

Barasat Government College

Academic Audit for the Year 2020-21

[1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021]

Academic Audit of different Departments is an essential component of quality enhancement in Higher Education Institutions. As per the decision adopted in the IQAC meeting a team has been formed from the IQAC members to carry out the Academic Audit of all the Departments of the College for the said period.

A) The Internal members:

1. Prof. Jukta Adhikari, HOD, Department of Botany
2. Dr. Arun Kumar Roy, Librarian
3. Dr. Prabir Bhattacharya, HOD, Department of Chemistry
4. Dr. Nisith Ch. Das, HOD, Department of Mathematics

B) The External member:

1. Dr. Partha Pratim Dasgupta, Principal, Barasat Gollege

Methodology:

After close examination of the information sheets furnished by the departments, priorities of the audit are determined. Detailed discussions with the faculty of the department about all aspects of academics and other allied activities are made. All the records are examined to find out the strength and weakness. Facilities showcasing the teachers' and students' activities like Wall Magazine, Seminar Bulletins, Annual Reports and Activities Albums are accessed and duly analysed to evaluate the quality of teaching-learning.

Reports:

On the basis of thorough checking of the data submitted by different departments of the college and the inspections to all the departments the following strength and weakness of individual department are sorted out.

I. Bengali Department

Strengths:

1. Good results in UG department.
2. Department of Bengali is a PG department and result of PG is always good.
3. Department has a library of its own.
4. Seats are always full and does not remain vacant here.
5. There is a separate seminar room with good technology and projector in the department.
6. Sufficient number of teachers.

Weakness:

1. As the students are financially weak, they are compelled to do other works for their household. So, they are not regular in the classes and cannot afford books for their studies.
2. Students are not so accustomed of the prevailing online education system.
3. For the financial crisis students cannot pursue higher education all the time after they complete Graduation instead of their merit.

II. Botany Department

Strengths:

1. The oldest well established and reputed Post graduate Department in the College. The post graduate course in Botany started in 2003 with 25 students (under the ambit of Calcutta University). As part of a reputed government college the Department draws the best and the brightest along with a good number of students from underprivileged backgrounds.
2. The Department has good infrastructure and amenities (well equipped class rooms as well as laboratories for carrying out research work).
3. Faculty members are actively involved in the activities like research, Publications and participation in seminars, workshops, Symposia, Summer School and Hands on training programme etc.
4. Many faculty members are recognized research guides (under WBSU, University of Calcutta, Gour Banga University etc.) and are carrying out active research in different areas of plant science.

5. The Department promotes the students for research activity and presentation of their work apart from the usual course curriculum. Several post graduate students are now working as research scholars in reputed Institutes like CSIR-IICB (Kolkata), ICRISAT (Hydreabad), IIT Kharagpur and NIT Durgapur.
6. The Department maintains a Good student-faculty ratio and it also has Adequate library and reading room facility for the students as well as faculty members.
7. Apart from the usual course curriculum the students Continuously participate in workshops, Summer training schools and other interdisciplinary programmes.
8. The Department receives continuous guidance, motivation and support from the Principal and Convenors of different Committees.

Weakness:

1. Preference for professional courses after XIIth over courses in bio- science by the students.
2. The Department does not have adequate number of supporting staff members for smooth running of its activities.
3. Lack of permanent faculty due to the routine transfer policy of the State Govt.
4. Being a government college, appointment and transfer of teaching/non-teaching staff depends on Government policies and the process of filling up of vacant posts is slow.
5. Scope of orienting students towards higher studies and research is limited due to time constraints and heavy Examination schedules.

III. Chemistry Department

Strengths

1. High teacher: student ratio
2. Very good student teacher relationship
3. highly experienced and qualified teachers
4. strong academic output of students along with participation and engagement in different academic matters like seminars, quizzes etc
5. Good, well equipped and well-ventilated laboratories.

Weakness

- 1 lack of young faculty
- 2 lack of research activities
- 3 skewed distributions of teachers in the different streams of specialisation
- 4 poorly ventilated and very small classrooms
- 5 intermittent WiFi connectivity with dearth of computers

IV. Economics Department

Strengths:

1. Department has all posts filled up.
2. Three out of six faculty members have Ph D degrees.
3. Department has a big and active seminar library.
4. All teachers are ICT enabled.
5. Department encourages extracurricular and cultural activities.

Weakness:

1. Department does not have sufficient number of class rooms.
2. Department does not have a separate computer laboratory which is necessary for practical and project works.
3. Department does not have a projector.
4. Department does not have a laptop.
5. Department does not have a dedicated room for seminar library and study.

V. English Department

Strengths:

1. Completion of the syllabus through lecture methods and internal projects and assessments.
2. Using audio-visual tools in teaching – learning.
3. Interactive sessions with Students including Students' presentations, blogs.
4. Inviting distinguished teachers and scholars for special talk.
5. Maintaining connections with past pupils through whatsapp and a facebook.

Weaknesses:

1. Most of the Bengali medium students find it difficult to overcome the language barrier in acquiring in -depth knowledge of English Literature.
2. Some students with feeble economic condition and family support, are unable to buy costly texts and reference books.
3. Lack of adequate fund for buying more books for the seminar library.
4. Difficult to manage huge workload under CBCS system with present faculty strength.
5. Inadequate equipment for making the language lab technologically advanced.

VI. Geography Department

Strengths:

1. Qualified & dedicated faculties. Support staff are also sincere and capable enough.
2. Bright and enthusiastic groups of students.
3. Department members who are supportive and well communicative.
4. Decent student-teacher relation.
5. Good infrastructure like smart class rooms, seminar library, RS - GIS laboratory and a rich departmental store having different kinds of maps and geographical instruments.

Weakness:

1. Deficiency of supporting staff.
2. Shortage of space.
3. Difficulty in conducting practical classes properly in on-line mode. Similarly, it is quite difficult to continue sessions requiring hands-on exercise or practices.
4. Due to several technical limitations students could attend limited classes, resulting in a decrease in total number of classes in this pandemic period than before.
5. Unfavourable physical environment like moist or damp class room, suffocated departmental staff room, unhygienic departmental washrooms etc.

VII. History Department

Strength:

1. Mutual understanding and co-operation among the faculty members of history department help in imparting teaching in a better way.
2. Inter-faculty cordial relationships help the history department to arrange inter-discipline lectures which benefit our students to a greater way.
3. History department impart rationality, social awareness, religious tolerance and cooperativeness among students from various socio-economic and religious background to develop them as a better citizen albeit human. Department also arrange gender sensitization programme regularly.
4. Department of History also encourage the students for extracurricular activities viz. Wall Magazine/ E-Magazine, making and uploading E-Posters of social awareness, Inter-college debate competitions both offline and online, visit nearby localities to distribute masks and sanitizers to the people in need and sometimes perform other social works feasible for them.
5. Department of History also takes special care to the students of special needs by way of taking remedial classes and distributing books and stationaries as far as possible. Department also gives special attention to their students through the Teacher-Parents/Guardians meeting on regular intervals.

Weakness:

1. Department is not equipped with ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and LMS (Learning Management System) to build and manage online training programme, online courses to plan, implement, facilitate, assess and monitor students learning.
2. Department is also lacking of Smart Classroom for the enhancement of teaching and learning digitally.
3. Students of the Department belong to rural as well as most underprivileged section of the society, hence could not effort to have a laptop, desktop, smartphone or a tablet. This makes them handicap for virtual learning as the modern-day education system depends on.
4. Teachers of the department need useful training and workshops for understanding the modern-day teaching-learning tools and techniques.
5. Pupil -Teacher Ratio (PTR) is low resulting overburdening the teacher of the department which adversely affects the quality of teaching. As a result of the PTR teachers are also unable to pursue any research or other academic activities.

VIII. Mathematics Department

Strengths:

1. Qualified Teacher.
2. Independent computer lab.
3. Good understanding among Teachers.
4. Strong Teacher-Student relationship.
5. Independent staff room.

Weakness:

1. Shortage of theory class rooms as well as e-class rooms.
2. Small disorganised computer lab.
3. Lack of equipment for e-class room.
4. No non-teaching staff.
5. No space for departmental seminar library.

IX. Philosophy Department

Strengths:

1. Very good and cordial student-teacher relationship. Faculty members of the department try their best to help the students in every possible way. In pandemic situation some needy students are provided with smart phones and mobile data to enable them to attend on-line classes.
2. Good academic performance of the students. Our students are consistently being among the toppers in the university examinations.
3. Regular seminars, workshops, invited lectures by eminent scholars are held,
4. The students organize and participate in different cultural programs. They celebrate Teachers 'Day, Fresher's Welcome, Women's Day etc. Regular wall magazines are published by the students. In pandemic situation they have published e-magazine.
5. The department is very concerned about the mental well-being of the students. Regular counseling and awareness programme by psychological counseling cell of the college is arranged by the department.

Weakness:

1. Lack of designated class room.
2. No departmental room. It is difficult to interact with the students outside classroom.
3. Very poor Teacher-student ratio in the morning section of the department.
4. Faculty members regularly update themselves. Still there is scope of improvement of research activities of the faculty members.
5. No departmental computer. The department has only one laptop which is not sufficient for the departmental activities.

X. Physics Department

Strengths –

- 1) The College is located at Barasat, the district town of North 24 Pgs and has a vast area as its hinterland, where a dense population resides. As a result, a large number of students are available, a sizable portion of which are from minority and SC/ST community. The meritorious students from these regions apply for admission in this college in general. Specifically, they join our department. The quality of the students is reflected in the number of our students who make their positions among the toppers in the W B S U examinations and in the competitive National-Level examinations like JEST, JAM, UGC-NET and others.
- 2) Physics is taught in both UG and PG levels. We also, have strong research Groups working in various branches of theoretical and experimental physics. Thus, students are encouraged to interact with the faculties. This direct contact with the students is an attraction for students of all sections.
- 3) A very good academic profile of the faculties, all of which possess Ph. D. degree as the highest degree from prestigious universities and national level organizations. This is certainly a quite strong point in favor of the department. Existing Laboratory support staff have been very eager to do department activities assigned to them.

Weaknesses –

- 1) We are experiencing a crunch for Classroom and Laboratory space. This has been very critical since the inception of CBCS and Semester based course curricula.
- 2) Being a Postgraduate department, we desire a higher Teacher-Student ratio to keep up with the present-day status for higher education.
- 3) Our Department Seminar Library and Laboratory infrastructure needs an upliftment. Specifically, we need to upgrade our computer labs which have been outdated to some extent.

XI. Political Science Department

Strengths:

1. Friendly relations of the students with the teachers make it easy to diagnose the problems of the students and in most cases, therefore, it is possible to offer them remedies/solutions. Besides, the teachers, in every possible way, help the needy students in continuing studies by providing books, study materials, special mentoring and guidance outside classroom hour.
2. The teachers take special care of the 'specially abled' students of the department to ensure them hassle-free and comfortable situation within the college and for their studies.

3. The teachers maintain constant communication with the guardians of the students. Parents-teachers meetings provide valuable inputs for betterment of the students.
4. Continuous attempts are made by the teachers to create a mindset of the students for amicable collective working as a group, to inculcate in them knowledge about the constitutional democratic system and ideals as well as for creation of social awareness on various matters. To encourage the students in this regard and to help them in flourishing their latent talents, the department consistently involves the students in the activities like publication of e-wall magazine, students' webinar, debates, extempore, poster competition, attending various webinars.
5. Innovative teaching methods like PowerPoint presentation, screening of films and short films, relevant to political science topics are features of the department to make the learning process enjoyable and interesting.

Weakness:

1. The department lacks dedicated classroom including smart classroom (However, this is not exclusive problem of the department).
2. The department has certain technical deficiencies in the form of teaching-learning aids like laptops/tabs, microphones to deliver lectures, in proportion to its student strength.
3. Mostly the students study in Bengali. So, a large section of them suffers from weakness in English that affects their access to learning resources that are written in English.
4. Several students stay far away from the college. Hence, they face transport problem. This infrastructural constraint, sometimes, affects their attendance in the class.

XII. Sanskrit Department

Strengths:

1. Creative and openminded faculty
2. Problem solving attitude of the teachers – they are adopting various methods to make the teaching and learning process interesting in this pandemic period.
3. A very supportive authority
4. Enthusiasm of students – they always participate in extracurricular activities, NSS and other volunteer works.
5. A very rich collection of books in our college library.

Weakness:

1. Shortage in the number of faculty members.
2. Huge workload due to the CBCS system.
3. It's very unfortunate that we cannot reach all of our students in this period.

XIII. Zoology Department

Strengths:

1. Highly dedicated and enthusiastic teaching faculties
2. Departmental academic planner - elaborate discussions and meeting for syllabi allotment and preparation of materials.
3. Seminar library & rich e- books and journals collection.
4. High number of first class in PG and UG.
5. Students pursuing M.Sc. and Ph.D. in central universities and institutions, their involvements in Dept. through webinar, recorded lectures, etc.
6. Post Graduate students are involved in doing dissertation/ review/projects under the supervision of all the faculties. Students have achieved awards for poster/paper presentation in different national/international seminars. Some students have also published the result of their work with their respective teachers in peer reviewed journals.
7. Good number of students qualifying in state/national level examinations (eg. NET/SET/GATE/State government examinations).
8. High Number of students progressing to higher education
9. The department has a well -organized feedback system to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning.
10. Strong and healthy Working Environment

Weakness:

1. All vacant posts should be filled up to meet up huge syllabus of UG & PG curriculum.
2. Post of Lab Assistant & Lab attendant both are vacant, to be filled up for smooth running of practical classes
3. Very limited space (lecture rooms as well as practical laboratories) for running PG & UG classes simultaneously.
4. Allotted research laboratories are already occupied by various instruments. No extra vacant space is there for purchase of further sanctioned instruments & furniture.
5. Practical laboratories should be renovated & modernized

Prof. Jukta Adhikari:

Dr. Partha Pratim Dasgupta:
(External Member of Audit Committee)

Dr. Arun Kumar Roy:

Session: 2020-2021

Dr. Prabir Bhattacharya:

Dr. Nisith Ch. Das:

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