencies, and also about beneficiary groups (namely, orphans and elderly). Dr. Ranu Jain suggested a change in the course outcome to mention 'people' rather than 'marginalized groups.' Dr. Vibhuti Patel spoke about how 'beneficiary groups' can be extremely contested with regard to the power relation. Furthermore, she suggested calling the unit 'Stakeholders' since they can be inclusive of any person who is connected to the discourse. Dr. Vibhuti further suggested changing 'organization' to 'civil society organizations.'

Agenda III

The final agenda for the meeting was to discuss the future plans. Dr. Anagha Tendulkar spoke about the National Conference being planned in December which would be used as a platform to understand the future of the discipline, especially in light of NEP 2020. She explained how the event was divided into two sessions- a plenary with experts from the field and a second session where 5 autonomous colleges would be invited to share their plans and papers with respect to NEP and Sociology.

The second plan was with regard to the Industrial Visit, which Dr. Anagha Tendulkar stated that this should be a compulsory component within the syllabus- either with the paper on HRD or Industrial Sociology.

The third plan was with regard to taking the students on visits to institutes in Mumbai like TISS and IIPS. Dr. Anagha Tendulkar explained how students were often not aware about these institutes, especially when tracking their progression and future trajectories. Dr. Ranu Jain appreciated the idea and said that something could be planned in TISS and adequate time should be spent at the institutes- preferably having sessions planned in these places. Dr. Vibhuti Patel, mentioned visiting the Railway Museum.

Dr. Shashi suggested that the holistic view of the discipline should be covered with the field visits, and appreciated the variety being covered in the syllabus and Dr. Vibhuti Patel commented that it was very innovative and research oriented. Dr. Ranu Jain appreciated the work done by the department and Dr. Shanti stated that the variety of the papers offered would help make the discipline more popular and Ms. Gayatri Maniar stated that the academic element with the application potential was a great path ahead. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by the chair.

Department of Sociology

Sophia College (Empowered Autonomous)

Images

