

Academic Audit Report: 2014-19

**SREE SANKARACHARYA UNIVERSITY OF SANSKRIT,
KALADY, ERNAKULAM (District), KERALA**

14-15 June, 2019

Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Rajan

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ACADEMIC AUDIT, SSUS, KALADY

The Academic Audit Committee for Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Ernakulam (District), Kerala, was constituted as per notification vide No. IQAC/Acd Auditing/SSUS/2019 dated 13-06-2019 issued by the Hon. Vice Chancellor to conduct Academic Audit of the University on 14-06-2019 and 15-06-2019 for the period 2014-19.

The team comprised of Dr. M. P. Rajan, Former Academic Consultant & Member, Peer Team, NAAC, Bangalore & Prof. John Kattakkayam, Former Director, Academic Staff College, University of Kerala & Member, Peer Team, NAAC, Bangalore who spear-headed the audit incorporating an external subject expert for the respective departments. The team has completed the audit procedures during the period.

The Audit Team visited various university departments /academic units and evaluated their functioning on curriculum, faculty positions, teaching-learning methodology, research activities, faculty/student/institutional awards/achievements/recognitions/honors and infrastructural facilities, out-reach programs, eco-friendliness etc. With the intention of providing constructive guidance and positive directions for sustained growth and development of the University, Audit Team has taken care not to critique, judge or issue any character statement on any individual or group. The team took upon themselves the freedom to make some probing and intriguing queries to which the entire University community responded positively.

The Audit Team places on record its sincere appreciation to University Statutory Authorities, Faculty Members and Administrative Head/Staff for the generous co-operation and support extended throughout the two days of audit. This text is the submission of only cursory observations made and therefore need not be considered completely as an evaluation summary.

Observations made and opinion presented sometimes may not critically reflect the actual status and therefore the same need not be considered as judgment pronounced. The Audit Team members present their views in good will with the aim of taking institution to the next higher level of growth.



The Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, a State University, with its main campus in Kalady and 8 Regional campuses in various parts of Kerala, was established in 1993. It has been accredited by NAAC with 'A' grade. The SSUS offers 82 programs (PhD/MPhil/PG/UG/PG Diploma/Diploma) with a faculty strength of 174 members against a sanctioned strength of 220. The process of filling up the vacant positions has already been initiated by the University. Apart from the 174 full time faculty members, around 200 guest lecturers are also working in the University on clock hour basis. During the past 25 years, the University has emerged as an academic institution of repute by offering educational training needed at the early tertiary level UG to Doctoral Programs, primarily intended to impart knowledge in various branches of Sanskrit and other subjects. The University is ably supported by its Vice-Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, all Statutory Bodies and dedicated faculty who provide holistic education with effective teaching amalgamated with much needed research to dynamic and enthusiastic group of students.

The main objectives of the University is the propagation of Classical Sanskrit Language and Literature, Vedic, Vedanta and Vedanga studies, Modern Indian languages, Performing and Fine Arts, and Social Sciences. In addition to promoting the study and research of Sanskrit, the University also aims to propagate Indology, Indian Culture, Indian Languages, Indian Philosophy, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages and Social Sciences. The University boasts of the best teaching departments in various realms of Sanskrit as well as peculiar departments like Fine Arts, Music and Dance. Traditional forms of Art such as Koodiyattom, Mohiniyattom, Bharatanatyam, Mural painting and Carnatic music and also modern theatre are taught and practiced. In 2016, the University formed the Faculty of Science, Technology and Education by incorporating three existing departments of Psychology, Geography and Physical Education.

The remarkable feature is of this University is its stupendous progress within a short span of time. It has been able to produce 474 PhD scholars and secure 450 awards to its credit, from various recognized govt. /non-govt. bodies/organizations at the state/national/international levels which indeed is a great achievement, in the field of teaching, learning, and research and also out-reach programs. The University has successfully designed and offered



nationally needed, socially relevant and culturally vibrant academic programs/ courses in various disciplines of arts and social sciences.

General Remarks

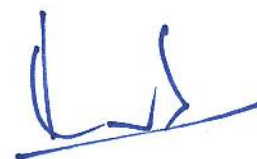
The two days' evaluation process by the Audit Team has offered an in-department understanding on the functionalities/ functions of the University. Moreover, the Audit Team was given complete freedom to visit all the departments and other units of the University. The support and cooperation received from the Faculty members and Technical staff at various departments and offices are gratefully acknowledged.

I. Faculty and Terms of References

- Faculty Members are qualified, competent, committed and undertake responsibilities. A good number of them have received recognitions at state/national/international levels.
- It is seen that the faculty members are in a position to articulate their views and ideas without any fear or favor.
- The system ensures that there is space for mutual trust and equal rights.
- It is heartening to note that every segment works as an independent unit with its own goals and objectives in such a way that the collation of ideas collectively reflect the overall Vision and Mission Statements of the institution.
- The roles of the faculty appear well defined, but it is felt that the departments are not adequately staffed.
- Participatory management system involving staff and student representatives is visible. But e-governance in the University needs to be enhanced.

II. Academic Matters

- The various academic programs from UG to research are in tune with the institutional vision and mission.
- The University has a perfect mechanism on the design of curriculum for various academic programs.




- The general impression gained is that most of the departments are pedagogy oriented, while all the departments have the potential for excellent research.
- The Institution has direct links with stakeholders and takes their views in designing the implementation strategies.
- The departments have the autonomy to design methods for instructional strategies.
- Certificate/Add-on courses/Diploma programs are being offered by various departments, but in a small number. With a view to enhance, skill development and scope for employability, more number of Add-on/Diploma/Certificate/value-added programs need to be introduced.

III. Teaching & Learning

- The Audit Team records its appreciation for the implementation of novel teaching-learning strategies in some of the departments. All the departments and the entire team of teachers may be encouraged to equip pedagogy with modern teaching-aids.
- As most of the subjects taught are unique in nature, a centralized mechanism may be put in place for the incorporation of ICT-based learning resources with a proper blending of conventional methods. However, it is suggested that every faculty member may develop ICT- based teaching-learning resources where ever necessary.
- Student mentoring has been introduced, but that needs to be formulated with a structured mechanism.
- Learning Management System (LMS) to be implemented and the institution may take steps to encourage teachers to upload E- lecture contents to MOODLE platform and also students to take up MOOC/ Swayam courses.

IV. Research

- The University encourages departmental research activities and fairly good number of PhDs have been produced in many departments.
- Research Committee and related policies are seen, but they need to be strengthened.
- Some of the departments promote inter-disciplinary research which is commendable.

- Limited number of departments have procured high standard in research, but in some other departments research output is still to be made visible.
- Good number of research projects are seen. Faculty may be encouraged to apply for more funded research projects.
- Knowledge creation could be enhanced by strengthening original research. Hence steps may be initiated to improve research profile of the University.
- An evaluation of the research facilities available in various departments may be conducted so that University would be able to understand the difficulties which the departments are facing now. This will pave way for the overall growth and strengthening of research activities in the entire institutional system.
- The library in the University has created a conducive atmosphere for promoting research.
- A small of departments could generate funds through consultancy, scope exists to generate more funds through consultancy, so the mechanism to offer consultancy services may be strengthened.
- The existing Collaborative activities needs strengthening.

V. Out-reach Programs

- Through NSS, NCC and some of the departments, University has undertaken useful extension and out-reach programs.
- All the departments may be requested to undertake domain-specific outreach activities and they can plan for socially relevant extension work within their own domains for societal benefits.
- Measures need to be taken for ensuring maximum student participation in the out-reach programs.

VI. Examination and Results

- A transparent examination system is operational within the University.
- The Faculty members are found to be discharging their exam duties with dedication.
- Application of ICT-tools in the examination system may improve the efficiency and transparency. Full Automation of the examinations system is recommended.



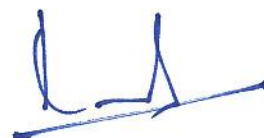

- For UG/PG programs, in most of the departments, passing percentage is quite good.
- Valuation Related Grievances are found to be minimum.
- Both formative and summative assessments have been done with care and seriousness.
- Outcome Based Education (OBE) is being practiced, POs, PSOs & COs statements are published and Attainment of Outcomes are measured using requisite parameters.
- Students have been participating in national/state level competitive exams and an appreciable number of students have cleared NET etc.
- However, a Competitive Examinations Corner may be set up in the University to help students who prepare for competitive exams.

VII. Infrastructure and Administration

- Since Administrative Audit is in the pipe line, Academic Audit Team is not expected to verify the records related to financial transactions/office procedures/administrative matters/library facilities. However, the Audit Team recommends that the infrastructural needs of the University should be assessed again meticulously.

VIII. IQAC

- The Audit Team records its appreciation for the effective quality initiative, sustenance and enhancement with enrichment steps undertaken by IQAC as well as effective coordination of various curricular and co-curricular activities of the University.
- The timely submission of AQAR and other reports are noteworthy.
- Effective measures for collection of feedback from stakeholders on curriculum/teaching-learning process and its follow up measures are in existence, but may be strengthened by designing a structured mechanism.
- Faculty and other staff appraisal system are operational.
- Improvements in the domain of research and the insistence of quality metrics in publications could well be the next target of IQAC.

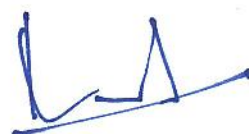
IX. Student Activities

- The University provides adequate avenues for bringing out the innate talents of the students.
- Students organize a number of programs in the University and participate in the programs of other institutions and perform very well.
- However, Students may still be motivated to participate more in the State/National/International level competitions in sports, cultural activities, research, extension activities etc.

X. Overall Evaluation

The Audit Team concludes with the following remarks:

- The institution has been performing very well in all its activities though there is always a scope for improvement in the designing of curriculum, research and extension activities.
- Greater emphasis may be assigned to the implementation of EPR/MIS for effective governance.
- The institution nurtures good practices and measures are seen for institutionalizing them.
- Measures have been taken for internationalization of practices from many departments. It is praiseworthy to note that the University has initiated steps to examine the modalities for attracting students from the international community to the campus. Accordingly, a committee has been constituted to examine the scope of the same.
- Other remarkable features of the University are diverse students' community from across Kerala, opportunity for interdisciplinary learning, support system for students from socially and economically backward students, culturally and politically vibrant campus community.
- A holistic approach towards the study of Language and Literature of Sanskrit from Undergraduate program onwards is very evident. Even though, SSUS is associated primarily with Sanskrit and allied subjects, some of the departments are very keen



to equip each student to cope up with the digital resources without shelving the traditional mode of Sanskrit learning.

- With the inspiring leadership of the Vice-Chancellor, continued support of the Pro Vice-Chancellor & other Statutory Bodies, dedicated service of the Deans, Heads, other Teachers and the Non-Teaching staff and the committed students, the SSUS is all set to become the University of Excellence in the country in the near future.

The Audit Team once again records its sincere appreciation to all the institutional authorities, teaching and non-teaching staff members for the incessant support and cooperation extended during the entire two days of visit.

The Audit Team Members wish the institution success in all its endeavors.



Prof. (Dr.) John Kattakkayam



Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Rajan

EVALUATIVE REPORT ON DEPARTMENTS

I. Department of Sanskrit Sahitya

The Department Sanskrit Sahitya, the flagship program of the University (for propagating and strengthening Sanskrit Studies in Kerala) offers UG, PG, MPhil & PhD programs. The department has a successful history of 25 years and a strong legacy of substantial academic growth since its inception. The Department is fortified with maximum number of permanent faculty members and also with maximum number of students as well as researchers amongst the five Sanskrit Departments of the University. Moreover, the remarkable feature of the department is the availability of reasonably high number of recognized research guides (25), who are nationally acclaimed scholars in their respective fields of research and they have accomplished about 100 PhD's over the past 25 years which is a remarkable achievement. The major portion of this is multi-disciplinary or interdisciplinary in nature. Even though, the Sanskrit language has limited scope at the international level, department has the track-record of having conducted a few conferences/ events at the international level, in addition to quite a big number of nationally relevant seminars/colloquia. The department maintains a resourceful library with large number of books/journals benefiting PG students and research scholars. The department is credited with publication of eighteen books also.

Formation of other allied departments of the University such as Vedic Studies, Manuscriptology and Vastuvidya is spear-headed by the Department of Sanskrit Sahitya.

The syllabus of P.G course and the areas of PhD research are to be designed by incorporating the contemporary trends in knowledge, and the students must be enabled to cope up with the contemporary academia and society.

The department of Sanskrit Sahitya is facing lack of infrastructural facilities including space constraints which is adversely affecting its growth.

The students are awarded Ph.D. from the Department face difficulty to get appropriate places to carry out continue their research projects. The Department has to envisage new avenues of academic projects that would provide opportunities for promising young scholars.



II. Department Of Sanskrit Vyakarana

The Department of Sanskrit Vyakarana also offers UG, PG & research programs and produced good number of doctorates. Teachers from this department have published many books in Sanskrit. The Department encourages students to participate in competitive examinations and for getting placements, as a result of this, a number of students have cleared NET-JRF, thereby majority of the outgoing students could get better placements. The Department keeps good rapport with a large number of establishments and institutions enabling fruitful collaborative programs. The two major areas that this department has to concentrate are provision for adequate infrastructure facilities and availability of qualified and permanent faculty.

III. Department of Sanskrit Vedanta

The Department of Sanskrit Vedanta, which offers UG, PG and PhD programs, has produced a good number of PhDs and many students from the department have cleared JRF-NET. Qualified teachers, who are actively involved in curricular/co-curricular activities in various spheres at state/national levels, have helped to procure recognitions/achievements. In addition, the department has an excellent collection of ancient and valuable collection of philosophical, cultural and Ayurveda publications/periodicals which constitute a treasure for research, even for other departments such as History, Malayalam, etc. A few certificate/add-on programs are also conducted by the department. Moreover, the department has taken initiative for the conduct of Lecture series in collaboration with SAHAPEDIA collective, New Delhi and Uru Art Harbour, Kochi. Undergraduate students have formed *UTKARSHA*, a platform for academic and cultural interactions and healthy discussions.

Lack of facilities, particularly state of the art technology based equipment hamper projects of students of sufficient funds for research projects are also a major constraint faced by the department.

IV. Department of Sanskrit Nyaya

Department of Nyaya offers learning programs from UG to research which is being set up as an explorative approach towards the study of Indian Logic and Sanskrit Literature. The programs include an extensive range of topics from various schools of Indian Logical



thinking and varied phases of Linguistic and Literary topics while designing the syllabus and course structure thus enabling the students to apply the day -to-day life experience with contemporary philosophical aspects of linguistic interactions other than Sanskrit was also envisaged. The department organizes talks by eminent academicians and scholars where students get opportunities to interact with them, paving for acquiring in-depth knowledge in Indian Wisdom in different areas and to explore research aptitude of the students. A research forum is functional, in the department, to analyze repository of knowledge laid in the Vedic thoughts to contemporary life situation and deliberations through weekly seminars/conducting Sastra Sadas.

Shortage of permanent Teaching faculty, lack of class rooms with modern teaching-aids and inadequate library facilities adversely affect the academic environment and sharing of knowledge with timely conceptualization and also research activities. Since the Department of Sanskrit Nyaya is a unique subject related one with ancient Indian wisdom and that deserves preservation through modern technology in the form of theatrical presentations for the future. Recording facilities may be arranged for the same as well as for Sastraic conversations and interactions with veteran scholars in the respective areas and traditional Pandits, to create an environment of academic excellence.

V. Department Of Sanskrit General

Department of Sanskrit offers UG, PG, M.Phil. and PhD programs with a holistic approach. Even though, all the sanctioned faculty positions are not filled up with permanent teachers, the department has undertaken strenuous efforts to offer a wide range of topics from various fields of literature. While designing courses, they ensure the benefit of exploring the literature is passed on to the students of the departments other than Sanskrit also. Eminent scholars/academicians are invited for interactive sessions to procure deeper knowledge of particular areas of the subjects and also to tap the research prospects. The remarkable feature of the department is the functioning of the Research Forum to blend with the knowledge embedded in Vedic with Modern Literature and its propagation through weekly sessions.

Unfilled teaching faculty positions, scarcity of modern teaching aids in the class rooms/seminar hall and limited library facilities are the major constraints faced by the department. Another major challenge of the department is to equip the students with



digital resources without shelving the traditional mode of learning Sanskrit.

VI. Department of Ayurveda

The Department of Ayurveda offers Ph D as research program. The inter disciplinary programs offered by this Department are Diploma in Ayurveda Panchakarama and International Spa Therapy and Post graduate Diploma in wellness and Spa Management in Regional Centre Ettumanoor. The uniqueness of these trans-disciplinary programs are its global careers as wellness professionals that the students are 100% placed during the end of each academic year. Shortage of regular faculty and research guides are the barriers faced by the Department to develop as a centre of Research in Indian thoughts in Science and Technology.

VII. Department of Malayalam

The department of Malayalam offers PG and Research programs with integrated MPhil/PhD. Qualified and socially recognised faculty members, high passing percentage and good placements of the students are some of the salient features of this department. It encourages students to appear for state/national level competitive examinations and as an outcome, a significant number of students could clear JRF-NET during the last five years. Faculty members/research scholars have made immense contributions towards research as reflected in their regional/national/international publications in Malayalam, English and German. Some of the faculty members have brought many laurels to the department and University as well, at the state/national/international level.

Department is in high demand of more teaching posts and advanced teaching aids, with infrastructure, to equip students towards challenging world of modern education.

VIII. Department of English Language & Literature

Department of English offers UG, PG, MPhil and PhD programs. Highest numbers of JRF and NET awardees are from this department. The department is blessed with highly committed and qualified teachers. However, vacancies in the sanctioned strength need to be filled in.

Research profile of the department need to be strengthened with major/ minor projects, national/international collaborations and publications.



IX. Department of Hindi

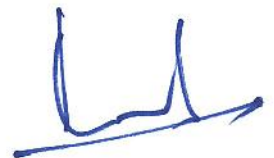
Department of Hindi which offers PG & research degrees leading to MPhil & PhD, has well qualified Teachers with high academic records. Curriculum is formulated with new area of studies like Women, Dalit and Ecology and also with the inclusion of Indian literature in syllabus, as a part of national integration. Students have the opportunity to acquire knowledge of 4 languages, i.e. Hindi, Malayalam, English and Sanskrit. Students, in large number, are placed in various fields of official language and technology. Research profile of the department is appreciable with a large number of publications and books. Department has organized a number of national/international seminars with the participation of eminent scholars, writers and critics from various states of India. A job oriented PG diploma in translation and office proceeding in Hindi is helpful for the students in procuring jobs especially in government sector.

Filling up of vacant positions of permanent teachers, within the sanctioned strength, will be a source of improving its performance.

X. Department of Arabic

Department of Arabic was established in the year 2005 in a remote area of Malappuram District and offers course in Post graduation in Arabic .It also offers elective courses to other P.G departments which give stress on Functional aspect. Most of the takers of this course are minority girl students belonging to socially and educationally weak category. The strength of the department is its well furnished seminar hall and classroom with ICT facilities. Most of the students are placed in various educational institutions which paved the way for empowering the women to reach the fore front from the lower strata of society. It has a strong Alumni which helps the department to publish a journal named *Hakkimuddin* with UGC recognition.

The basic handicap of the department is shortage of permanent faculties and Research facilities which dissuade the students to take courses from this department.



XI. Department of Urdu

Department of Urdu in the Regional Campus Koyilandy of SSUS is situated in a remote area where the learning facilities are very limited because of the lack of government education institutions. The department offers programs for Post Graduate, M.Phil. Research and also courses for under Graduate students as Additional language. The uniqueness of the department is that it has a catholic outlook and it acts as a catalyst for national integration through its syllabi. It is the only institution in Kerala where Research facilities are available in Urdu language and most of the takers are minority girl students belonging to socially and educationally backward communities. The thrust area of the research is comparative literature .There are 35 students who cleared the NET and most of the students are placed in various institutions as teachers. The department has a collection of 5000 titles of books in its library and subscribed 25 Journals for Research students. The department has produced 9 PhDs till date from its inception.

Shortage of permanent faculties, lack of infrastructure and ICT enabled class rooms, lack of hostel facilities and seminar halls are the weaknesses of the department. However the scholars with national recognitions have been participating in the national seminars as Resource persons conducted by the department.

XII. Department of Social Work

The department of Social Work, established in 1995, offers career-oriented PG and PhD programs in Social Work with an outcome-based curriculum. Its programs are accredited by international Councils of UK, USA, Australia, Canada and New-Zealand. Classroom sessions are ICT enabled and equipped with Audio-visual Accessories. Continuous evaluation of students is followed through a well-defined mechanism with semester-wise skill development programs as well as other student enrichment programs. Department extends its service through community extension projects, research projects, collaborations with national/ international organizations and government/non-government agencies and consultancy services. Faculty members are actively involved in state and national policy making exercises- like state transgender policy, national street-vendors' policy, Kerala Gender policy, policy related to back waters in Kerala...etc. International collaborations are seen in cultural, academic and research exchange programs. Semester-wise field training programs are arranged in various national level organizations.



Faculty members have Membership in academic and professional bodies like National Association of Professional Social Workers of India (NAPSWI) and Association of Schools of Social Work in Kerala (ASSK) is an added advantage.

Major ongoing collaborative Research programs with MoU are as shown below;

- With SCERT (Psycho-Social Problems and Management in Public-funded Schools in Kerala)
- With SCERT for preparation of Handbook on Student Counselling and guidance
- With Ministry of Social Justice, Kerala for research project on Probation
- With Cochin Corporation for Street Vendors Survey and rehabilitation project

Another spectacular feature of the department is the well placed pool of Alumni across the globe and strong support from alumni chapters in and out of the country. Faculty members are well qualified, committed and actively involved with students & alumni association/chapters in rebuilding the state as a part of post-flood Relief activities. MoU with North Edmonton Malayalee Association (NEAMA) -Canada for housing project as a post-flood re-construction in Kalady, Panchayathis an alumni initiative. Participation in Annual State Educational Report (ASER) survey with Pratham-New Delhi was also noted. Some of the distinguished Alumni members are occupying recognized positions in India and abroad.

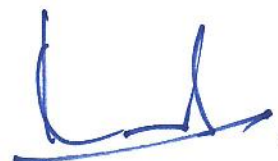
The major challenges of the department are;

- space constraints & lack of sufficient infrastructural facilities
- insufficient number of permanent teachers
- less number of research publications & projects and lack of formal structured consultancy services

There is ample scope for an incubation centre and a well-furnished extension live-lab for extension programs. Overall, the performance of the department is quite appreciable.

XIII. Department of Philosophy

Department of Philosophy conducts PG and research programs – MPhil & PhD. Faculties of the Department publish articles in journals which are indexed in world's leading academic database.



Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit being a liberal Arts University with Art Departments such as Sahitya, English, Literature, Painting, Music, Theatre etc., a course like on Aesthetic Theories can be useful to these Art Departments. Feminist Philosophy is useful to academics of other Social Science Departments.

In the future, department may be faced with the crucial challenge of attracting quality students, with genuine interest and aptitude in Philosophy, for master's program. If it fails to acquire requisite facilities for teaching-learning and research and also to design and implement proper strategies/policies for outcome based education, admissions would see decline soon. Research profile of the department may be strengthened by procuring more number of funded research projects, publishing papers, collaborations etc.

XIV. Department of History

Department of History offers M.A./M Phil and PhD. Students procure admissions in reputed Central Institutes in the country. Vacancy positions are filled as per Government orders. The achievement of the students including pass per cent and the list of illustrious alumni members show the potential of the department. Other remarkable features of the department, for the last 5 years, are as follows;

- Students have cleared UGC-NET examination, even though a structured mechanism for NET coaching in the campus is yet to be initiated.
- 19 PhD's awarded, but number of publications need to be increased.
- Department is equipped with modern teaching aids like audio- visual room and Computer lab.
- Collection of stone tools, burial urn, pot shreds, manuscripts and coins done with the help of research scholars.
- Centre for Women's Studies attached to the Department offers Short Term Courses on Gender and Women's History for students as well as teachers.
- Faculty Members are invited for delivering lectures by foreign Universities.
- Research papers of research scholars are accepted at International Conferences.
- Research scholars developing skills to decipher undeciphered copper plates.

Research Projects, Collaborations, Certificate/Add-on/Value-added programs are some the other areas to be focused on, by the department, in the future. Department requires



additional infrastructure to meet the needs of a history museum and a departmental library. MOODLE/SWAYAM platforms may be utilized to enrich teaching-learning process.


XV. Department of Sociology

Department of Sociology was established in 1995 under the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences. Since 1995, Sociology is taught as an interdisciplinary subject catering the needs of undergraduates. In 2009, it became a research department with the PhD program in Sociology. The department now offers a portfolio of M.Phil. as well as PhD programs. The department has acquired an important position among the academic as well as research institutions, both inside and outside the state. The department has introduced notable and innovative teaching and research activities, which makes the student equivalent to those in any other universities in the country. The elective courses offered in several multi-specialized areas of research attract a large number of students to this programs. It also offers vibrant options to specialize in the subject with contemporary relevance. The systematic training in fieldwork by the department, orient students professionally fit to engage different socio-cultural situations and to undertake independent researches. Shortage of regular faculty is one of the major constraint faced by this Department.

XVI. Department of Music

Department of Music, established in 1995, offers UG, PG, and M.Phil. and Ph.D. program under CBCS. The curriculum is designed to foster a comprehensive understanding of the practical aspect of Carnatic music. The department has rich resources of faculty members who are performers, scholars and musicologists. Most of the teachers are graded Artists of Akashavani. The major activities of the Department include teaching and research. The department is ornamental for so many laurels at state/national levels, brought by teachers as well students. Some of the students have won prizes at the Inter University South Zone Youth Festival and Inter University National level Youth Festival.

The department may augment its research profile with more number of publications, projects (major/minor), collaborations & consultancy services.



XVII. Department of Geography

The Department of Geography offers PG, M.Phil. and PhD programs, has a history of 25 years and opened up the department in the University as a part of three Main Under-Graduate Program at the initial stage. The Department has initiated an Advanced Research Program including MPhil and PhD program in Geography since 2009. This is the only University Department in Geography that offers M.Phil. and PhD research programs together, in the state. Though the number of permanent faculty members is only 6, all the available faculty members are UGC – NET qualified and 5 of them possess Doctoral degrees. The department has organized State/National/ International seminars/Workshops on ecological issues and offered certificate program in Natural Hazard and Disaster Management. Students are encouraged to participate in state/national level competitions and have come out awards. Lack of faculty diversity and numbers are the major constraints for creating strong research atmosphere in the department. There are ample opportunities for procuring more number of major/minor funded research projects for the department.

Projects taken by the department/faculty

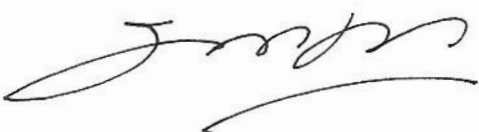
- Post flood Assessment survey in Kalady Panchayat: (Ongoing)
- Awarded consultancy assignment from GeoHazard Society, New Delhi on Facilitating Landslide Risk Management Training for Panchayat Raj Institution Members of Kerala.

Collaboration

- One Research Scholar from the department has collaborated with Indian Institute of Space Technology, Thiruvananthapuram for M.Phil. dissertation work on the topic Documentation of Archeological sites in Kerala using LIDAR technologies

Ph.D. students could procure scholarships/grants and clear JRF/INSPIRE Examinations.

As future endeavors, department has taken initiative to establish a platform for Sustainable Innovation and Development (CSID) as an additional Centre for research and also to establish an Earth Observation and Geospatial Laboratory.



XVIII. Department of Psychology

Department offers PG and M.Phil. & PhD as research programs. The uniqueness of the department is its 100% placement. In addition, research profile is rich with good number of publications & PhD awardees and also with high number of UGC-NET qualified students. The department also offers Psychological lab and counselling Centre for in-house people & public as well. Other salient features of the department are;

- Enrichment Programs (for special schools for the identification of Learning Disability (LD), Autism, ADHD, Differently Abled and Behavioral Deviance)
- Psycho-Fest (Conducting Psychological Exhibitions and Psycho-education)
- Outreach Programs (for nearby educational institutions)
- Women Empowerment Programs (in collaboration with Kudumbasree Mission and NGOs) like psycho- education, counseling and anomalistic workshops.

As the departmental alumni is so strong, their services may be tapped for the augmentation for sufficient infrastructural facilities like Psychological Laboratory, Counseling Room, Library, rest rooms for females etc. Research profile to be strengthened by procuring more number of funded projects (major/minor), collaborations etc. There exists scope for a structured mechanism for formal consultancy services.

XIX. Department of Mohiniyattom & Bharatanatyam

Department of Mohiniyattom has UG, PG & M.Phil. Programs in Bharatanatyam and research degree in Dance. The department was established in 1995 and has well qualified faculty as per UGC norms. Faculty members have been awarded with various national fellowships/awards/recognitions and students are awardees of many scholarships and winners in national level University youth festivals/ competitions. There are only a few centres in the state that offer quality education in this area of performing arts.

Curriculum implements credits and follows semester system and syllabus tries to combine tradition with modernity. Another special feature, is the syllabus structure with equal weightage to theory and practical components and its implementation based on OBTLE. Elective courses from other disciplines provide awareness about additional subjects and compulsory Sanskrit Elective provides Sanskrit knowledge too. Inter social collaborative projects are some of the other remarkable features of the department.



Students are provided with ample opportunities to interact with reputed artists – nationally/internationally and scholars through National level seminars/workshops. Faculty members are members of many University/other institutional bodies. Department has a good resource with well-placed Alumni in many nationally/internationally reputed institutions. Department has organized many subject related programs as workshops, lecture demonstrations, lecture series etc.

Lack of space for practice and other facilities are the major constraints for the department. Department may consider applying for more number of funded research projects, publishing papers/books, collaborations etc. and a structured mechanism may also be designed to harness the potential of the department towards consultancy services.

XX. Department of Theatre

The post graduate and research department of SSUS, is a part of consortium of Performing Arts, and it is a unique theatre department in the entire country with qualified faculty to impart traditional training in Koodiyattom and Sanskrit dramas. Sanskrit plays are presented in Koodiyattom and it is the oldest form of drama amongst all performing arts recognized by the UNESCO. The department has presented many remarkable productions in Sanskrit at the national level. Consequently, two of the departmental productions “Oorubhangam” and “Pancharatram” have been appreciated in the last two National Bhasha festivals. Another notable feature is the National & International appreciation received by students for their class work plays. Some of the plays produced for the practical examinations have been selected for International theatre festivals in 2017 and 2019.

Many Alumni members of the department are recognized as state and national figures, in the field of theatre and cinema. Some of the illustrious alumni are: Surabhi Lakshmi – recipient of National Urvashi award in 2015, Dileesh Pothan – recipient of National award for best Malayalam film (twice), Vinodkumar - recipient of best director award & playwright award from Kerala Sangeeta Nataka Academy, Surabhi Lakshmi – recipient of best actress & Kerala Sangeetanataka Academy award and Manu Ashokan– recipient of Vayalar Award for Best director for his debut film ‘Uyare’.

Theatre is a discipline which needs more of practical sessions than classroom lectures, and lack of theatre repositories is a major constraints faced by the department. Provision of

adequate space and induction of permanent staff members in the allied areas of the department are essential for the growth of this department.

XXI. Department of Physical Education

Department of Physical education offers Post graduation program in Master of Physical Education (M.A.Ed.) and the discipline is oriented with sports psychology, research methodology, sports medicines, computer application in physical education and exercise psychology. The program equips students with professional training and knowledge about fitness in sports and enables them to enhance their skills and abilities in the respective field. Large number of Students, after completing the program, are recruited by various institutions like Universities, Colleges, Fitness Centres and Gyms. The University teams in various disciplines have participated in the South Zone and all India Inter University competitions such as Football, Boxing and Netball. Apart from the regular coaching camps on various events, a good number of students have cleared NET and procured ASPIRE scholarships during the last five years. In the future, with better and added facilities are provided and good coaches are appointed for various events/items, there are enormous opportunities for the department to excel in physical education. The department may focus in the field of research too in the future.

XXII. Department of Vastuvidya

Department. of Vastuvidya is a PG & research department with the specialty of preservation of models of different styles of architecture and sculpture in different mediums. Several students have completed PhD in the department on the basis of recording of the unique tradition of architecture, based on Sanskrit sources. The department would be able to strengthen the research profile, only if it is being provided with regular faculty. A large quantum of Sanskrit manuscripts and unpublished works on architecture could have been brought to light by the department. Lack of proper infrastructure, other required facilities and regular faculty members prevents the effective functioning of the department.

XXIII. Department of Painting

The department of Paintings-Virtues, the first and only University level UG & PG professional course for Mural Painting in the state was established in 1994 and it offers UG & PG programs (Bachelor in Fine arts & Masters in Visual Arts). Uniqueness of syllabus is the



combination of Tradition and Modernity alike and understanding of *DhyanaSlokha* based Mural Painting & traditional temple wood works of *Darusilpa* with contemporary Painting, Sculpture, Print making, Curatorial practices and Art History & Critical Theories of Art.

The department has hosted significant number of national/international conferences/seminars/workshops on topics related/ to their subjects. Apart from this, it has signed MoUs for National/international projects.

LALITHAKALA ACADEMY ART GALLERY, SSUS, KALADY: In-house gallery facility for curating exhibitions (only one in Kerala state) is unique feature of the department. To show-case the large number of awards/recognitions /fellowships are received by Faculty & Students, at the National and International levels, (Faculty: 23 & Students: 15). Consultancy services offered by the department is another remarkable feature as it could generate handsome amount of Rs. 47 lacs from them. Large number of students have appeared for competitive exams like Civil services, NET, SET (SLET), GATE and other competitive examinations including traditional exams conducted by Recognized Institutions /Trusts/NGOs and a reasonable number of them cleared NET/KTET exams etc regularly.

XXIV. Centre for Vedic Studies

The Centre for Vedic Studies offers UG, PG, MPhil and PhD programs. The department functions only with guest teaching faculty. They are traditional Pundits. As part of the syllabus, there are chanting sessions of Vedas, in the traditional method The remarkable feature, in this regard, is thereby helping in a big way to extend Vedic knowledge, including its chanting tradition, to all who want to learn them irrespective of caste, creed, gender or religion. The Centre is trying to disseminate the elements of Vedic wisdom to the society by through its seminars, workshops and extension lectures. It has initiated steps to preserve the vaning tradition of Vedic chanting in Kerala, through audio/video documentation. There exists ample scope for the Centre for expansion of the performance of the Centre considering the wider acceptance of the chanting procedures imparted by the Centre which is the core of learning Sanskrit and Vedas. The methodology adopted in chanting differs from what is practiced in other parts of India particularly in regard to accent, elaboration of swara, pitch etc. With interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approaches, researchers may concentrate in Vedic studies and research by relating it with other subjects like, music,



history, anthropology, archaeology, ecology & environmental studies, women studies and Indian jurisprudence.

One of the major hurdles for the growth of the department is the lack of permanent teaching faculty and also inadequate infrastructural facilities. With the importance assigned to Vedic Studies world over, there is scope for elevating this for Vedic Studies to international stature in the course of time. It has scope for becoming an international entity considering its work in the areas of Vedas, Vedigas and allied topics and also in the light of its documentation/preservation of the chanting tradition of Rigveda and Yajurveda and Samaveda (Tamil tradition) preserved in Kerala with all modes of chanting. Kerala has hosted a number of 'Yagas' where experts in vedas from world over had participated.

XXV. Centre for Comparative Literature

This department is yet to be recognized as a full-fledged department though it offers PG, M.Phil. and PhD, with great vigor and enthusiasm. The remarkable feature of the center is its success rate through the contributions from ad-hoc faculty. It has no permanent faculty. The center has the constraints of inadequate space as well. From 2013 onwards, the department is not admitting any research student for PhD program due to the lack of permanent faculty & research guides.

XXVI. Centre for Manuscriptology

Department of Manuscriptology is a research department with PG, MPhil and PhD. Amongst these, MPhil in Manuscriptology, is a unique program offered in Kerala. The department has produced significant number of MPhil & PhD holders. In the University a good Manuscript library is available for the students which is also resource centre for acquiring practical knowledge in the subject.

Students completing the program from the department have high prospects for job opportunities since Kerala state is considered to be a vast source of Palm leaf Manuscripts and most of them are yet to be explored.

More training programs/certificate/add-on/value added programs may be organized at the department level to equip students to achieve expertise in their respective areas. Lack of regular faculty, shortage of Research guides are major constraints faced by the department.



XXVII. Department of Translation Studies

The Centre for Translation Studies established in 2003 with a view to propagate, popularize and promote inter-disciplinary research and practice in the field of translation studies, and to improve the linguistic skills and practical knowledge of translation between Indian and foreign languages among the students. The Centre offers MPhil and PhD programs for students with post graduate degree in different subjects such as English, Hindi, Malayalam, Sanskrit, Linguistics & Comparative Literature .The centre has an up-to-date syllabus for M Phil course, with inter-disciplinary approach. The centre has been successful in getting placement for all its qualified students in various government/semi government organizations. Lack of regular faculty is one of the major constraint faced by this Department. The Department possess well equipped Language Lab, Smart class room and Seminar Hall for its academic activities.



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Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Rajan