

## **Best Practice I: Add-on Courses**

At Sophia College for Women, departments in the Senior College conduct add-on one-credit certificate courses in one or both terms of an academic year. Senior college students are encouraged to join a course based on their interest. These courses include face-to-face contact hours, as well as self-learning components that add up to a minimum of 30 hours of work. Some courses are discussion-based, exam based, research oriented, activity-based etc. Many of these courses are interdisciplinary and offer our students a unique opportunity to look beyond the regular curriculum and expand their intellectual horizons. Upon satisfactory completion of all mandatory components of the course, the students receive a completion certificate. Those who successfully complete such courses get one credit added to their final Degree Mark Sheet.

These courses present a distinctive advantage as they allow students to enrich their primary studies with specialized knowledge of various domains. A thematic survey of the courses offered by various departments of Sophia College for Women reveals a diverse range of courses which highlight an extensive array of educational opportunities and skill enhancement. Programs like Social Research Methods, Social Work, and Women's Empowerment focus on societal contributions and community support. Creative disciplines such as Baking, Music Theory, and Filmmaking cater to artistic and practical skill-building. Computer Programming, Data Analysis, and Bioinformatics are centered around technical and digital competencies. Courses on Gender Inclusivity, Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Ethical Hacking address modern issues and cybersecurity. Additionally, Ancient Civilizations, History of Food, and Knowledge Systems provide cultural and historical insights. This variety reflects a dedication to fostering both professional skills and personal development across fields. The rich tapestry of courses offered to the students provides them more avenues for learning and skill development. Through these courses, the institution is able to bridge the gap between academia and industry and between theoretical learnings and real-world professional domains.

The funding received from RUSA was directed towards enabling the departments to create and execute these courses. Many students passed and gained tremendously from these add-on courses. A few courses that have shown consistent or increased participation include courses on Entrepreneurship Skills, Advanced Computer Skills Programme. Other courses like Film Appreciation and Music Theory have shown stable enrollment. Courses like Certificate Course in Social Research Methods and Academic Writing and Gender Inclusivity have maintained high levels of

participation across years, highlighting their relevance and effectiveness in meeting educational needs. Specialized and niche courses which indicate emerging trends in both academia and industry have also shown a consistent interest from our students. Courses like 'Posthumanism' and 'Innovation in Natural Dyeing and Entrepreneurship Opportunities' have demonstrated a growing interest, which could indicate shifting educational trends or emerging fields of study.