

Programme Project Report [Geography]

Programme's Mission and Objectives: The objectives of the postgraduate academic programme in Geography, on the one hand, are to encourage geography-based research activities among students, to help them better understand fundamental concepts and skills in the major domains of Geography, to enhance their ability to apply their knowledge of Geography to issues concerning people, places and environments, to acquaint students more deeply with the latest developments taking place in the field of Geography, and on the other, to instill professional skills and competencies in the students of Geography.

Relevance of the Programme with HEI's Mission and Goals: Developing knowledge-based society and promoting educational and cultural well-being of the community are right there on the top of the wish list of Rabindra Bharati University. The postgraduate academic programme in Geography offered through distance mode aims at encouraging the learners to conduct vital research that benefits society, and to serve our communities, from the local to the international. In order to achieve this goal, the Department of Geography has developed a curriculum for the programme where major emphasis has been given on scientifically exploring the interrelation between humans and environment.

Nature of prospective target group of learners: Since Geography is a laboratory based subject, and since it is expensive as well compared to other subjects offered through distance mode, the programme in Geography targets those learners who come from urban and semi urban areas in the state where well-furnished laboratories exclusively meant for the subject of Geography are available. As such, in-service teachers who could not complete their formal higher education due to professional engagements are among the target group of learners of the programme in Geography. The university also targets those learners who could not get the opportunity to continue their study under regular mode due to their failure to put up their best performance in their undergraduate exams.

Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning mode to acquire specific skills and competence: The proposed programme intends to enable its learners to acquire skills and competencies in not only the subject concerned but also in allied fields of study. It also aims at helping the learners develop proper understanding of the subject, go beyond the traditional lines of their subject and explore professional and occupational opportunities in the field. The expected outcome of the proposed programme includes developing generic transferrable skills and competencies of the learners, better understanding of the theoretical premises of their subject, and gaining expertise in handling inter-disciplinary issues.

Instructional Design: The programme is presently offered in annual mode. Keeping the objectives of the programme in view, the syllabi has been structured to include seven theoretical papers of 100 marks each and three practical papers of 100 marks each. Practical papers are designed to include map interpretation, field techniques, quantitative techniques, GIS and remote sensing, field report and dissertation. Further, internal assessment is provided for with weightage of 20% (detailed syllabus attached herewith). As and when semesterised, the proposed programme would be spread over four semesters for the duration of two years. Each semester contains five courses each and credits are assigned in accordance with the guidelines of the UGC regulations, 2017. Mode of delivery of instructions is through face-to-face interaction, continuous evaluation and through demonstration in practical classes.

Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation: All relevant instructions regarding admission, curriculum transaction and evaluation issued by the UGC from time to time shall be strictly observed.

Requirement of the laboratory support and Library Resources: Since the programme in Geography offers practical components on its syllabus, the university has built a well-equipped laboratory for its practical classes. Regarding library resources, the university has one of the richest libraries in the state in the form of its Central Library wherefrom the learners can issue books and other study materials showing their university I-card. They can also avail books from the library at the distance campus of the university at Salt Lake.

Cost estimate of the programme and the provisions: This programme has been on offer in the regular mode since 2008 and in ODL mode since 2012. Apart from developing SLMs for the programme, a well-equipped laboratory for delivery of the programme has been put in place since inception. As such, the cost of development and maintenance of the programme has been incurred for long time hence. An amount of rupees 5 lacs per annum is assigned at present for addition to facilities in the laboratory, delivery and maintenance activities.

Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes: In addition to the existing mechanism of improvement in quality of the programme, the CIQA is in the process of being constituted as per UGC regulations, 2017. However, the works relating to review of programme, continuous enhancement of the standard of curriculum and change in instructional design, if required, have been carried out by the Subject Committee of the department consisting of both internal and external experts.


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