

Centre For Studies In Rural Management, Gujarat Vidyapith, Randheja.

Centre for Studies in Rural Management had organized the Alumni Association Get-together on2008. 55 students remained present in the programme to discuss various issues and sharing own experience. They gave their valuable feedback to the department so that their constructive and suggestive ideas can be utilised to revise the syllabus and to introduce newer innovative practices in teaching-learning process.

Some of the points are as follows:

- The department should increase the focus on computer practicals, data entry, SPSS software, etc. and students should be given more time for computer practices so that it will be very useful to them in their professional life.
- The students should be made aware of various programmes and current updates about NGOs as most of the students work with such organization in their future.
- Amendments in Panchayati Raj must be included in the course.
- The students must be given practice of documentation and presentation.
- English- as a language should be included in the syllabus; and students must be motivated to learn and communicate in English too.
- The research dissertation of students must be uploaded on the website/intranet portal so that they can be available to all for their ready reference.
- Field work, educational visits and exposure visits should be frequent in the department.
- The department should arrange visit to the working place of the old students who are working at grass-root level and living with the objectives of Gujarat Vidyapith; otherwise such prominent personality must be invited to the department to interact with students.
- Keeping in view the current competitive environment and fast changing world, there should be some changes in course accordingly.
- The subject of sociology and psychology can be added in syllabus.
- Disaster management subject should be included.
- Post graduate diploma in Rural Management should be started (Regular/Distance Learning).
- Preparing project proposal and case study should be included in the course.
- Workshop and seminar on various rural management issues and topics must be conducted for the students.

The course M.R.M. (Master in Rural Management) was revised in 2010. At this time, the above suggestions were kept in consideration. Accordingly, some noticeable changes were introduced in the revised syllabus. They are as follows:

1) Introduction of skill development modules in final semester

a) Innovative participation

In this course, we organise a workshop, group discussions and field visit with specified theme in association with organisations having grass root level experience in the field of

sustainable rural development. The evaluation is based on the examination held by the host organisations.

b) Business Communication

This course presents communication as integral to management strategy and as a critical component for success in the workplace. In this course, we develop a foundation for designing effective messages, both written and oral, from concept to delivery. We use a strategic communication model to identify objectives, analyze audiences, choose information, and create the most effective arrangement and channel for that message. Particularly, the course emphasizes elements of persuasive communication: how to design messages for diverse and possibly resistant audiences and how to present that information in a credible and convincing way.

c) Computer Accounting

The course is designed to give an opportunity to the students to get acquainted with Tally Accounting Software. The course covers basics of accountancy which covers the entire accounting cycle of the business environment. It is focused on understanding and learning of basic accounting terms, accounting principles, concepts and conventions, double entry system, modes of accounting and preparation of financial statements. The course also covers an introduction to various types of business organizations, accounting on computers, Tally fundamentals which includes learning of Tally features and its functionality. To bring ease in getting functional with Tally, sample data processing and its report generation will also be taught to the students as part of this course.

d) Computer in Research

This is an introductory course that aims at familiarizing students with the basics of research design and quantitative analysis. This involves analyzing and evaluating statistical data with a view to addressing contemporary social science questions. The basics of theory and research design include how to... (1) identify a viable research question; (2) formulate a theory and derive hypotheses; and (3) conceptualize and measure variables. The course covers the fundamentals of statistical analysis in order to give students an understanding the connection between statistic and research. The sessions will be held in a computer lab, where students will practice working with and analyzing an actual dataset using SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)software.

e) Management Proposal

Management proposal formation for.....

- 1) Project Management
- 2) Production Management

The courses are designed to help students in developing knowledge, skills in planning, designing, implementing, managing and evaluating projects in an area of interest.

2) Changes in internal assessment system

40% weightage has been given to internal evaluation in total evaluation of students. This is based on internal test, preliminary test, presentation, classroom interaction, assignment and group discussion in the classroom.

3) Changes in syllabus

The syllabus of subjects like Project Management, Human Resource Development, Finance Management, is revised keeping in view the demand of time.

4) Seminar and presentation

Seminar and presentations are frequently arranged in the department. So that the confidence, knowledge, presentation skills, etc. Can be developed in the students.

5) Field work

Field work of village has been introduced for all the students to develop in them the holistic view of the village life. It is an attempts to develop desired sensitivity towards the last person of rural society and to helps them in appreciating constraints and possibilities for sustainable development. It gives them a flavor of community work at the grassroots level.
