

JANKI DEVI MEMORIAL COLLEGE
EXTERNAL ACADEMIC AUDIT, 2024-25
Guidelines for the Assessor and Feedback Template

Name of the Department: Human Development and Family Empowerment

Name of the Assessor: Prof. Rekha Sapra

Designation & Institutional Affiliation of the Assessor: Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Empowerment, Bharati College, University of Delhi

A. Students

The department of Human Development and Family Empowerment (HDFE), is one of the disciplines exclusively taught in BA program. I must begin by congratulating the faculty Ms Muralidhar, the founder member of the department and Ms Butta for their tireless efforts, which is clearly evident from the students' visibility across range of activities and active participation beyond the class room. The exclusivity of HDFE as a discipline across a span of four decades speaks for itself. The discipline has stood its ground firmly across various structuring and restructuring of the BA program curriculum.

I would like to put on record that the audit report submitted by the department is comprehensive and very well documented. The interaction with both the faculty members was very meaningful and relevant. The dedication and sense of pride in the departmental achievements was palpable during the interaction. A positive bond between the faculty members is worth mentioning.

This multifaceted course offers themes in Child Development, Early Childhood Care and Education, Empowerment of Women and Children, and Children with special needs to mention a few. The meaningful courses offered by the department resonates with the day to day lives and prepare the students for higher education, career and equips them with skills and abilities to steer the challenges which they may face in their future lives.

The department prepares the students for higher education as well as contributes positively to various aspects of community life, families and societies at large. The various courses offered as part of the HDFE discipline align with the effective implementation of NEP (2020) policy at the ground level.

The results of the students in different papers and semesters has consistently been very good. As evident from the presented data, the maximum number of students have secured a first division, with 100% students being promoted to the next semesters. The academic performance of the students across semesters is commendable.

The students have successfully enrolled in various institutions for Master's degree programmes like MSO: Master of Arts (Sociology), M.A. Psychology, M.A. Counselling Psychology, L.L.B., and M.A. International Relations, to name a few.

The students have been actively involved in volunteering and internships with organizations such as *Saday Sadev* under *Project Dhariya*, a mental health initiative; the *Love Care Foundation* through the "Donate a Thali" campaign; *Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan*; the *Agniveera Spaceship Internship* program; and placements in pre-schools as part of their early childhood education curriculum.

The students have also contributed to the students' Union of JDMC by effectively participating and holding important positions and working in different capacities enhancing their learning experience.

The students have been rewarded not only for their academic excellence, but also for their participation in extra-curricular activities.

The Faculty led Student Research project on early detection and screening of white eye reflex, Retinoblastoma in children has been successfully creating awareness in the community on eye cancer for the last eight years.

The extension and outreach activities involving faculty and students have always been a highlight of the HDFE department as is evident in the various activities conducted in the community. The department has also made efforts to collaborate with NGOs in the social sector and drawn out MOUs for effective collaboration.

Seminars and workshops have been organised by the department on regular basis to sensitize the students on the macro concerns related to child rights, women and children, to mention a few.

A 30-hour add-on course organized by the department on 'Early Intervention for Children with Disabilities: Reaching out to the diverse learners' involved experts in the field of disability and aimed to enhance participants' awareness and foster a deeper understanding of disabilities.

Grade: Excellent

B. Faculty

Ms Muralidhar with more than four decades of experience and Ms Butta with more than 5 years of teaching experience have been constantly upgrading their professional skills. Both the faculty members have kept themselves updated on recent developments and issues in the field of Human Development by presenting papers, attending FDPs, active participation in curriculum development, organizing workshops and seminars for students, collaborating with organizations for enhancing their skills.

Ms. Muralidhar and Ms Butta have received a certificate of appreciation from Love Care foundation for their initiative '**Donate a thali**'. The faculty members participated in the International conference by presenting a paper titled '**Maternal awareness to action: Paradigm for Child development**'.

Pedagogy workshops were organised for the faculty members by the department across semesters to discuss and review the curriculum with experts from the field of Human Development. A week long **workshop on Research methodologies** was organized for the students.

The faculty members, along with their regular teaching and other projects, contribute actively to the corporate life of the college by being part of the committees of the college. The faculty is engaged in developing the e-content, designing the course, add on course development, paper setting and evaluation work.

The teaching methodology include lecture method, projects, Role play, internships, case profile, student presentations, flipped class rooms, peer mentoring, mentoring, videos, organizational visits, workshops, seminars, activity based learning, audio-visual aids and hands on learning experience by organizing practical workshops and internships.

In order to sustain this high level of accomplishment by the department and to be able to take up the VAC and SEC papers, it is imperative that the department gets additional faculty. I would strongly recommend it.

Grade: Excellent

C. Best Practices

The extensive involvement of the students and active participation in various programs at the grass root level is the USP of the HDFE department. The outreach and extension activities are par excellence. It's heartening to see large number of students enthusiastically participating in various community extension activities.

The ongoing project on Retinoblastoma, conceptualized by Ms Muralidhar in 2017 received an International recognition from New York Eye Care Centre.

The activities organized by the centre for extension and outreach are in alignment with the objectives of the department, where students are sensitized to the needs of the community and learn to give back to the community. Experiential learning is provided to the students beyond the confines of the classrooms.

The department organizes webinars and seminars on a regular basis for the students. Along with regular classroom teaching, extension activities, sensitization sessions, MoUs, remedial classes, peer mentoring and hands on experience is a regular feature of the department. The organizational visits, learning by doing workshops, talks on mental health, reproductive rights of women, domestic violence, gender sensitization, and workshops on pedagogy for various papers to name a few.

The thirty hour add on course on organised by the department deserves applaud. It is praiseworthy that the department of HDFE, JDMC has always believed in sharing information and knowledge dissemination with other colleges offering this paper. The sharing of knowledge and active interaction between the colleges is the strength of this department. This further needs to be strengthened.

Grade: Excellent

D. Area/s of Improvement

The HDFE department needs to be more in alignment with the parent department HDCS so as the transition to higher education and a sense of belonging with the parent department are achieved. The subject needs to be introduced in co-ed colleges so that its reach is extended beyond a few women's colleges.

More opportunities need to be created for the students to pursue higher education in allied disciplines like Gender Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Social work, Counselling and educating the diverse learners.

E. Vision, Mission and future Plans of the Department

The aim of the department is to impart knowledge of Human Development as a discipline across the life span. The department encourages the students to participate in

community activities and develop sensitivity towards the needs of the underprivileged and diverse population. The extensive community activities organized by the faculty follow a proper process with scientific precision. This is reflected very strongly in the presented report. The hands on experience provided by the department empowers the students and provide them with necessary skills at the ground level.

The mission of the department is to instill a sense of social responsibility, passion for social service and developing a keen interest in the discipline of Human Development with a scientific mind-set. The active involvement of the students and faculty with the NGOs, Community and partnership with the industry has created many job opportunities for the students.

In future the department aims to take learning beyond the classroom by way of organizing webinars, workshops, community work in relevant areas of the discipline. The department aims to strengthen its research activities, publications and networking to achieve the desired visibility. The department aims to have more add on courses for diverse learners and equip and train the students. The department in future plans to expand its activities by collaborating with other government organizations to create better career opportunities and opportunities for higher education for its students.

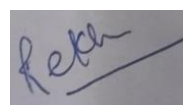
Grade: Excellent

F. Additional remarks

The amount of work done by the faculty comprising of only two members is commendable. The department requires two additional faculty so as to carry on with their diverse range of activities in future as well as offer the VAC and SEC courses of the discipline in future.

Overall Comments: Excellent

I wish to thank Prof. Swati Pal, Principal Janki Devi Memorial College, for giving me this opportunity. It was indeed a pleasure to interact with the both the Faculty members of the Department. My best wishes to the college and the department for their future endeavours.



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