

Minutes of the Meeting
Board of Studies for Sociology, VESASC
11 Feb 2023
12.00 noon to 12.30 pm

The meeting took place via Google Meet. It began at 12 noon and continued until 12.30 pm. The agenda for the meeting was to discuss the syllabi for Sociology Papers 2 and 3 of Semester IV (SYBA). The Board of Studies for Sociology, Vivekanand Education Society's Arts Science and Commerce College was constituted by the following members apart from the Department lecturers Sonia Lal (I/C HoD), Ashwini Gole and Jai Subramanian:

1. Dr Shilpa Jadhav (VC Nominee)
2. Dr Sujata Gokhale (Subject Expert)
3. Mr Pravin Wadnere (Industry Expert)
4. Mr Ganesh (Alumnus)

The meeting began with the outlining of the specific aims and objectives of the meeting: namely, the discussion of the SYBA syllabus and internal marking systems. Specific comments or suggestions if any were sought from the Board.

With regard to the syllabus for Paper 2 (Sociology of Development), the Board had the following suggestions:

1. Dr Shilpa Jadhav requested a detailing of the component parts of the modernisation theory of development. It was clarified that these components consisted of Rostov's theory and the theory of development of underdevelopment.
2. Dr Sujata Gokhale suggested that instead of the "meaning" of development, it might be more fruitful to focus on the "concept" of development as the former may be too vast to cover academically.
3. Mr Pravin Wadnere pointed out that while the last unit shows examples of development models of Maharashtra, can we expand our perspectives to a more international level? Maybe we need to move away from focusing only on India by bringing in insights from Ugandan (and other African), South American countries. This would give us different perspectives on how these countries are dealing with food, education, power and resources. Sonia proposed that we do this by assigning presentation projects to students. Mr Wadnere found this suggestion satisfactory.

With regard to the syllabus for Paper 3 (Emerging Fields in Sociological Studies), the Board had the following suggestions:

1. Mr Ganesh spoke about Unit 4, which deals with geriatric care. He agreed with Sonia's suggestion that field visits would offer students the requisite exposure, and will help them move beyond theoretical knowledge. Moreover, he recommended that since students

generally put in more effort if field visits are marked, it might be helpful to offer students a chance to score marks through field involvement.

2. Mr Wadnere suggested that while speaking about media and gatekeeping, he would like students to observe and understand where the media/journalism scene is actually heading. With the advent of social/online media, there has been a proliferation of user-generated media content. He said that since this trend might gain in strength, it would be helpful to include user-generated content in the curriculum, and situate the debates on looking at pros and cons of user-generated content
3. Dr Jadhav suggested that under the urban governance unit focusing on Mithi mitigation, maybe we can get students to explore the causes, components and factors of disaster. However, since these are 2 topics and the class consists of a large number of students, Sonia suggested that maybe we can make more topics and smaller groups.
4. Dr Jadhav suggested that the number of media theories be reduced to two. However, Sonia and Jai objected to this as these various perspectives are necessary to encourage students to compare and contrast among them.

The meeting concluded with Sonia stating that while the meeting has been very fruitful so far, the Department is **awaiting guidelines from the University and UGC in case any mandatory changes with the National Educational Policy in mind are initiated**. In such a situation, it was proposed that we have either a high-priority meeting, or in case this does not materialise, the Department will forward to the Board a document outlining any requisite changes.