**Programme Project Report (PPR)**

**for**

**Distance Learning Programme under School of Distance Education**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (ECONOMICS)**

**Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Jose J. Naduthotty**

***Academic support by***

**K.N. Raj Centre for Planning & Centre-State Relations**

**Mahatma Gandhi University**

**Kottayam, Kerala**

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (ECONOMICS)**

**Programme Project Report**

Mahatma Gandhi University started the School of Distance Education in 1989 with the vision of providing the opportunity for quality education to all realms of society. Since the beginning, thousands of students have availed themselves of this opportunity for higher education to a great extent throughout Kerala. Many students outside the State had also benefited from this. But after the new directions of the UGC in 2014, the University had stopped all its Off Campus Centres of the School of Distance Education both inside and outside the State.

Now it is the new endeavour of the School to revamp its functioning by offering different types of Conventional Graduate and Post Graduate Programmes in addition to Diploma and Certificate Programmes which are very relevant to contemporary society. This is being done with the academic and infrastructural support of the eminent Schools and Interdisciplinary Interuniversity Centres of the University.

1. **Programme’s Mission & Objectives**

In line with the mission of the University, to provide flexible learning opportunities to all, particularly to those who could not join regular colleges or universities owing to social, economic and other constraints, the Degree Programme in Economics (BA), offered in the Open and Distance Education Mode aims at providing good quality education at affordable fee. It is also suitable for those who are already employed to improve their academic qualification which motivate them to move to higher grades (add to vertical mobility) in their profession. The various objectives are discussed below

Economics is a widely sought-after subject since it offers considerable employment opportunity in diverse fields like banks, industry and government service. Having a graduation in Economics opens opportunity for higher learning in management (MBA), Law etc, besides being the primary requirement if one plans to do advanced courses in Economics (PG and Research). The specific objectives of the Programme are:

(i). To provide an opportunity to those who are already employed in different professions to improve their chances of progressing to higher positions in their job.

(ii). To cater to those who could not procure admission in a Regular Programme offered by colleges affiliated to the University due to various reasons (such as non-availability of colleges within convenient distance, failure to obtain required cut off mark at the qualifying examination to apply in regular colleges, lack of required financial capability, and urgency to work and support family)

(iii). To help in the creation and development of manpower that would provide intellectual leadership to the community and in the process make available required manpower to the industry and service sector as well as in government service.

**2**. **Relevance of the Programme with HEI’s Mission and Goals**

The Course is relevant for three sets of students. The first set includes those who want to pursue higher studies like a regular PG course in Economics, Management etc., or going a step further to Research. The second set of students look upon the Course as a means of entering better avenues of employment. The third category consists of those who are already employed, to improve vertical mobility.

In congruence with goals of the University, the Programme envisages at providing skilled manpower to the professional, industrial and service sectors in the country so as to meet domestic and global demands. The Programme also aims at making students fit for taking up various jobs and to initiate and run self-employment ventures. All the core papers taught in the Regular Course in affiliated colleges of the University are available as such. Under the Choice Based Credit and Semester pattern students have reasonable choice with regard to Open, Elective and Complementary subjects.

**3. Nature of Prospective Target Group of Learners:**

The BA Course offered under the Open and Distance mode is in every sense comparable to the three year full time choice-based credit and semester system which is in operation in regular colleges. It is more flexible and can be very useful to students with special difficulty (due to financial backwardness and those living in rural areas that do not have regular colleges). This course aims at inculcating essential skills as demanded by the industry and service sectors. The curriculum has been designed to cater to the emerging needs of the economy and society. The syllabus has been developed to offer sufficient breadth and depth in the main subject so that those who wish to continue in academic line will have no problem adjusting to the demands of PG in Economics or Research in the subject. As only a small percentage of the aspirants who wish to attend a degree course in Economics in Kerala are being accommodated in the regular mode through colleges. It is hoped that the Programme offered through the distance mode of the university will be a boon for those who could not join regular colleges owing to social, economic and other constraints such as eligibility for enrolment, age of entry, time and place etc.

In the recent period, a large number of self-financing institutions have come up to serve those who could not get admission in regular colleges; but these are unaffordable to the poor and lower middle-class families. The Open and Distance mode of courses are also likely to bring more women into higher education as many parents don’t like to send their daughters to colleges which are situated at a considerable distance from home.

**4. Appropriateness of Programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning Mode to acquire specific skills and competence**

The Self Learning Material (SLM) for the Programme has been developed keeping in mind the needs and special difficulties of the said categories of learners ensuring that it is self-explanatory, self-contained, comprehensive and simple. The norms and guidelines suggested in the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 such as the background of the learner and learning needs, learning experiences, and support and preparation in adapting to flexible learning have been strictly adhered to during the planning period of developing SLM. The ingredients considered while developing SLMs include: (a) Learning Objectives (b) Assessment of prior knowledge (c) Learning activities (d) Feedback of learning activities (e) Examples and illustrations (f) Self-assessment tests (g) Summaries and key points (h) Study tips etc.

The Programme could be considered appropriate to be conducted in ODL mode to acquire specific skills and competence for the following reasons:

1) The specific skill and competencies required for a B.A graduate can be imparted to a great extent through SLMs that are self-explanatory, self-contained and self motivating.

2) Large volume of study material on the various courses under the B.A Degree Programme is available on the internet or websites of the UGC or Universities in the form of notes in Word/PDF format, PPTs, Videos etc. Information on them can be provided during the counselling hours earmarked per Course. There is some variation in hours allocated for papers as some of them like Econometrics and Mathematical Economics may require practice sessions.

3) The Programme stresses the application of theory to practice through the use of quantitative techniques. Fair amount of training will be given in execution of project work, case studies, presentations and practical assignments

4) Necessary library materials will be provided to students. Though students of Open and Distance Course cannot be granted membership of the university library they will be allowed to refer books and make use of the online resources in the library. An ID card will be issued to students which will enable them to access resources in the university library.

**5. Instructional Design**

5.1 Curriculum Design

The University is revising the curriculum and syllabi of its BA Economics Programme (regular) once in every three years to ensure that the content is updated to reflect current academic knowledge and practice, and also to ensure that the University provide the best learning experiences possible for students. As part of curriculum design, a curriculum and syllabus revision workshop is organized which consider improvements in curriculum to reflect latest developments in the subject. In this context, the committee identifies what are the specific needs, translates the needs into course after splitting the broad objectives into specific objectives, groups the specific objectives into subjects, derives the subjects from the classification, specifies enabling objectives, unitizing each subject matter and specifies required time for syllabus formulation. The curriculum of BA Economics has been prepared by considering the challenges of offering the Programme through distant mode. The curriculum and syllabus of BA Economics delivered in Distance mode is same as the Programme of the regular Course.

The BA Economics Course is designed in such a way that students have considerable choice in selection of papers. Choice Based Credit and Semester System which is followed for regular course is available to the students who register for the Open and Distance Education Course. For each course, 12 hours of contact class is arranged at each of the different Centres. The University will appoint sufficient number of well-qualified full-time faculty for conducting such classes. Students are required to submit assignments and appear for test papers to be able to pass internal examination for which 20 percent of marks are earmarked.

Programme details:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sem | Course code | Course Title | Course Type | Credit | Contact session (Hrs) | CE  Marks | ESE  Marks | Total  Mark |
| I | EN1CC01 | English 1 |  | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EN1CC02 | English Common 1 | Common | 3 | 9 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| \*ML1CC02  \*\*HN1CC02 | Second Language1 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC1CRT01 | Perspectives &Methodology of  Economics | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC1CMT01 | Complementary 1 | Complementary | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | **Semester I Total** |  | **19** | **57** | **100** | **400** | **500** |
| II | EN2CC03 | English 2 |  | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EN2CC04 | English common 2 | Common | 3 | 9 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| \*ML2CC02  \*\*HN2CC02 | Second Language 2 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC2CRT02 | Microeconomics I | Core | 5 | 15 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC2CMT02 | Complementary 2 | Complementary | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | **Semester II Total** |  | **20** | **60** | **100** | **400** | **500** |
| III | EN3CC05 | English 3 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| \*ML3CC03  \*\*HN3CC03 | Second Language Common 1 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC3CRT03 | Microeconomics 2 | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC3CRT04 | Economics of Growth & Development | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
| EC3CMT01 | Complementary 3 | Complementary | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | **Semester III Total** |  | **20** | **60** | **100** | **400** | **500** |
| IV | EN4CC06 | English 4 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | \*ML4CC04  \*\*HN4CC04 | Second Language common 2 | Common | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC4CRT05 | Macroeconomics 1 | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC4CRT06 | Public Finance | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC4CMT02 | Complementary 4 | Complementary | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  |  | **Semester IV Total** |  | **20** | **60** | **100** | **400** | **500** |
| V | EC5CRT07 | Quantitative Techniques**.** | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC5CRT08 | Macroeconomics 2 | Core | 5 | 15 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC5OPT01/2/3/4 | Open Course | Open Course | 3 | 9 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC5GET01/02/03 | Environmental Economics | General Elective | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC5CRT11 | Introductory Econometrics | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  |  | **Semester V Total** |  | **20** | **60** | **100** | **400** | **500** |
| VI | EC6CRT12 | Quantitative Methods | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC6CRT13 | International Economics | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC6CB1-3 | Choice-based Course | Choice Based | 3 | 9 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC6CBT01-03 | Money & Financial Markets | Choice Based | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC6CRT16 | Indian Economy | Core | 4 | 12 | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  | EC6PRP01 | Project |  | 2 |  | 20 | 80 | 100 |
|  |  | **Semester VI Total** |  | **21** | **57** | **120** | **480** | **600** |
|  |  | **Grand Total** |  | **150** | **354** | **620** | **2480** | **3100** |

Second Language \*Malayalam \*\*Hindi

BA Economics (Open and Distance Mode)

Open Courses Offered: Semester V-Core 9

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl No. | Course code | Course Title |
| 1 | EC5OPT01 | Foundations of Economics |
| 2 | EC5OPT02 | Economics of Population |
| 3 | EC5OPT03 | Gender Economics |

Choice Based Core Courses—Elective, Semester VI-Core 14

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Course code | Course Title |
| 1 | EC6GET 01 | Mathematical Economics |
| 2 | EC6GET 02 | Business Economics |
| 3 | EC6GET 03 | History of Economic Thought |

Complementary Courses (Economics) for Other BA Programmes

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl. No. | Course code | Course Title |
| 1 | EC1/3 CMT01 | Principles of Economics |
| 2 | EC2/4 | Basic Economic Studies |

List of Complementary Courses

1. History 2. Political Sciences 3. Psychology 4. Sociology
2. Mathematics 6. Mathematics for Economic Analysis 7. Logic

5.3 Duration of the Programme

The normal duration of the Programme shall be three years consisting of Six Semesters.

5.4 Faculty and Support Staff Requirement

Course Co-ordinator

Dr. Jose J. Naduthotty

Faculty, K.N. Raj Centre for Planning & Centre-State Relations, MG University

Qualifications: MA (Eco), PhD (Eco)

Teaching faculty

The two Common Courses (Languages) will be taught by teachers with a Master’s degree in relevant disciplines along with other qualifications prescribed by the University. The core courses including all practical papers, and open course have to be taught by teachers with PG in Economics qualification along with other qualifications prescribed by the University.

Instructional Delivery Mechanisms

In addition to provide SLMs prepared in line with the UGC guidelines on preparation of SLMs, students are being offered a minimum of 57 contact hours for each semester. The personal contact Programmes are being taken using audio visual aids, and students are encouraged to use web resources to prepare personal notes, videos etc.

Student Support Service Systems at SDE

The SDE has Learner Support Centres for students at different locations within the jurisdiction of the University to facilitate contact classes and practical sessions.

In addition to this, the university has centralized resources to enable the student support activities in respect of Information Centre, Library with good collection of books and journals, Wi-Fi connectivity, Counselling, Students Grievance Redressal Cell, Post Office , Snack bar and Refreshment Centre, Reprographic centre, Drinking water etc.

**6. Procedure for Admissions, Curriculum Transaction and Evaluation**

Admission

The admission notifications for BA Economics Programme will be issued in leading national and regional dailies in April. The detailed information regarding admission is being given on the SDE website and on the admission website. Students seeking admission shall apply online.

Minimum Eligibility for Admission

Eligibility for admission to the Programme is a pass in Higher Secondary Examination of the State or an examination accepted by the University as equivalent thereto.

Fee Structure

BA Economics Rs.16000 for full Programme (collected in three installments)

Programme Delivery

The Programme is being delivered with the help of SLM and Personal Contact Progammes. The SLM is being dispatched to the students during each semester directly or by post. At the beginning of each semester assignments are given, which are to be submitted by the end of the respective semester and the marks are included in the internal marks.

Evaluation

The evaluation of the Programme will consist of two parts: a) Continuous Evaluation (CE) b) End Semester Evaluation (ESE) The external theory examination of all semesters shall be conducted by the University at the end of each semester/year. Internal evaluation is to be done by continuous assessment. Total marks of external examination is 80 and total marks of internal evaluation is 20.

For projects

a) Marks of external evaluation: 80

b) Marks of internal evaluation: 20

Components of External Evaluation of Project Marks

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Marks |
| Dissertation | 50 |
| Viva-voce | 30 |
| Total | 80 |

Components of internal evaluation of project

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Marks |
| Punctuality | 5 |
| Experimentation/ Data collection | 5 |
| Knowledge | 5 |
| Report | 5 |
| Total | 20 |

Assignments:-Assignments are to be done from 1st to 4th Semesters. At least one assignment should be done in each semester for all courses.

Seminar/Viva:- A student shall present a seminar in the 5th semester for each paper and appear for Viva-voce in the 6th semester for each course.

Internal assessment shall not be used as a tool for personal or other type of vengeance. A student has all rights to know, how the teacher arrived at the marks. In order to address the grievance of students, a three-level Grievance Redressal mechanism is envisaged. A student can approach the upper level only if grievance is not addressed at the lower level.

**7. Requirements of Library Resources**

Computer Lab is not mandatory for BA Economics. The students can use the library resources available at the University Central Library and Learning Support Centers.

Mahatma Gandhi University Library and Information System consists of University Library, Libraries of the Schools and 4 Study Centre Libraries. The University Library was established in 1989. The University Library which is situated in the main campus occupies purpose-built accommodation, and provides a variety of facilities and has a user-friendly environment. These include individual work spaces, room for group study and teaching, audio-visual access and online information retrieval system. The building of the University Library is 2000 sq.m in area consisting of the cellar, the ground floor and the first floor.

Academic as well as public users are given the facility to use the library. Special category membership is provided to journalists.  The Library is providing service from 8 am to 8 pm in three shift timings for its staff. The library functions on an average of 345 days in a year. The libraries of teaching departments are open during working hours of the Schools. Reading space is provided in all the three floors housing the various sections of the library. The library provides reading facility to the visually impaired users too. For this, an electronic lab custom made for visually and physically challenged users has been set up during 2016.

The University Library has a Library Advisory Committee. It is an 18 member committee with Vice-Chancellor as Chairman and University Librarian as Convener.

The Library has a collection of 59,000 books, 232 journals, 2,135 Ph.D. theses and has access to 15000+ e-journals under E-Shodh Sindhu. The activities of the Library are comprehensively automated using open source library management software KOHA. OPAC, Journal Article Index, By monthly Bibliography compilation and Literature Search Service are also available

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A. MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY LIBRARY** | |
| **Category** | **No.** |
| Books | 59000 |
| Journals | 232 |
| Bound Journals | 7500 |
| Ph.D Theses | 2135 |
| E-Journals (in UGC-Infonet, renamed as E-ShodhSindhu) | 15000 |
| Online databases (in UGC Infonet) | 11 |
| Online Archives subscribed | 185 Titles |
| Online databases subscribed | 4 |
| E-books | 7338 |
| DVDs: Educational Videos | 293 |

The Library is a member of the INFLIBNET Centre, Ahmedabad as well as DELNET (Developing Library Network). As a member of these networks, the Library provides access to the resources of other major libraries in the country. In addition to the access to UGC INFONET consortium, it has access to major online databases, such as EBSCO, ProQuest dissertations and theses, Oxford Scholarship Online, IEEE All Society Periodicals Package etc. Mahatma Gandhi University had won the State IT Award during the year 2009 in the e-learning category for its university online theses digital library. The various department libraries have a good collection of subject specific books and journals.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **B** | **Name of School/Centre** | **Total No. of books** |
| KN Raj Centre for Planning and Centre -State relations | 1146 |

**8. Cost Estimate of the Programme and the Provisions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sl.No. | Expenditure heads | Expenditure (Rs.) for 1000 students |
| 1 | Pay and allowances | 20,00000 |
| 2 | Contact classes and evaluation | 10,00000 |
| 3 | Course material | 9,00000 |
| 4 | Advertisement charges | 12,000 |
| 5 | Postage and telephone | 10,000 |
| 6 | Books and periodicals | 60,000 |
| 7 | Miscellaneous | 13,000 |
|  | TOTAL | 39,95,000 |
|  | Provisions @10% | 3,99,500 |
|  | Grand Total | 43,94,500  Cost per student/year = Rs.4395/- |

**9. Quality Assurance Mechanism and expected Programme outcomes**

The SDE has devised the following mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of the BA Economics Programme to ensure good standards of curriculum, instructional design etc.

(a). Established a Monitoring Committee at the University level to develop and put in place a comprehensive and dynamic internal quality assurance system to enhance the quality of the Programmes offered through distance mode as per the norms and guidelines of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017.

(b). The SDE has an approved panel of experts for preparing SML. The SLM prepared is being edited by the board of subject expert. The SLMs are developed with the approach of self explanatory, self-contained, self-directed, self-motivating and simple to understand.

(c). The SDE of the University has full time faculty members exclusively for co-ordinating the Programme and also has a panel of qualified guest teachers for counseling students and engaging in personal contact Programmes.

Towards the end of the Programme, students will be able to:

 Develop an ability to effectively communicate both orally and verbally

 Appreciate importance of working independently and in a team

 Have exposure of complex economic problems and find their solution

 Process data by using the quantitative techniques imparted in the course.

 Understand required analytical and statistical tools for economic analysis

 Develop an understanding of econometric tools which are useful in evaluating economic performance of firms and other economic entities

 Develop self-confidence and awareness of general issues confronting the economy and the society.

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