

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Report

Academic Year 2023-24

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at the College of Home Science, Nirmala Niketan, continues to uphold its commitment to fostering academic excellence and institutional quality. This year, significant strides were made in curriculum development, faculty and staff support, and infrastructure enhancements, all in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The institution emphasized inclusivity, professional growth, and student-centered initiatives, ensuring a robust academic environment.

Objectives and Focus Areas

Key objectives for the academic year included:

- Aligning curricula with NEP 2020 principles for undergraduate and postgraduate programs.
- Implementing robust systems for feedback and performance appraisal for teaching staff.
- Strengthening infrastructure through RUSA-funded upgrades.
- Supporting professional growth and well-being for teaching and non-teaching staff.
- Enhancing student engagement and success through programs and resources.
- Sensitising students to lesser privileged sections of society in rural/tribal and urban setting through extension work by conducting awareness and training workshops.
- Training and encouraging students to imbibe skills of entrepreneurship.

Curricular Development and Innovation

NEP-Aligned Curriculum Revision

The academic year marked the integration of NEP 2020 principles into curriculum design.

- **Undergraduate Curriculum:**
 - Flexibility with multiple exit options and multidisciplinary approaches.
 - Skill-based modules with experiential learning components like internships and research.
- **Postgraduate Curriculum:**
 - Revised M.Sc. syllabi to incorporate advanced research, technology, and industry demands.
 - Focus on employability, entrepreneurship, and vocational learning.

Regular Curricular Upgradation

- Stakeholder feedback from students, alumni, employers, and faculty was integral to the curriculum revision process.
- Feedback led to the acquisition of modern laboratory equipment and library resources, enhancing the learning experience.

4. Teaching-Learning Process Enhancements

Feedback and Mentorship Systems

- **Teacher Assessment Questionnaire (TAQ):** Annual TAQ responses from students evaluated teaching effectiveness, subject knowledge, and engagement.
- **Informal Feedback:** Teachers conducted verbal and written feedback sessions each semester.
- **Performance Mapping:** Data on pass percentages and learner profiles informed strategies for academic support.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Senior faculty mentored junior staff to uphold institutional standards and foster professional growth.

5. Performance Appraisal System

Teaching Staff Evaluation

1. **Self-Appraisal PBAS Forms:**
 - Faculty members annually completed PBAS forms based on UGC guidelines.
 - HoDs and the Principal reviewed forms, providing constructive feedback.
 - PBAS metrics allowed faculty to monitor their progress, focusing on research, publications, and teaching effectiveness.
2. **Teacher Assessment Questionnaire (TAQ):**
 - Students assessed subject teachers annually.
 - Feedback was analyzed to guide improvements in teaching methodologies.
3. **Mentorship and Role Modeling:**
 - Junior faculty received guidance from senior faculty and HoDs to uphold professional standards.
4. **Career Advancement Scheme (CAS):**
 - Promotions were facilitated under CAS guidelines, incorporating PBAS and student feedback.

Support for Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff

- **Professional Development:**
 - Staff were supported in attending workshops, conferences, and professional courses.
 - Leaves were granted for Orientation Programs, Refresher Courses, and FDPs.
- **Personal Support:**
 - Flexi-timings and leaves for health, family, and maternity needs.
 - Medicines and health tonics were distributed free to non-teaching staff.
- **Operational Efficiency:**
 - Movement registers, cash advances, and participation in disaster management for enhanced safety and administrative functionality.

Institute Day Celebration

Institute Day on December 8, 2023, encouraged camaraderie among staff members of different colleges of Nirmala Niketan Institute, celebrating their contributions and fostering unity.

Infrastructure Modernization

RUSA-Funded Enhancements

- **Laboratory Upgrades:** Need-based equipment and digital tools were installed to meet academic standards.
- **Library Enrichment:** The library was equipped with new textbooks, reference materials, and e-resources.

Administrative Reforms: ERP systems for online admissions, fee collection, and course enrolment reduced operational burdens.

Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurial Skill Development

- Innovation and entrepreneurship were actively promoted through workshops, webinars, and student-led activities.
- Collaborations with the Ministry of Education's Innovation Council facilitated various initiatives.
- Faculty and students participated and won several awards for the research projects presented.
- The College won the overall championship trophy – (First Rank for Zone 1 Mumbai 1) for the 16th Aavishkar State-Level Intercollegiate Research Convention and the 18th Aavishkar Inter-University Research Competition Zonal Round.
- The College hosted the AARYA the Intercollegiate Research Competition for Interdisciplinary work conducted by the undergraduate students.
- Students won prizes in Entrepreneurial Start-up Competitions.

Student-Centric Initiatives

Academic and Extracurricular Engagement

- Students excelled in intercollegiate events, cultural programs, and national sports competitions.
- Leadership and disaster management workshops prepared students for real-world challenges.

Student Support Programs

- Mentorship programs identified and supported advanced and slow learners.
- Remedial coaching was conducted for weak students.

- Bridge course was organised for students from non-home science background taking admission in Master's programme.
- The Diet Counseling Unit provided health guidance through workshops.

Community Outreach

Workshops on skill development, promoting education and empowerment were organised at in the Chuim Community Centre, Bhakar Foundation, Fempowerment, Kharajgaon, Bharuch, Saphale under the Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension (DLLE) of the University of Mumbai.

Activities were planned and organised under National Service Scheme (NSS) creating awareness through campaigns and drives such as cleanliness drive, beach cleaning, blood donation camp, HIV and Aids, Seed ball making, tree plantation, etc.

Student placements at prestigious organizations like Oberoi and Trident Hotels showcased the institution's emphasis on career readiness.

Achievements and Milestones

- Implementation of NEP- 2020 aligned curricula.
- Completion of major infrastructure upgrades through RUSA funding.
- Faculty - Ph.D. Guide Recognition and Placements under Career Advancement Scheme (CAS).
- On-the-job training and internship programmes-enriched students knowledge and experience.
- Enhanced participation and recognition in research competitions.
- Expansion in community outreach programs through fieldwork and extension.

Future Directions

The institution plans to:

- Fully implement the NEP 2020-aligned curriculum in the upcoming academic year as per the University directives.
- Strengthen systems for feedback and performance mapping.
- Expand opportunities for faculty and student research and innovation.
- Enhance outreach initiatives to address societal challenges and foster inclusivity.