



Department of Geography
Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade)

Strategic Plan (2018-2023)

About the Department:

The Department of Geography was established in year 1983 with an intake on 20 students at Masters' level. The current intake in M.A. is 50. Admission to MA programme is done on the basis of academic merit and entrance test. M.Phil Programme in geography was introduced in the year 1990 with an intake on 5 students. Currently 15 students are admitted through academic merit and entrance test every year. The Department has produced over 930 M.A. and more than 130 M.Phil students apart from nearly four dozen Ph.D. The Department is currently running four courses viz. M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D. and P.G. Diploma in Remote Sensing and GIS. There were 109 students on roll in these courses for the session 2017-18. This consists of 53 boys and 56 girls. They come mostly from the nearby areas. More than three-fourth of the students are from rural areas of Haryana. There are 50 research scholars registered for PhD programme in the department. This includes 27 female students.

Thrust Areas of Teaching and Research

- Issue of Social Relevance in Geography
- Population, Environment and Health Inter –Linkages
- Urbanisation and Urban Development
- Transport and Settlement
- Globalization and the State.
- Geomorphology and Water Resource.
- Application of Remote Sensing and GIS in Geography

Faculty Profile:

The Department has 12 full time faculty members which include 10 Professors, one Associate Professor and one Assistant Professor. All are qualified teachers according of the latest guidelines of the UGC of the total strength of faulty members, as many as 11 have Ph.D. as their highest qualification while 1 is pursuing their Ph.D. The faculty is highly diversified in terms of specialization in wide range of sub-field on Physical and Human Geography. Three of the faculty members are specialized in the area of Remote Sensing and GIS.

- The faculty members are actively involved in teaching and research. The department has currently two Major Research Project going on.
- The teaching faculty is highly competent in handling teaching and research in various sub-fields of physical as well as human geography.

In addition to above, department maintains its separate library which is being looked after by Dr. Summi Sharma. Department has one full time assistant cartographer, two lab assistants, one store keeper, one office clerk and one peon.

Vision and Mission

Vision

The department envisions a leading centre of teaching, learning and research in north India on interface between physical and human domains.

Mission

The department endeavors to engage itself in promoting excellence in teaching and research on socially relevant issues with emphasis on its applied content and enhancing employability of students in changing scenario at global levels.

Strategic Goals

- The Department of Geography is at the forefront in carrying out research addressing key environmental and social issues by applying advanced technology, field methods and innovative quantitative and qualitative analysis.
- The Department aims to highlight the significance of geographical perspective in understanding and making sense of things around us. Such a perspective being holistic, prepares to focus on sustainable management.
- The department would strive to attain the vision through following imperatives:

Academic Quality

To increase its excellence in human geography, physical geography, geospatial analysis and human environmental studies. Curriculum revision will allow the department to better respond to student needs and incorporate more disciplinary advances into our curriculum. Special courses on geospatial technologies and disaster management with specific input on hands on practice will be included in the curriculum.

Teaching and Learning Quality:

Increase the number of geography majors and broaden their learning and skill development inside and outside the classroom. Students will be given more space in departmental governance by creating Geographical Society at departmental level.

The curriculum would embody rigour and high standards because geography is a robust academic examination choice.

Research Quality

Become one of the leading Department in research guidance & research by faculty in the state/country to tap on the new research frontiers emanating on our landscapes- climate change, disaster management, area inequalities, backwardness etc.

Special lectures/Workshops will be organised on methodological issues relevant to geographical analysis.

In addition faculty and research scholars will be encouraged to publish books and research papers in national and international journals of repute . The research

papers/books published by faculty and research scholars of the department and people from outside geographic world will be discussed among students on a periodic basis.

Course Employability

We shall embrace a 'student centered' approach, teaching a well-rounded curriculum that enables students to succeed in life and contribute to social betterment.

Faculty members will work in classroom and outside the classroom to cultivate student research skills, career preparation and professional leadership skills.

Opportunities to develop a career enhancing GIS and Disaster Management programmes within the department

Cartographic development will be an integral part of curriculum. Special emphasis will be given for digital cartography and making of maps, computer assisted statistical diagrams. Thus the courses on GIS, Disaster Management and Cartography will be aimed on enhancing skills of the students and their further employability.

Inclusiveness & Social Impact:

Student-faculty collaboration in research shall be promoted in research and students will be encouraged to participate in departmental governance.

There would be valued partnership with alumni whose success testifies to the quality of education received from the department of Geography.

Solidify alumni relations and increase alumni gift giving (to fund key department needs such as need based student stipends etc.)

Extension Activities

Through various seminar/workshops the young students will be motivated about the relevance of geography to further study and career. Field/study tours will be organised to give students an exposure to varied physical and socio-economic environment.

Collaborations

Attempts will be made for National and International Collaboration in research. Specific attempts will be made to have collaboration with HARSAC Hissar, NDMA and DST (Govt. of India) New Delhi.

SWOC Analysis

Strength

- The department has got diversified expertise of faculty in various branches of physical and human geography i.e. geomorphology, environment, water resources, population-environment, regional development and planning, urban and rural geography, remote sensing/GIS etc.
- Course content is based on applied aspects and latest technology. The syllabi is updated at frequent intervals.

- Geography is most sought after subject among students in social sciences, which is reflected in the ratio of applicants to the seat strength for admission to the programme.
- Members of faculty and students come from varied socio economic backgrounds.
- Department is actively engaged in teaching /research and other activities like Research Projects /organization of workshops/training programmes funded by UGC/NRDMS-DST etc. Some faculty members hold additional assignments of university administration, which is a great learning experience and helps strengthen it in functioning. Also the involvement of faculty as experts in different academic bodies, selection committees, public service commissions, radio-TV talks etc is substantial.

Weakness

- The department has not been able to realise its full potential because of highly inadequate space availability: labs, seminar hall, committee room, common room for girls and faculty, to name of few.
- One Sr. Library Assistant is required to cater to department library, which has 2000 books.

Opportunities

- Teaching and research in the discipline is concentrated on frontal areas of physical and social sciences and it acts as a bridge to understand socio-environmental issues. This unique character of discipline provides it a window of opportunity to further accelerated growth and development.

Challenges

- Emergence of so many post graduate departments in near vicinity of the university with highly inadequate faculty and other infrastructure poses a challenge to maintain credibility of the discipline in long run.
- There is a felt- need to develop the discipline as a more utility-oriented for enhancing its employability quotient and aligned towards problem solving. All this requires higher public funding. Entry of private players in education sector makes this challenge more serious.
- The discipline of Geography needs to more visible on social and environmental issues. It needs to occupy an important role in plan formulation with special reference to resource management and other surface phenomena.

Action Plan

2018-2019

- ✓ To design syllabi of UG programmes and PG programme as per CBCS.
- ✓ To organize one/two day Seminar/Workshop on Research Methods & Techniques to develop skills and to promote placement activities of the students.

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- ✓ To apply for UGC-SAP (DRS-II)
- ✓ To make the newly extended building functional for classes and other activities for growth of the Department.
- ✓ To establish a smart class room.
- ✓ To arrange at least three extension lectures to enhance academic/research standard. Alumni will be invited for delivering for some of these lectures.
- ✓ To do new/extended research work in the varied areas of mathematical sciences and to get it published in the Scopus/WoS/ICI indexed UGC approved Journals.
- ✓ To make efforts at the departmental level to establish linkage with various institutions/industries for research and extension.
- ✓ To arrange educational tours to various places in India for wider exposure of the students in various domains and understand the emerging areas in the society, in general, and Geography, in particular .
- ✓ To organize “Blood Donation” and /or “Pledge to eye Donation” camp.
- ✓ To organize cultural programmes .
- ✓ To organize other extracurricular/Co-Curricular activities in Collaboration with other agencies/NGOs (such as Rotary/Lions etc.)
- ✓ To arrange visits to Orphanages, Institutes of Mentally Challenged persons, Old age homes, etc. to inspire the students to serve the society and the community.
- ✓ To strengthen the Departmental Library.
- ✓ To organize University/State level Quiz Contest in Geography.

2019-20

- ✓ To implement new syllabi of UG programmes and PG programme as per CBCS.
- ✓ To organize an international conference. To organize a Workshop of at least one-week duration on use of various software like ARC GIS, Q GIS, ERDAS Imagine, SPSS, Open sources satellite data, etc. for computational work relating to teaching & research in Geography.
- ✓ To enhance infrastructural and research standards through UGC-SAP (DRS-II).
- ✓ To apply for research projects funded by UGC, CSIR or other agencies.
- ✓ To arrange at least three extension lectures to enhance academic/ research standard. Alumni will be invited for delivering some of these lectures.
- ✓ To make provisions of lifts and ramps for differently abled students/employees.
- ✓ To do new/extended research work in the varied areas of mathematical sciences and to get it published in the Scopus/WoS/ICI indexed UGC approved Journals.
- ✓ To make efforts at the departmental level to establish linkages with various institutions /industries for research and extension.
- ✓ To arrange educational tours to various places in India for wider exposure of the students in various domains and understand the emerging areas in the society, in general, and Geography, in particular.

- ✓ To arrange trips to IT/Software industries and/or to arrange interactive lectures of the IT personnel for the students.
- ✓ To organize "blood donation" and /or "pledge to eye donation" camp.
- ✓ To organize cultural programmes.
- ✓ To organize other extracurricular/co-curricular activities in collaboration with other agencies/NGOs (such as Rotary/Lions etc.).
- ✓ To arrange visits to Orphanages, Institutes of Mentally Challenged persons, Old age homes ,etc. to inspire the students to serve the society and the community.
- ✓ To establish two ICT equipped research Labs with all kinds of software to be used for research in Geography.
- ✓ To strengthen the Alumni database by making efforts of keeping the record of each and every alumnus of the Department to enhance guidance and placement. The eminent alumni preferably belonging to industries/corporate/research institutes/Govt. agencies/foreign institutes may be involved as special invitees in its Board of Studies.
- ✓ To strengthen the Departmental Library.
- ✓ To organize University/State level Quiz Contest in Geography.
- ✓ To give consultancy services formally and to generate revenue from it.

2020-2021

- ✓ To organize a Workshop of at least one-week duration.
- ✓ To organize one/two day Seminar/Workshop to develop skills and to promote placement activities of the students.
- ✓ To arrange at least three extension lectures to enhance academic/ research standard. Alumni will be invited for delivering some to these lectures.
- ✓ To establish another smart class room.
- ✓ To install LCD/LED Projectors in all other Class Rooms.
- ✓ To enhance infrastructural and research standards through UGC-SAP (DRS-II).
- ✓ To apply for research projects funded by UGC, CSIR or other agencies.
- ✓ To do new/extended research work in the varied areas of mathematical sciences and to get in published in the Scopus/Wos/ICI indexed UGC approved journals.
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2021-22

- ✓ To organize National/International conference.
- ✓ To organize one/two day Seminar/Workshop to develop skills and to promote placement activities of the students.
- ✓ To arrange at least three extension lectures to enhance academic/ research standard. Alumni will be invited for delivering some of these lectures.
- ✓ To enhance infrastructural and research standards through UGC, SAP (DRS-II)
- ✓ To apply for research projects funded by UGC, CSIR or other agencies.
- ✓ To do new/extended research work in the varied areas of geography and to get it published in the Scopus/WoS/ICI indexed UGC approved journals.
- ✓ To make efforts at the departmental level to establish linkages with various institutions/industries for research and extension.
- ✓ To arrange educational tours to various places in India for wider exposure of the students in various domains and understand the emerging areas in the society, in general, and Geography in particular.
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2022-23

- ✓ To organize a Workshop of at least one week duration on use of various software like ARC GIS, Q GIS, ERDAS IMAGINE, SPSS, Open sources satellite data, etc..

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Activity Calendar (2018-19)

The Academic and Co-curricular Activities Calendar for session 2018-19 as under:-

- Welcome Party September,2018
- Induction Programme September,2018
- Teacher Day Celebration September,2018
- PTM September, 2018
- Extension Lecture September,2018
- Field Tour/Survey October, 2018
- Meditation Session October, 2018
- Study Tour November,2018
- Poster making November 2018
- Conference January, 2019
- Declamation Contest February, 2019
- Essay writing Competition February, 2019
- Poster making February, 2019
- Quiz contest March, 2019
- Extension Lecture March,2019
- Farewell Party March,2019
- Workshop April, 2019
- Poster making April, 2019