

SUBJECT REVIEW REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



***FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA***

18th to 20th May 2009

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1. SUBJECT REVIEW PROCESS

Subject review evaluates the quality of education within a specific subject or discipline. This review evaluates the quality of education within the specific discipline of enterprise development, Philosophy and Psychology being offered by the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts of the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. The review focused on the Self Evaluation Report (SER) prepared by the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna based on the self evaluation report, the team evaluated the quality of Philosophy and Psychology general and specialization in enterprise development both degree programmes using the criteria set out by the Quality Assurance Council (QAC) of the Ministry of Higher Education.

The Self Evaluation Report considered the following sections; i.e. aims, learnings, outcomes and programme details, student and staff facilities, curriculum design, content and review, teaching learning and assessment methods, quality of student, taking account of recruitment, admission, student process and achievement, extent and use of the students feedback, qualitative and quantitative, students feed back - qualitative method, postgraduate studies, peer observation, skill development, academic guidance and counseling. The quality of education within the disciplines was evaluated in the list of the aims and learning outcomes given in the self evaluation report submitted by the Department.

The review focused on the following eight aspects of education.

1. Curriculum design, content and review
2. Teaching, learning and assessment method
3. Quality of students, including students progress and achievement
4. Extent and use of students feedback, qualitative and quantitative
5. Postgraduate studies
6. Peer observation
7. Skill development
8. Academic guidance and Counseling

The evaluation of the above eight aspects of the programme was done by obtaining information from the following sources;

- The self evaluation report submitted by the Department
- Meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Dean / Faculty of Arts, Librarian, Head / Philosophy, academic and non academic staff members of the Department of Philosophy, Senior Student Counselor, students counselors, undergraduate and post graduate students.
- Observation of teaching, students presentations and practical sessions

Curriculum design contents and Review

The Department of Philosophy of University of Jaffna, in 2001, curriculum reform and introduced course unit semester system in 200, valued semester system was introduced present curriculum is based on modularized credit valued semester system or grade point average system which came into effect since 2005.

§ Observation of Department and other facilities (computer facility, lecture room, libraries, etc.)

Each subject review aspect of education was judged by marking one of the three standards / levels namely; good, satisfactory and unsatisfactory for the purpose, strengths, good practice and weakness and relation to each aspect were considered. An overall judgment was made from three options, i.e. confidence, limited confidence and no confidence by taking into

account the status of the judgments given for all the eight aspects of the academic programme.

The date of the review team visited were 18th, 19th and 20th May, 2009. The agenda of the subject review is in Annex 1.

2. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY, FACULTY AND THE DEPARTMENT

The Jaffna campus of the University of Sri Lanka was established on 1st August, 1974 in Parameshwara College premises to promote education and culture in the region of Tamil community. This was a major milestone and significant turning point in the educational history of the Northern Province, Sri Lanka. The campus began with three faculties; the Faculty of Science, The Faculty of Law, The Faculty of Humanities and Department of Physical Education. On 1st January 1979 under the extraordinary gazette no 121/15 of 25th July 1974, this campus was elevated to the status of the 6th National University of Sri Lanka and named as University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka by a University act No. 16 of 1978. Faculty of Humanities had four Departments of study namely; Tamil, Sinhala, Hindu Civilization and History. Later, the Faculty of Arts was established with six new Departments of study namely; Economics, Geography, Islamic Civilization, Sanskrit, Philosophy and Language and Cultural studies. An English unit for teaching Basic English was also established.

The Faculty of Arts accommodates majority of students. It has been developed into the largest Faculty of this University and provides courses to a large number of students in variety of disciplines in Social Sciences and Humanities. At present, the Faculty has 17 academic Departments. In addition to the general degree courses, special degree courses are offered to the students by these Departments. Most of the departments are engaged in providing facilities for postgraduates research - M.Phil and Ph.D till up to date.

A campus of the University of Jaffna functions at Vavuniya with the Faculty of Business Studies and Applied Science.

The Vision of the University

Our vision is to be the leading centre of the excellence in teaching, learning, research and scholarship

The Mission of the University

Our mission is to be a leading centre of academic excellence in producing intellectual, professionally competent and capable graduates to meet the emerging need to the national and international community with special emphasis on the social, economic and cultural needs of the Northern Sri Lanka.

The Faculty of Arts has 17 academic Departments. Department of Philosophy is one of the discipline. It was started in August 1975, in early period of the Department offered to read Philosophy as a subject for the general degree and the foundation lecturers in Logic and Scientific Method for first year students. The special degree course in Philosophy started in October, 1980, Department of Philosophy conducted the undergraduate course leading to general and special Arts Degree in 1998. Department of Philosophy also introduces general Psychology as a subject for first year students and this subject became a new discipline which came under the Department of Philosophy in 1998.

The Department of Philosophy has two fields of study namely; Philosophy and Psychology. The following programmes of study are provided by the Department.

	Programme	Duration
01	BA Specialization in Philosophy	04 Years
02	BA Specialization in Psychology	04 Years
03	BA General degree (Philosophy / Psychology as one of main subject	03 Years

Bachelor of Arts (Special degree) in Philosophy / Psychology study programme is conducted by the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts and Culture, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Department of Philosophy offers BA specialization in Philosophy, BA specialization in Psychology and offer Philosophy / Psychology as one of the main subjects for BA general degree programme. The students who have passed the GCE (A/L) Arts stream are admitted to the Faculty of Arts according to the general policy adopted by the University Grants Commission. The students of Arts Faculty can follow of the Philosophy degree programme. In addition to that certain number of students are admitted and special intake category to read Philosophy that, students who have performed well in Logic and Scientific Method in GCE (A/L) examination. There is no special intake category in Psychology.

3. AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

3.1 Aims

Bachelor of Arts Philosophy, Psychology special / general degree programme of the Department of Philosophy of the Faculty of Arts, University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka has developed comprehensive improvement programme in various aspects of teaching and learning, academic administration as well as in social harmony. It has been proposed two specialized study programmes such as bachelor of arts specialization in Philosophy and bachelor of arts specialization in Psychology, understanding the importance and reference of Philosophy and Psychology offers a major intellectual understanding of human knowledge and behavior like analysis, reasonings beliefs, social behavior, research and practice associated with human development psychological process and functioning and psychological disorders.

In this context, Department aims to provide (Philosophy)

1. BA General / Special degree programme to provide students with basic knowledge in the main areas of Philosophy such as history of Philosophy, theory of knowledge, values and modern trends of Philosophy.
2. To enable students to understand the Philosophy of the Eastern people
3. To enable the students to know and analysis the Philosophy of the Tamil
4. To increase students' awareness of ethnical issues
5. To improve students' critical things and analytical skills
6. To assist students in their development of problem solving experience in at least one of the main areas of Philosophy
7. To develop the ability to use formal techniques

8. To develop the ability to undertake independent reseated
9. In this content, Department aims to provide (Psychology)
10. To provide students with basic knowledge in the field of Psychology
11. To enable students to understand basic research method in Psychology
12. To enable students to understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social and organizational issues
13. To enable students to develop insight into the behavior of their own and that of others behavior, and mental process and effective strategies for self management and self improvement.
14. To enable students to communicate and work in group effectively, understand psychological problems of Tamil, basic skills of counseling and undertake independent research.
15. The effective organization of teaching, learning, assessment, review and quality assurance practice.

3.1 Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the programme (Philosophy) degree students should have;

1. Enabling the students to have the knowledge on concepts and theories and current trends in Philosophy
2. Enabling the students to have the ability to read, write and criticize philosophy.
3. Enabling them to have the knowledge of philosophy of the eastern people and the philosophy of the Tamils.
4. Enabling the students to have the ability of reasoning the philosophically to use formal techniques.
5. Enabling them to have the ability to present and explain “views” and argument in support of their views, and explain objections to views and doctrines.
6. Enabling them to have the ability to present and defend new and influencing views and arguments.
7. Enabling them to have the ability to apply philosophy in ethical issues
8. Enabling them to have the analytical skills and the ability of critical thinking and problem solving
9. Enabling them to have the ability to carry out research and postgraduate studies in Philosophy

On successful completion of the programme (Psychology)

1. Enabling the students to have the knowledge on concepts, theoretical perspectives, historical and current trends in Psychology.
2. Enabling the students to have the ability to apply physiological principles in personal, social and organizational matters.
3. Enabling them to have the ability to manage and develop their personality.
4. Enabling the students to have the ability to understand the personal, social behavior of other people
5. Enabling them to have the ability to communicate and work in group effectively
6. Enabling the students to be familiar with the psycho social problems of the Tamils
7. Enabling the students to apply basic skills of counseling
8. Enabling them to have the ability to carry out research and postgraduate studies in Psychology

Programme Details

The following courses / programme of study fall into the remit of the review;

Programme	Duration	Students number for 2008
Bachelor of Arts special degree in Philosophy	04 Years	56
Bachelor of Arts special degree in Psychology	04 Years	66
Bachelor of Arts general degree / Philosophy One of the core subject	03 Years	46
Bachelor of Arts general degree / Psychology One of the core subject	03 Years	01

Students admitted to the Faculty of Arts will be offered Philosophy, Psychology as a general subject, students can select either Philosophy or Psychology or both on their performance according to the criteria. In the second year onwards, students will be allowed to do specialization either Philosophy or Psychology, however those who are not qualified to do specialization in any one of the stream will be allowed to follow special degree programme of Bachelor of Arts Philosophy / Psychology.

Students will be streamlined based on the overall first year of academic performance. A student should have obtained a GPA of not less than 2.7 calculated for the course unit in the subject of specialization in the first year and obtain no “F” grades in the course units in the subject of specialization (Philosophy / Psychology) and should have obtained a GPA of not less than 1.7 calculated for the course unit of the principles subject (core course) in the first year other than the course unit in the subject of socialization.

The Dean of the Faculty, Head of the Department scrutinize and recommend a limited number of students for respective specialization degree programme based on Departmental recourses.

If students, who have obtained GPA of not less than 2.7 calculated for the course unit in the subject of specialization in the first year and failed to sit the other core course offered in the first year in medical ground (with the recommendation of the UMO) may be allowed to follow special degree programme in subject (Philosophy / Psychology) with the approval of the Faculty Board and the Senate.

4. FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW TEAM

4.1. Curriculum Design, Content and Review

The Department of Philosophy of University of Jaffna, followed year end semester system in 2001, curriculum reform and introduced course unit semester system in 2005, valued semester system was introduced present curriculum is based on modularized credit valued semester system (CVSS) was introduced. Grade point average system which came into effect since 2005.

According to both 2001 and 2005 systems, the Department of Philosophy conduct courses leading to the BA (General) degree programme for the period of three years and BA (Special) degree programme in Philosophy / Psychology for the period of four years.

The structure of the study programme of the Department of Philosophy and the contents and curriculum are intended to archive the objectives of the department such as the knowledge on concepts, theoretical and practical perspectives, historical and current trends in philosophy and psychology, managed and develop their personality, critical thinking and problem solving etc.

Each academic year consists of two semesters and each semester lasts for 15 weeks, thus a three years degree programme and four year degree programme consists of six and eight semester of study respectively.

According to grade point average system (SPA) general degree programs requires the completion 90 credits hours of which 60 credit hours covered by the Department of Philosophy. 12 credit hours covered by other Department core unit and 18 credit hours covered by the optional units.

The special degree programme requires the completion of 120 credits hours, of which 90 credit hours covered by the Department of Philosophy. 12 credit hours covered by other department core unit and 18 credit hours covered by the optional unit and module consists 45 hours contact hours where 30 hours allocated for lectures and for 15 hours for contact with students in which students are guided in writing tutorials, assignments, presentation and discussion.

Present syllabi of the Department of Philosophy in the first year, offers, four modules in both semesters, should be followed, all four course units, that may lead to special and general programmes depending on their performances and preferences.

Syllabi of the Department of Philosophy almost dealt with traditional and modern components. The reviewers are of the view that both 2001 and 2005 philosophy curriculum did not contain a single psychology course and suggest to introduce new courses such as introducing to psychology, general psychology, yoga, tourism, etc. will help the students for their physical, mental, emotional, intellectual development and employability after the graduation and that will enrich the students programme of the department as well.

The Department of Philosophy recognizes the curriculum review to be on-going progress. The curricula of the department degree programme have undergone major revisions and introduced course unit systems in 2001 with introduction of the grade point average system (GPA) in 2005, the curricula were modified to fit into the new structure. Students performance in terms of a grade point average is now considered when awarding a degree, it is noted that a department gets support and guidance of the qualified academic personalities for drafting or modifying the syllabi.

The reviewers are of the view that excising syllabi of the Department of Philosophy should be modified and importance should be given to the modern issue related to applied philosophy, philosophy of mind general psychology and thinking and facilitate the research study of the students. The reviewers observed that the potential feed back on the curricula is under taken at an informal level.

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the curriculum design, content and review, could be judged as “SATISFACTORY”

4.2 Teaching, Learning and Assessment methods

The Department of Philosophy of University of Jaffna has six academic staff members; two of them are still serving under the probationary criteria, who are teaching for Psychology stream. At present, one lecturer is on study leave, the remaining lecturers are conducting most of lectures for Psychology and Philosophy Staff also share psychology lectures. Anyhow, this is not a good practice.

Courses are thought in Tamil medium with a combination of lectures and classrooms discussions, teaching staff use visual and handouts for their lectures. Student's participation takes from engaging in discussion, presentation and answering questions, etc.

When discussing with students, reviewers noted that the lecture contents are supported with handouts, the use of multimedia and other teaching aids assignment the several courses encourage students, the use of library and the internet and gathering materials for their presentation assignment which were written by the students are witnessed (we did not observe the lecture session)

The main library of the University processes over hundred thousand books, journals, periodicals, computers and other materials recommending reading of the syllabi of the department of Philosophy were kept in the library for the use of the students. But, the collection related to the syllabi of the Philosophy and Psychology is found to be inadequate and not update.

The present evaluation system includes continuous assessment (25%) and the end semester examination (75%) continuous assessment consist several means such as tutorial assessments, written examination, presentation, etc.

The settings of question paper is done by the senior staff within the Department and the moderation done by other senior academic personalities, within the other Departments or other Universities. The examination of general and special degree consist of three hours or two hours of duration question papers depending on the credit value strength. One / two credit value unit paper require to answer three question out of five questioning in two hours duration. Three or more credit value unit require to answer five questions out of eight questions in three hours duration. Answer scripts are evaluated by the department examiners, when necessary service of the outside examiners are also obtained from other Universities for this purpose.

The reviewers are of the view that the Department of Philosophy should be enriched with qualified academic personalities for Philosophy stream and teaching aids fit to the modern era to overcome the problems and deficiencies facing in the curriculum, teaching and assessment process.

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the teaching, learning and assessment methods, could be judged as "GOOD"

4.3 Quality of Students including Student Progress and Achievements

Students are enrolled by UGC according to their admission procedures. The faculty publishes and distributes the hand book (Student's Guide) among the students. All the detail such as faculty, department, library staff and examination criteria etc, are included in the handbook. Orientation programme is arranged by the faculty for the fresh students.

All students selected the subjects for the degree programme to undergo the general orientation programme conducted by the faculty. Further orientation programme for the external candidate is also conducted by the department.

It has been observed by the reviewers students progress in each year has been monitored by semester and mid semester examinations, tutorials, term papers and presentations. Departments also have monitors, the attendance and timely submission of tutorial and the assignment and take corrective action in time.

The department is keeping continuous attention on students progress and achievements towards the main learning objective of the degree programme. Students confirmed that all lectures are available for the consultation at any time during the week days.

The following table shows the number of intake of students and number of students who have graduated from the Department of Philosophy.

Philosophy

Year	Total number of students	First class		Second class upper division	Second class lower division	Pass	Not completed
04/2005	19	M	00	05	01	02	01-ESL
		F	00	05	04	01	00
03/2004	23	M	00	04	05	00	00
		F	00	06	04	02	02
02/2003	08	M	00	02	00	00	00
		F	00	03	03	00	00

Psychology

Year	Total number of students	First class		Second class upper division	Second class lower division	Pass	Not completed
2005	07	M	00	05	01	00	00
		F	00	01	00	00	00
2003 & 2004	13	M	00	04	03	01	00
		F	00	02	03	00	00
2001 & 2002	03	M	00	02	00	00	00
		F	00	01	00	00	00

According to the above table that compares students intake and completion is evident that overall 96% students of Philosophy specialization and 100% students of Psychology completed degree.

In this manner out of 50 students of Philosophy Specialization, no one achieved the first class, 25 students 2nd upper and 17 students 2nd lower class comparing students intake and completion it is evident that 3 students have not completed the Philosophy degree for various reasons. Further out of 23 students of Psychology specialization no one achieved the first class, 15 students 2nd upper and 07 students 2nd lower class comparing student intake and completing it is evident that all students are 100% successfully completed their degree.

The department is keeping continuous attention on student's progress and achievements toward the main learning objective of the degree programme. Care is taken at the induction process to answer their problems. Specially developed indicators are not available to measure the student's progress. Students are confirmed that all lectures are available for consultation at any time during the week days.

According to the SER department has taken many strategies to maintain students progress and achievements from the students selection to their first destination of employments. Following are some significant points such as offering updated curriculum, providing adequate facilities, organized various skill development programme, reviewers could not observe methods of teaching and tutorials session during the site visit.

Although the members of the staff believe that their students are successful in scoring employment after graduation. It was noted that the department does not maintain systematic record of their output. It is strongly suggested that the department should pay attention to develop a database of their graduates.

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the quality of student including student progress and achievements, could be judged as "GOOD"

4.4. Extent and use of Student Feedback

The Department of Philosophy believes that students feedback is essential for the development and sustainability of the study programme in various ways, and therefore, adopt various forms and strategies to get the students feedback to the greater extent. According to the subject review report, Department of Philosophy adopting following methods to get the students feedback namely;

- A. Students are asked in the class room to express their views freely regarding teaching and learning and other activities of the department.
- B. Formal questionnaire survey
- C. Through discussion at the student staff meeting
- D. There is a place to express student views on academic matters in the faculty board of Arts.

According to the SER Department of Philosophy used the general quality of assurance mechanism that operate with the University. Summary of the current quality assurance mechanism within the faculty is given below:

1. Programme level: There are four students counselors (Mr. S. Vijayakumar, Mr. S. Uthayakumar and Mrs. Arulanantham) for arts faculty appointed by the University. They look after 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th years' programme.
2. Unit Level: Examination paper surveying board meeting, students questionnaires and formal session with students
3. Individual Level: Inform students feed back via demonstration, tutors and students counselor

The Department of Philosophy provided a structured questionnaire for lectures for obtaining feed back of students at the end of each semester on the nature of the subject delivery, clarity, use of MS PowerPoint, OHP, etc. according to the explanation given by the staff, the lecturers obtain student feed back relevant to the quality of teaching from the students through informal methods.

Other than the formal methods the department staff discusses with the students of their problems at the end of the lectures during contact hours and other meetings. It was observed during the review time that the cordial atmosphere prevails among the students with the head of the department.

Also it was observed that head of department is very enthusiastic to get qualitative and quantitative feed back from the students of their teaching performance, this seems to have helped the lecturers in the department to improve their teaching qualities. This practice seems a good practice from the point of view of the students as well as the reviewers.

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the extent and ask of student feedback, could be judged as "GOOD"

4.5. Postgraduate Studies

Though the self evaluation report that the Department of Philosophy has the capacity to undertake post graduate research in Philosophy. Postgraduate degrees of M.Phil and Ph.D are offered in Philosophy. It could not provide in Psychology because of lack of senior lectures. Selection is made by the faculty of graduate studies with the consultation of the head of the department.

Selected candidates are expected to follow and complete a short course on methodology conducted by the graduate studies a registered post graduate students can enjoy the facilities provided by the University such as library and internet and to observe the progress of research work supervisors are requested by the faculty of graduate studies to submit the "progress report" one in there methods.

The number of candidates that are successfully completed and presently reading their postgraduate degree under the supervision of the department of Philosophy and given bellow,

Degree	Completed	Presently Reading
M.Phil	06	02
PhD	00	03

Senior lecturers of the Department of Philosophy play significant roles conducting M.Phil and Ph.D programmes, they are engaged in supervising the above students.

Almost, all lecturers in philosophy have completed the master, is Degrees few publication related to some senior academic members of the department are available in the faculty journal and senior staff members of the department published Text books also. Due to the lack of senior lecturers of the Psychology research and publication was poor, it is important to improve the psychological research and the publication within the department. This helps the department to have some publications related to psychology. According to SER staff member, and outside students who undertake postgraduate studies and research in Philosophy do not have any finding facilities.

Anyhow, the above facts are considered aspect of the postgraduate studies could be judged by “GOOD”.

4.6. Peer Observations

According to the SER there is no formal methods of peer observations in the Department of Philosophy. Head, some lecturers are practicing some kind of peer evaluation in the informal manner. Junior staff members, temporary staff, and visiting lecturers are given guidance by the head and senior staff regarding the improvement of teaching methods and skills (teaching material and tutorial practicing)

The observation of document proved that there is a practice of paper moderation by senior academic within the department level or outside all question papers are subject to moderation by another lecturer and answer scripts are marked by two lecturers, which is a general practice in Sri Lankan University.

Department meetings are held to discuss various matters and staff members share their views. All the staff members participated in curricula revision and other academic activities, in line with University guidance the Department expects to operate and organize peer observation system very soon though the department meetings are conducted, no minutes are maintained.

It is very important to conduct monthly department meetings to discuss the matters related to the degree to the degree programme and other students related matter by the department

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the peer observation could be judged as “satisfactory”

4.7. Skills Development

According to the SER Department of Philosophy used some skill development mechanism that is given below;

1. Curriculum level skill development:

Skill development is embedded in department curriculum design and in the learning teaching and assignment methods used helps the students to develop this practice will consist of working time, management skills and confidence to undertake independent

research and obtain basic skills in IT and English also further, the department of Philosophy given opportunity to their students marking presentation in the class room. It was welcomed by the reviewers that this kind of practice will help the students presentation skills.

2. Co-Curriculum level skill development:

Organizational and socialization abilities are developed through arts week programme, Philosophical Magazine (jHrdk;) organic debate programme, organize guest lecturers mid speeches and cultural programmes such as welcome party, going down party these programme provided opportunity to develop team work leadership qualities and ability to speak and write perform in daily paper research magazine and public.

3. Physical Skills:

Facilities of Games and athletics, fresher's meets, inter faculty meets, inter University meets provide opportunities to develop their physical skills.

The reviewers found that practically each under graduate is officially allocated a minimum of two hours a week for their computer studies plus practical and department has not computer laboratories also this situation is not sufficient to student develop their computer and IT skills, and almost all undergraduates who had undergone their events in their mother tongue (Tamil), therefore, department will consider improvement of English proficiency.

However, when the above facts are considered the aspects of the skill development could be judged as "GOOD"

4.8. Academic Guidance and Counseling

A well-defined and progressive student counseling to mental physical and educational development. Student counselors are appointed by the University to help and assist student in needed situation for instance.

At the beginning of the academic year for the first year students an orientation programme is conducted by the faculty in which the idea of the course details an the facilities available to them are provided and the above mentioned programme helps the students to cope up with the new University environment.

Guidance is provided on academic matter by each and every academic staff of the development. They guide student on the following matters; in course assessment, recommending textbooks, etc., a carrier guidance unit is functioning in the University to assets all the students in employment matter also.

The team of counselors has taken several measures to overcome such as ragging and other stress situations, discussion with the students also revealed that the existing counseling service is effective and that the students are satisfied with the counseling services provided. It was appreciated by the reviewers that allocated a room for students counseling and appointed temporary counselor by department of Philosophy and counselor and lecturers are encouraged to help students find, whatever additional support to advised to required discussion between students and counselor are strictly confidential.

The academic staff members in the department of philosophy have volunteered at several occasions not only to provide academic guidance and counseling, but also to help the undergraduate in numerous ways.

Many undergraduates in the department are involved in the extra curricular activities like sports. This aspect again demands a proper academic guidance and counseling programmes.

The review team did not see any indication of students contact hours in the timetable of the lecturers. Therefore, it is suggested to set apart students contact ours in the personal timetables. However according to the explanations given by the senior student's counselor, student counselor the staff are ready for supporting the students as the needs arise.

While congratulating the students counselors for effective service rendered and devotion under tight condition the reviewer recommends that respective of faculty of arts students counselor not sufficient for students counseling service provided and achievement made to make it more visible and effective in future.

When the above facts are considered the aspect of the academic guidance and counseling could be judged as "SATISFACTORY"

Based on the observations made during the study visit by the review team, the eight aspects were judged as follows:

Aspect Reviewed	Judgment Given
Curriculum Design, Content and Review	Satisfactory
Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods	Good
Quality of Students including Student Progress and Achievements	Good
Extent and Use of Student feedback, Qualitative and Quantitative	Good
Postgraduate Studies	Good
Peer Observation	Satisfactory
Skills Development	Good
Academic Guidance and Counseling	Satisfactory

5. CONCLUSIONS

The strengths/ good practices and the weaknesses of each of the eight aspects considered in the subject review process are summarized as follows.

1. Curriculum Design, Content and Review

Good Practices/Strengths:

Strengths / good practices

1. Considerable number of IT, English elective and optional course units are available in the programme.
2. Some kind of subjects, components are related to Tamil speaking community.
3. The department conduct two specialization in Philosophy and Psychology
4. Three degree programme consists of an independent research dissertation in final year
5. Credit, GPA and semester system were adopted
6. The curriculum design to the current issues and problems
7. The component of curriculum both Philosophy and Psychology include various field of them

Weakness

1. Curriculum not revised after 2005
2. Philosophy syllabus does not include any component of Psychology
3. Recommended reading / further reading are not specified in the detailed syllabi
4. Though the elective subjects are available students are not given the chance of selecting elective course unit
5. IT and English course units do not consist of credit value
6. English language ability of the students needs to be more improved.

2. Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. Some of the course contents issued by the department provide guideline for the students to improve their capacity
2. Assessment requirements are explained to the students at the beginning of the course units.
3. The Department of Philosophy a wide range of teaching and learning methods appropriate to development of high component graduates
4. The library usage by the undergraduates is at an acceptable level
5. Attempt to maintain a better learning environment providing necessary teaching and learning facilities
6. According to the time table, students' work load is sufficiently balances

Weakness

1. The objective of the course learning outcome detailed syllabus and assessments methods are not given to the students at the beginning of the programme
2. Students are not happy with some of the lecturers teaching, subject allocation for senior staff members are unequal. (some staff members teach more course units, some are less)
3. Allocated time for IT practical is not enough

4. No special calendar is prepared to balance the distribution of assignment throughout the semester
5. Elective subjects are not taught
6. GPA system is not instructable according to UGC policy

3. Quality of Students, including Student Progress and Achievement

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. All lecturers are available for consultation any time during the week days
2. Behavior of both lecturers and undergraduates are positive
3. Achievements of students in examination and other activities are good
4. Undergraduate research forum is functioning to publish their research articles
5. Care is taken at the induction process to answer their problems

Weakness

1. English and IT knowledge of students are poor
2. Both 96% of students in Philosophy specialization and 100% of the students in Psychology specialization got class but no one got first class
3. Latest reading materials are not enough
4. Teaching materials one issued but it is poor therefore students depend on class room notes
5. No proper record keeping system available within the department

4. Extent and Use of Student Feedback

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. Department of Philosophy uses the genera quality assurance mechanism that operate within the University
2. The dedication shown towards solving the undergraduate problem by the academic staff members in the department is appreciable
3. The head and the staff practice an open door policy
4. Formal teaching evaluation system is in practice. A questionnaire is developed to evaluate the teacher.
5. The formal methods all the staff discusses with the students of their problems at the end of the lecture, during the conduct hours and other meetings

Weakness

1. Most of the students feed backs are not considered for the improvement
2. Formal departmental students committees are not available
3. Students evaluation sheets are not analyzed therein feedback could not be incorporated
4. Formal students conduct hours are not incorporated within the time table

5. Postgraduate Studies

Good Practices/Strengths:

Faculty of graduate Studies established separately

1. The Senior academic members of the department have had the opportunity to perform as the lecturer and the thesis supervisor
2. The reorganization gained by the senior academic members in the department by serving as an editor in degree for the faculty journal

3. Evolution practice of thesis good as three examiners are appointed. One is from other University, two are foreign from a University
4. Library opens from 8:30 hrs to 16:30 hrs in five week days also
5. More publication of research articles by the academic members of the department of the journal of the faculty

Weakness

1. No accelerated postgraduate programme
2. No sufficient funding facilities to do degree for both outsiders and internal staff members

6. Peer Observation

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. Moderation and second marking system are in practice
2. All the staff members in the Department of Philosophy participate in curricula revision and other academic activities

Weakness

1. No evidence is found to prove application of peer evaluation of the teaching
2. No common room to share views of staff members
3. No rewarding systems are available for the staff members that performed well
4. Departmental meeting are not regularly held
5. Group teaching and core teaching systems are not available
6. Sufficient senior staff members are available to observe each others but it is not in practice

7. Skills Development

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. Presentation skills are improved by individual and group presentation
2. Skill development is included in department course units and in the learning, teaching and assessment methods they used
3. The auxiliary course units are designed for getting skill development
4. The students are able to obtain skill in IT by following practical classes
5. All the final year students gain practice in conducting research and making presentations.
6. Undergraduates have been facilitated with 06 English language non credit courses but they have to get pass grade for award the degree

Weakness

1. Not organizing regular guest lecturers and other activities like organize seminars and community related service make opportunities to improve organize and develop leadership skills among undergraduates.
2. No filed trip programme
3. Students are not encouraged to organize various non subject related activities to developed various skill required for modern environment
4. Practical training is not available in curricula except Psychology

8. Academic Guidance and Counseling

Good Practices/Strengths:

1. The University appointed students counselors and they work collaboration with the male senior student counselor
2. Orientation programme conducted by the University for fresh students gives familiar environment in the University
3. Lecturers are encouraged to help students find whatever additional support or advice is required

Weakness

1. Non availability of a well thought properly designed academic counseling programme in the department
2. Lack of formal training for staff on the students counseling and guidance
3. Non availability of a sound and a common record maintenance system in relation to academic guidance and counseling in the department for future reference.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of weaknesses identified reviewers would like to make following recommendation in order to improve relevance and quality of the BA specialization in Philosophy / Psychology degree programme.

1. It is advised to improve the learning outcome of the department.
2. It is required to give more office spaces and office equipment facilities to the department
3. It is required to offer elective course units in to the curriculum. This ensures the flexibility of the student's choice.
4. It is advisable to incorporate teaching of job orientated courses in Philosophy such as fundamental psychology, social science research methods and technique. (Psychology consist these kind of course units)
5. It is important to arrange an official calendar for tutorial classes
6. It is advised to recruit cadres for Philosophy and Psychology for smooth functioning
7. It is strongly advised to get good and most up to date reading and reference materials for Philosophy and Psychology in main library
8. It is advised to appoint a permanent Computer Applications Assistant and Office Assistant, clerical staff for active functioning the department
9. It is recommended to increase the speed of the internet to do research activities smoothly
10. It is advised to make lecture halls with present it facilities
11. Incorporate feedback from the undergraduates in teaching as well as a formal peer observation method would help increasing the productivity of the department
12. It is recommended to introduce and organize a peer evaluation system under the supervision of the dean of the faculty or by employing an eminent academic who is acceptable to the academic staff members of the department
13. It is important to establish Alumini Association for the department to get their support to develop the department
14. It is advisable for the subject allocation among staff members are unequal according to the University norms head / dean concentrate on this matter

15. It is recommended to allocate stationeries sufficient for departmental needs is helpful to prepare the teaching materials
16. It will be very useful if course manual can be developed for all the courses conducted by the department. A list of compulsory additional reading along with article published recently in the journals also a must to make students aware about the recent development in the discipline
17. It is advisable to provide more office furniture for permanent staff members and visiting staff members
18. The staff in the department should be given a formal training on academic guidance and counseling.

7. ANNEXES

Annex 1. AGENDA FOR THE REVIEW VISIT

Day 1 - 18.05.2009

08.30 - 9.00	Private Meeting of Review Panel with QAA Council Representatives
09.00 - 9.30	Discuss the Agenda for the visit
09.30 - 10.00	Meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Dean/Arts, Chairman Internal QA Unit, Faculty QA Cell and the Head of the Department,
10.00 - 10.30	Tea Break
10.30 - 11.30	Department presentation on the Self Evaluation Report
11.30 -12.30.	Discussion with the staff of the Department
12.30 -1.30	Lunch Break
1.-30 - 2.15	Observing Departmental Facilities-I
2.15 - 3.00	Observing Other facilities such as Library, Computer Centre etc.
3.00 – 3.30	Tea Break
3.30 - 4.30	Meeting with Undergraduate Students (First Year and Second Year)
4.30 - 5.30	Meeting with Department Staff
5.30 - 6.00	Brief Meeting of Reviewers

Day 2 - 19.05.2009

09.00 - 9.30	Observing Teaching- Psychology Lecture- I
09.30 -10.00	Academic Guidance and Counseling-Course Advisors and Student Counselors
10.00 - 10.30	Tea Break
10.30 - 11.00	Observing Teaching –Psychology Tutorials
11.00 - 11.30	Observing Teaching- Psychology Lecture-II
11.30- 12.15	Observing Students Presentation- Philosophy
12.30- 1.30	Lunch Break
1.30 - 2.15	Observing Students Presentation- Psychology
2.15 - 3.15	Observing Documents of the Department
3.15 – 3.45	Tea Break
3.30– 4.30	Meeting with Undergraduate Students (Third year and fourth year)
4.30 - 5.30	Meeting with Post Graduates & Graduates
5.30 - 6.00	Brief Meeting of Reviewers

Day 3 - 20.05.2009

09.00 - 9.30	Observing Teaching- Philosophy Lecture- I
09.30 -10.00	Observing Teaching- Philosophy – Tutorial
10.00 - 10.30	Tea Break
10.30 - 11.00	Reviewers Private Discussion
11.00 - 11.30	Visiting Staff personal rooms and internet facilities
11.30- 12.30	Visiting Students facilities such as Hostel, Canteen
12.30- 1.30	Lunch Break
1.30 – 2.30	Meeting with Head & Staff for Report Writing
2.30- 3.00	Report Writing
3.00 – 3.30	Tea Break
3.30- 5.00	Report Writing