UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
School of Distance Education

Master of Arts (Sociology)
PROGRAMME PROJECT REPORT

(a) Programme's mission & objectives

Mission

In keeping with the overall mission of the School of Distance Education, University of Kerala, to ensure accessibility of quality higher education to all, the programme Sociology aims at imparting an in-depth sociological knowledge (both theoretical and practical) in the post graduate level.

Objectives

- To help the students to understand the nature and character of sociological perspective.

- To familiarize the students with the critical exploration of the social processes, social issues and problems of society sociologically.

- To equip students with sociological imagination.

(b) Relevance of the program with HEI's Mission and Goals

Offered in the distance mode, MA Sociology will be closely aligned with the vision and mission of the University of Kerala, in vowing to ensure knowledge based, student focussed, quality and cost conscious but socially responsible education.

MA Sociology in the distance mode will be an advance programme for the students who are intend to do higher education. This programme is offered by the university, and it follows the same syllabus and curriculum of the programme offered in the regular mode through the affiliated colleges of the University of Kerala.

(c) Nature of prospective target group of learners

Sociology programme in post graduate level has extensive demand, but only limited students can accommodated in the regular mode through university departments and colleges. Thus thorough the distance mode education a large segment of population can provide quality education not only in terms of quality, but also flexible in terms of methods, pace of learning, eligibility for enrolment and age of entry. Considering the requirements of the learners we have designed our self- learning material and programme to guide the learners for higher education.

(d) Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning mode to acquire specific skills and competence:

The MA Sociology programme will perceive to ensure the following skills and competences in the learners.

1. **Theoretical skill** (Reading, analyzing and writing skill): To introduce the students with the theoretical insights of classical, advanced and modern sociological thinking and understand various kinds of theoretical perspectives in detail. As a post graduate programme, it obliges wide reading on the subject both original texts and critics to understand and develop sociological knowledge. Students are also trained to prepare and present research papers.

2. **Practical skill** (problem solving skill) for application of theoretical knowledge: To help the students to relate sociological theories to the contemporary social issues.

3. **Skill for community participation**: To enable the students to identify social problems and to equip them to participate in the community services.

4. **Critical evaluation skill**: To equip the students to analyze and evaluate social issues.

5. **Research skill**: Enable the students in doing social research, to introduce major research tools and techniques, research paradigms, and to make clear the relationship between theory and research and use of statistical tools.

(e) Instructional Design:

Syllabus for MA Sociology

Semester System (SDE) Course Structure and Mark Distribution

Semester	Paper code	Title of paper	Maximum marks		
			CE	ESE	Total
I	SO2.1.1	Development of Sociology as a Discipline	25	75	100
	SO2.1.2	Theoretical Foundations in Sociology	25	75	100
	SO2.1.3	Perspectives on Indian Society	25	75	100
	SO2.1.4	Social Research Methods-1	25	75	100
II	SO2.2.1	Sociology of Development	25	75	100
	SO2.2.2	Social Policy and Planning	25	75	100
	SO2.2.3	Social Research Methods-II	25	75	100
	SO2.2.4	Sociology of Marginalized Communities	25	75	100
III	SO2.3.1	Theoretical Perspectives in Modern sociology	25	75	100
	SO2.3.2	Rural Planning and Development	25	75	100
	SO2.3.3	Social Statistics	25	75	100
	SO2.3.4B	Population and Society	25	75	100
IV	SO2.4.1	Current Debates in Social Theory	25	75	100
	SO2.4.2	Gender and Society	25	75	100
	SO2.4.3B	Sociology of Childhood	25	75	100
	SO2.4.4B	Sociology of Health	25	75	100
	SO2.4.5	Dissertation + Viva Or ge nera l essa y	Nil	80 + 20 Or 100	100
	SO2.4.6	Comprehensive Viva -voce	Nil		100
		Grand total			1800

CE – Continues Evaluation

ESE – End Semester Examination

Duration of the programme

4 Semesters, two years.

Faculty and support staff requirement

There are two full time faculty members available and one of them coordinates the MA Programme in Sociology. There is sufficient staff support from the SDE office for processing administrative work. The service of qualified guest teachers and experts from panels approved by the Vice Chancellor are used in the preparation of SLM, for taking contact classes and conducting internal evaluation.

Instructional delivery mechanisms

In addition to Self Learning Materials, students are offered 90 contact hours for each semester, conducted over 15 days during weekends. Classes are taken using audio - visual aids, and students are also fortified to use authentic web resources.

(f)   Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation

Applications for admissions are received online. Eligibility for admission to MA Sociology is

Graduation in any subject in the Faculties of Arts/Social Sciences/Science/ Commerce/ Law securing not less than 45% marks in Part III optional subjects. Candidates with BCA/ B.Sc. Computer Science/ B.B.A./B.Com./ B.Tech. Degree of the University of Kerala or any other University which is equivalent there to, are also eligible.

Academic Calendar

ADMISSION		
Admission Notification	First week of June	
Closing date of Admission	Last week of September	
Schedule of distribution of study materials		
Course	Date	By Post
III, IV Semester	Last week of June	Last week of July
I & II Semester	Last week of October	Last week of November
Schedule of contact classes		
Course	Schedule	
III & IV Semester	First week of July	
I & II Semester	First week of November	
Schedule of examinations		
Course	Schedule	

III and IV Semester	First week of April
I and II Semester	Second and Third week of April

Fee structure: Rs. 10305/- for full programme.

Tuition fee is waived for students belonging to eligible categories.

Financial assistance

Concession for tuition will be given to SC/ ST and OEC category will be admitted to the programme without remitting the tuition fee. The fee for the students thus admitted will be later claimed from SC/ ST department as per the rules laid down by the government of Kerala and will be remitted to Kerala University Fund (KUF).

Curriculum is transacted in the Distance Mode with the help of Self Learning Material and Personal Contact Classes.

The uses of web-based tools are not in place yet, but steps are being initiated.

Evaluation is continuous and end semester.

Continuous Evaluation requires the submission of one assignment and one Test Paper for each course carrying 25 marks.

End Semester Examinations are conducted by the Controller of Examinations, University of Kerala. The written exams carry 75 marks per paper.

(g) Requirement of the laboratory support and Library Resources

Laboratory hours are not mandatory for MA Sociology, but students can avail the computer facility from the Central Computer Lab of the School of Distance Education which has continuous internet connectivity.

The SDE has a separate Library with more than 28,000 books. Library automation is done using LibSoft software which facilitates all in- house operations of the library. The library currently subscribes to more than 15 journals of various subject fields. An amount of Rs. 525/- has to be remitted by the students to obtain membership in the Library, of which Rs. 420/- will be refunded on completion of the course. The non- members can make use of the library resources and the reference services by producing their student's ID proof. They can use the library for reference purpose and they can avail photocopy facilities.

(h) Cost estimate of the programme and the provisions:

Sl.No	Expenditure	Total for the SDE during 19-20 (25987 students) (Rs. in lakh)	Cost estimate MA Sociology programme (350 students)
01	Pay and Allowance	435.00	1502200
02	Contact classes and evaluation	80.00	92100
03	Course materials	100.00	115200
04	Advertisement charges	25.00	28800

05	Postage and telephone	7.4	8400
06	Books and Periodicals	3.5	3900
07	Miscellaneous	9.95	11400
	Total	660.85	1762000
	Provisions (6%)		105720
	Total		1867720 Cost per student/ year=Rs.5336

(i) Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes:

The University Board of Studies for MA Sociology programme approves and reviews the syllabus, course content, and the Self Learning Material of MA Sociology offered through distance mode.

The overall ensuring of quality will be closely monitored by the Centre for Internal Quality Assurance, School of Distance Education.

Expected outcomes

1. Sociology provides training for community participation, social service, public policy formation and planning.

2. Study of sociology in PG level help the students to get training in conducting social researchers and to find out scientific solution to the current social problems.

3. Students are also competent to work in the non- profit organizations, government agencies, enforcement agencies of law.

4. A post graduate in sociology can go for higher studies like Ph.D in many multi-disciplinary subjects.

Note: The programme structure is based on the present syllabus existing in the regular mode in the University of Kerala. The UG and PG syllabi in the regular mode in the University is currently being revised and is about to be finalized. SDE will adopt the revised syllabus as such when they are finalized for the 2020-21 admission. The SLMs will also be updated accordingly.

DIRECTOR
School of Distance Education
University of Kerala, Karievattom
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 581