

## **Evaluative Report**

### **Department of Philosophy**

#### **Mata Sundri College for Women**

The Department of Philosophy of Mata Sundri College was established in 1969. It offers Honours and programme courses in philosophy following the Semester System for Undergraduate Courses. The courses offered cover a diverse approach like Ethics/Applied Ethics, Indian Philosophy, Greek Philosophy, Logic, Western Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Analytic Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Religion, Theories of Consciousness etc. Moreover, many skill enhancement courses are offered to our students for their overall development including Critical Thinking, Ethical Decision Making, Yoga Philosophy and Art and Film Appreciation. Department offers Generic Elective courses like Formal Logic, Ethics in Public Domain, Feminism and Bio Ethics to various departments like Psychology, English, History, Hindi, Punjabi and Sanskrit and Mathematics.

Currently, the department has 6 faculty members. Against six sanctioned posts, 1 Associate Professor, 3 Assistant Professors and 2 Assistant Professors (Ad-hoc). Five of the faculty members have Ph.D. Degree and one is pursuing Ph.D. All the teaching faculty members are well equipped with the ideas and knowledge of their respective papers and curriculum. The senior most faculty member, Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa has an experience of more than 34 years, Dr. Hemlata Krishnani with an experience of 19 years, Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi with an experience of 13 years, Dr. Sheelam Bharti with an experience of 9 years, Ms. Kirandeep Kaur with an experience of 7 years, Dr. Jolly Singh with an experience of 6 years.

#### **Strengths/Best Practices of Philosophy Department**

- A spirit of camaraderie and harmony prevails between the teaching faculties and the students.
- The teachers motivate the students in a big way by devoting extra hours to inculcate love and interest for philosophic discourse among the students. The faculty members mentor the students by counselling them for further higher studies and career options. A broader perspective is always shown to the students for their future endeavors.
- Philosophy acts as a catalyst to develop the ability to critically analyze various theoretical concepts and to become genuine critiques of other inter-related faculties of social sciences.
- It has strong underpinnings for other faculties like human rights, Critical Thinking, ecology, democracy, peace and conflict studies. Students of other departments in large numbers opt for these courses. Moreover, department organizes and participates in number of interdepartmental seminars, lectures, conferences where speakers from different fields express their ideas and interact with the students.

- The library materials of philosophy are quite reach, varied and substantive. Faculty members always take into consideration the enthusiasm and zeal of the students to read and learn more and thus it is a common practice to include recent additions and encyclopedias in the library for reference purpose.

#### **Innovative Teaching methods:**

- Group discussion, group presentations, debates among students, handouts on issues. Subjects like Art and Film Appreciation etc. focus on the creativity of students by involving them in making presentation, projects, interviews etc. to enhance learning and interaction not only among the peer group but also with the people from diverse fields.
- Debates among students on for and against one topic to have multiple perspectives on a topic.
- Sending students to library to get one book each on one particular topic, one/ two days time allotted for self-study and then discussions are held in the classroom to reach a consensus on appropriate reading material. Students are motivated to present their own ideas as well.
- Notes / reading material in Hindi is also provided to Hindi medium students. Texts are also translated into Hindi where translated texts are not available.
- Holding regular as well as surprise tests, tutorial classes to supplement.
- Arranging visits and excursions to make the students understand the application of philosophy in different fields of life.
- Relating the theories of philosophy to the everyday realities of contemporary life.

#### **Special highlights of the department**

- The department of Philosophy and Internal Quality Assurance cell (IQAC) has organised an online short term certificate course on **BUILDING A POSITIVE SELF IMAGE FOR SUCCESS** started from 30<sup>th</sup> January to give students a platform to learn how to create and restore a positive self-image for a happy and a successful life.
- The department of Philosophy (**Astitva**) organises various opportunities for the students and faculty members to widen their scope of thinking, learning and growing. Many departmental, interdepartmental and inter college events are organized on regular basis. Also, the department releases its newsletter (**PEHEL**) annually where the faculty and students showcase their creativity and present their ideas and thoughts on various issues, themes and contemporary outlook.
- A two days (21<sup>st</sup> January-22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020) **Interdisciplinary National Conference** on 'Professional Ethics: Theory and Practice' was organised by our department where distinguished guests and speakers like **Air Marshal (Retd.) Jagjeet Singh, (Dr.) Mrs.**

**Shashi Prabha Kumar, Prof. (Dr.) Bhushan Patwardhan (Vice-chairman, UGC, New Delhi), Prof. (Dr.) R.C. Sinha (Chairman, ICPR, New Delhi), Mr. Joseph Kabakeza (Deputy High Commissioner, Rwanda), Captain (Rtd.) SB Tyagi, Major General (Rtd.) Sanjay Soi** and other professionals and faculty members from different colleges and various fields were invited to share their views on the respective topic. The papers presented in the conference then published in a book entitled 'Professional ethics: Theory and Practice', edited by Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa and co-edited by Dr. Hemlata Krishnani and Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi.

- The Department also celebrated **Indian Philosopher's Day** and **World Philosophy day** (sponsored by ICPR) in the year 2018, 2019 and 2020 to enrich the students with core philosophical ideas and perspectives.
- Periodic lecture series (sponsored by ICPR) have been organised in 2019 and 2020.
- Even during the pandemic, philosophy department with IQAC organised an international webinar on Intellectual Property Rights and Yoga: Philosophical Reflections.
- The department of Philosophy- Astitva in collaboration with the NSS Society – Parivartan conducted **YOUTH HEATH AWARENESS WEEK** in the month of January 2021.
- A Multidisciplinary Workshop on '**WOMEN ACHIEVERS-CREATING HISTORY, NOURISHING PRESENT AND BUILDING FUTURE**' was organised by the department of Philosophy, Psychology and Physical Education & Sports Sciences in collaboration with IQAC, Mata Sundri College for Women.

### **Highlights of the works of Faculty Members**

- Most of the faculty members (Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa, Dr. Hemlata Krishnani, Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi and Dr. Sheelam Bharti) of Philosophy department had been actively engaged in a number of FDPs and workshops. Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi has been a CBCS member, Expert Committee, University of Delhi and IGNOU. Dr. Hemlata Krishnani has been working group member for the revision of various course at Delhi University.
- Dr. Lakshmi Vatsa was the delegate at a National Conference on "The Fulcrum of Bhartiya Darsan' sponsored by ICPR organised by Department of Philosophy, Hansraj college, University of Delhi.
- Dr. Hemlata Krishnani presented a paper titled 'DRISHTI: A Metamorphosis' in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICDE and 14<sup>th</sup> ISDSI Annual Conference, Organised by Centre for Digital Economy, Indian Institute of Management Raipur, during 27-29<sup>th</sup> December, 2020. She also presented a paper entitled

‘NIRVANA where the mind leads the way’ in the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Humanities, Psychology and Social Sciences on 18-20 December 2020, Oxford-UK.

- Dr. Jolly Singh and Ms. Kirandeep kaur have presented papers in an International Conference on Myths, Archetypes and Symbols organised by London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at Birkbeck College, University of London. Dr. Jolly also chaired a session in the same.

Sr. No.	Name of Faculty	Number of papers presented in National/international conferences	Number of papers published in journals/conference proceeding	FDP/Refresher course/Orientation course/Workshops
1.	Dr. Lakshmi Vats	3	3	8
2.	Dr. Hemlata Krishnani	4	-	6
3.	Dr. Garima Mani Tripathi	1	6	3
4.	Dr. Sheelam Bharti	-	-	8
5.	Dr. Jolly Singh	2	1	-
6.	Dr. Kirandeep Kaur	2	1	-

### **Achievements of Alumni**

On an average, more than 50 percent of our students enroll themselves for post-graduation every year.

- **Ms. Ruchi Bhardwaj has completed her Masters of Philosophy, Politics and Economics (MPPE) from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. She also interned at the High Commission of India in Wellington.**

Although Philosophy has a subject is opted by many students by choice and we have more and more students taking admission in the course but there are few challenges that have to be taken into account like at the university level, philosophy as a subject is not actively encouraged. Misperception at large level being an abstract moral science divorced from reality. Not being a subject in the 12<sup>th</sup>, it's a challenging task to introduce the subject to the young minds and then quickly make them familiar with the complex theoretical issues. In spite of the challenges, the department is hopeful to flourish and reach maximum height as more and more students and people are understanding the immanent role of Philosophy in their lives.

### **Opportunities and Future Plans**

- A strong platform for students to become future leaders of the country.
- Enables students to marshal facts and theories to reach at truth through objectivity.
- Imbues students with humanistic spirit and universal ethos as well as moral value system.

- Opens up wider vistas of research in areas like human rights, justice, conflict and peace studies, ecology, globalization, gender studies and religious studies.
- Planning Interactive sessions with students of other universities. Exchange of students and faculties between other universities to have broader perspectives.
- Having online access to libraries of other universities / institutes.