

Report of feedback on curriculum from Academic peers, Students and Alumni

It is well known that the University designs curriculum and the contribution of any Institute in the design of curriculum is through its teachers who are members of the Board of Studies (BoS). Normally, the syllabus is revised every three years by the University but in the year 2012-13, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) introduced credit based system and semester pattern in Science Stream for Under Graduate and Post graduate courses. Our faculties who were the members of BoS at that time, were instrumental in curriculum restructuring.

The academic peers who visit the Institute as an external examiner or for some other purpose, discuss various aspects of curriculum and give their suggestions. The Institute collects feedback on curriculum from students, academic peers, employers, alumni, community members and also from national and international experts who visit our Institute from time to time. The feedback forms are then analyzed by the Statistics Department of the Institute. The suggestions in the feedback are communicated to the University in the BoS meetings through the faculties who are chairpersons /members of BoS.

In the period 2020-21 also, the online feedback about UG and PG curriculum was collected from academic peers, alumni and students through google forms. It was observed that 95 % of them are satisfied with 90% of the curriculum.

However they also made valuable suggestions for updating the syllabus to meet the current challenges and to make it more application as well as job oriented. They opined that the syllabus should be designed in such a way that it would help the students to clear NET /SET and the other subject oriented competitive examinations. The need of uniformity of syllabus across different states has also been suggested.

The students from rural background wanted soft skill programs to be included in the curriculum to improve their communication skills along with Group discussion and Personal interview sessions.

Some subject specific suggestions are discussed below.

Statistics students have emphasized on the need to include various statistical software such as SPSS, SAS etc in the syllabus. Though these packages are not included in the syllabus, every year the department conducts workshops on various Statistical Packages such as R ,SPSS etc for the benefit of the students. Study tours are also conducted where students learn the application of their subjects in different fields. Department of Statistics runs **Certificate course in R** for PG students and PG practicals are performed on R. This helps them a lot in entering into the job market after completing PG program.

Zoology students have strongly recommended the need of special training programs in areas like apiculture ,sericulture, pest control, biotechnology ,wildlife conservation ,biodiversity techniques required in the medical field etc to stand in the global market. Various new specializations have been suggested to include in the curriculum to meet global requirements and job competencies.

As per the suggestions by academic peers for the curriculum update ,some changes have been made .At PG level ,two new papers, one paper on Wild Life and Avian Biology and another on Radiation and Chronobiology and some new topics such as Nanotechnology and Stem cell research have already been introduced.

Also at UG level topics like immunology, Molecular biology, Some applied techniques ,Biostatistics , Bioinformatics etc have already been introduced to make students familiar with the globally important topics.

One valuable suggestion is that the variation due to the local environment and geographical location should be taken into consideration while framing the syllabus.

It is well known that projects and seminars are included in PG course for all subjects except Mathematics . Academic peers have suggested that projects and seminars as well as programming software should be in their PG course.

Chemistry experts have suggested using Green chemistry approach while designing the UG and PG experiments to make them environment friendly.

These observations were communicated to the BOS members for possible inclusion and implementation in the syllabi in the near future.

The Institute has got Autonomy in June 2021 ,therefore now it will be possible to make desired changes in the curriculum as per the current demand of different subjects.
