

**Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the DAB of Department of Gender Studies held on 28-01-21 under the chairpersonship of Prof. Mona Yadav, Head (DGS)**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Departmental Advisory Board (DAB) meeting of the Department of Gender Studies for the year 2021-22 was held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Zakir Hussain Block) under the chairpersonship of Prof. Mona Yadav. The following members attended the meeting:-

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|-----|---|-------------------------------|
| 1.  | Prof. Mona Yadav  | Chairperson and Head, DGS     |
| 2.  | Prof. Azra Razzak, Jamia Milia Islamia University         | Member and External Expert    |
| 3.  | Dr. Sarita Anand, Lady Irwin College, University of Delhi | Member, External Expert       |
| 4.  | Dr. Himadri Roy, Indira Gandhi National Open University   | Member, External Expert       |
| 5.  | Ms. Juanita Kakoty, Arpan Education                       | Member, External Expert       |
| 6.  | Prof. Neerja Rashmi, DESS                                 | Representative of Head, DESS  |
| 7.  | Prof. S.C. Chauhan, DEGSN                                 | Head, DEGSN                   |
| 8.  | Prof. Padma Yadav, DEE                                    | Representative of Head, DEE   |
| 9.  | Prof. Indu Kumar, CIET                                    | Representative of JD, CIET    |
| 10. | Dr. Til Prasad Sharma, Associate Professor                | Representative of Head, DESM  |
| 11. | Dr. Shraddha  | Representative of Head, DEPFE |
| 12. | Prof. Poonam Agrawal, DGS                                 | Member DAB of DGS             |
| 13. | Prof. Mily Roy Anand, DGS                                 | Special Invitee, DGS Faculty  |

*External member Shri D Rahul Venkat, Director, SCERT, Chhattisgarh could not attend the meeting.*

At the outset of the meeting, Prof. Mona Yadav, Chairperson, welcomed all the external and internal members of the newly constituted DAB members. After the introduction by the members, Prof. Mona Yadav highlighted the roles and functions of the Department. The details of the work carried out by the Department in the year 2020-21 were shared with the members.

**Item I: To Confirm the Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of DAB of DGS held on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

*The minutes were confirmed.*

**Item II: To Receive a Report of Action Taken on the Minutes of 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of DAB of DGS held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

*The Action Taken was noted.*

**Item III: Composite Statement of Programme Proposals for the Year 2021-22**

*The Composite Statement was noted*

**Item IV: Presentation of Detailed Programme Proposals for 2021-22**

*The Programme proposals for 2021-22 were presented one-by-one. After discussion on each of the programs, comments/suggestions of the member were noted.*

*The Programme wise recommendation along with observations is given as under:*

**Prof. Azra Razzack** suggested that “select initiatives” may be used in the title of the programme No. 4.01. She stressed the importance of addressing the trauma that child sexual abuse leaves in its wake and addressing it properly. In Programme 4.03, she pointed out that all visuals need to be considered. She suggested that adjectives used to describe women and the definitions, descriptions of women in the texts could be looked upon while analysing textbooks. For the new Programme on *E-Learning Initiatives*, Prof. Azra suggested that the research sample should include students from diverse backgrounds such as minority communities and slum dwellers to be taken into account.

**Dr. Himadri Roy** suggested that the detailing can be done in objectives to shorten the title regarding programme No. 4.01 . In Programme 4.03, Dr. Himadri elucidated how gender-neutral language is the need of the hour and how we need to understand the usage of language within textbooks. They further contextualised how gender representation can be more than keywords. Textbooks from class VI to XII can talk about the history of transgender, the inclusion of all gender as per NEP 2020. In the new programme presented, Dr. Himadri asked for a clarification of the study area if it is Delhi or Delhi NCR to which it was suggested that the study should consider areas in Delhi such as Najafgarh. He further congratulated the department for taking up such an important project. He appreciated the new programme on E-learning initiatives.

**Dr. Sarita Anand** suggested that certain additional factors might add to the Programme 4.01, some of which could be assessing whether there is an availability of trained and sensitized contact person within the school system whom children can approach and trust. She further elucidated that an institutional history of redressal mechanisms within the school system or reports of cases that have been resolved within the school may further add value to the process

of impact assessment. In Programme 4.03, Dr. Sarita Anand suggested that visuals play a very important role while assessing textbooks from a gendered perspective. The exercises given at the end of the chapter should be given special focus during the assessment. In the new programme, Dr. Sarita Anand suggested that class IX should be taken into the ambit of the research.

**Ms. Juanita Kakoty** suggested certain additions to the research questions in Programme 4.01 such as: What are the key safety messages retained by the students post transaction of such initiatives? Has the internalization of safety messages boosted children's self-esteem and articulation of feelings? She further stressed the importance of each child internalizing the fact that abuse "is not their fault". In Programme 4.03, Ms. Juanita suggested looking holistically into aspects such as 'gender and safety' i.e. how are gender and safety messages being addressed.

**Prof. Indu Kumar** suggested that the title could be shortened in programme 4.01. She floated the concern that children do not easily open up and speak about experiences of abuse, which should be considered by the research team. She suggested activities where children can pose their experiences and questions anonymously, for e.g. a box can be kept where children can anonymously write their experiences and drop them in. In the new programme, she suggested that there could be an inventory of the kind of devices children and teachers had access to for viewing E contents during pandemic and appreciated the programme.

**Prof Neerja Rashmi** suggested that instead of detailing the initiatives in the title, the title can simply say "government initiatives" in programme 4.01. In Programme 4.03, she suggested that if certain guidelines are circulated in each department, it would be easier to revise textbooks from time to time.

**Dr. Subhash** suggested that the research questions for the programme 4.01 can be refined further. He suggested the appointment of a computer typist and that instead of the term "developing", "vetting" of research tools should be taken as the development should be done in house.

**Prof. Padma Yadav** suggested that instead of questionnaires, focus group discussions with children may be a more fruitful method in programme 4.01.

**Prof. Poonam Aggrawal** with regard to programme 4.03 suggested that due to paucity of time, a detailed review of more than 100 books cannot be possible and therefore the project that was proposed was of a "quick review".

**Prof Mily Roy Anand** suggested that both questionnaires and focus group discussions can be used by the research team, in programme 4.01. In Programme 4.02, she suggested that a Gender coordinator may be included in the discussions, while for Programme 4.03; she was of the view that any section/topic has to be seen holistically in its entirety, to identify what gendered aspect is missing within that section.

**Prof Mona Yadav** placed in the meeting that instead of a consultant, an additional Senior Research Assistant may be appointed in programme 4.01, which was accepted.

**4.01: Impact Assessment Study of initiatives of Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education for gender equality and prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (dissemination and screening of KOMAL film, School Safety Pledge, POCSO awareness, and Gender Sensitization programmes)**

*Recommended with the suggestions:*

- Title to be shortened and modified
- Research questions to be added
- Appointment of an additional SRA and a computer typist.

**4.02: Consultations on the Working Paper on Gender Equality and Empowerment**

*Recommended with the suggestions:*

- Gender coordinators may be included in the discussions

**4.03: Integration of Gender Perspective in NCERT Textbooks - A Review and Preparation of Guidelines for New Generation Textbooks**

*This is a carried over project for 2020-21. The progress of the project was reported.*

*Recommended with the suggestions:*

- Visuals to be considered as part of the assessment
- Exercises given at the end of the chapters to be considered as part of the assessment

A new programme titled **E-Learning Initiatives in India for Students at the Secondary Stage during Covid-19 Pandemic: An Experience-Based Need Assessment** was presented by Prof. Poonam Aggrawal.

*Recommended with the suggestions:*

- If possible some class IX students may be included
- Besides rural/ urban, slum schools Should be considered
- An inventory of the kind of devices children and teachers had access to for viewing the contents during pandemic can be included

Prof. Indu conveyed the message of Prof. Behera who suggested that department may consider taking up online courses on gender and development of E-content in the area of gender. Prof. Mona Yadav responded that for online courses, the modules have been prepared, and the Department can consider taking up for the development of e-content.

Prof. Mona Yadav ended the meeting with a vote of thanks, acknowledging the members for critically reflecting on important issues and for making the meeting a success by providing their valuable time and suggestions. She also stated that an attempt will be made to involve external DAB members for their regular inputs.