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# Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur

## School of Liberal Arts

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Review Period: July 2015 to 31 July 2022

### Evaluation Sheet for Internal Review of the department

#### Committee Members

1. Professor GJV Prasad

2. Professor Purnima Singh

3. Professor Abhiroop Mukhopadhyay

Committee may provide a single combined report.

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#### Note:

1. In column 2, please provide description of the committee's assessment.
2. In column 3, Please choose one of the progress indicators from the below

Excellent

Very good

Good

Average

Below Average

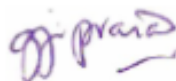
Due to the nature of some specific questions, it may not require any progress indicator.

3. Please use additional pages if required.
  4. Please sign on every page and submit to the Director IIT Jodhpur
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Sr. No	Item	Evaluation
1.	<p><b>Opinion and suggestions about the curriculum of different academic programs (B.Tech/M.Sc/M.Tech) offered by the department and their relevance</b></p> <p>The bouquet of courses offered for undergraduate programs seems adequate and should continue to expand to reflect the interests of the members of the faculty.</p> <p>The flagship MSc program could become a significant addition to the programs in Indian academic institutions. It is well-structured. The committee feels that the research component could gain if a sequence of two project courses over two consecutive semesters is added to the program (covering roughly a year) so that students engage with an issue and chosen faculty member (supervisor) long enough to write what would, de-facto, be considered a masters thesis at the end of the two semesters</p> <p>The committee was informed that a lot of discussions with stakeholders (the industry and academics from related fields in India and abroad, and faculty from the institute) had gone into designing the program. This planning should result in a good placement record though this will be known only in a couple of years.</p> <p>The committee feels that since this is a new program and the institute should be pro-active in garnering it good visibility in Indian academia.</p>	<p><b>Very Good</b></p> <p><b>Good</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Comments about the teaching learning process adopted by the department. Your suggestions and advice for the same</b></p> <p>We think that the school should have its own evaluation policy since it is such an integral part of the learning process. At-least one of the reviewers felt that there should be systematic student-based evaluation system in place for each course. There is a feedback system currently in place (and it was not clear whether it was for each course) and is based on qualitative discussions with students. While these are always good, a quick end of the course systematic (even OMR based) evaluation system may be useful. These form as quantitative databases that can be explored over time -often they help one compare the impact of teaching innovations over time.</p>	<p><b>Very Good</b></p>
3.	<p><b>Provide your overall evaluation about outcome of the programmes and performance of the graduated students in the profession. Any suggestions will be welcome</b></p> <p>We don't have data on these outcomes as it is a new program.</p>	<p><b>Too early to say</b></p>



Purnima Singh



4.	<p><b>Provide your assessment about the doctoral programmes (PhD &amp; MTech-PhD) of the department. Please indicate your suggestions for improving the same.</b></p> <p>The doctoral programs look promising with enthusiastic students and faculty members.</p> <p>The PhD program needs strengthening with rigorous course work in the concerned disciplines. The intent should be to deliver a PhD program of international standards ensuring employability in our academia. The department should try to facilitate greater interaction between its research scholars and national and international academia.</p> <p>It was also felt that there should be more encouragement to faculty members to include Ph.D. students in their projects. This will give them experience to deal with research problems and build their capacity as researchers through “learning by doing”. This interaction may also be a de-facto way of providing research funds to PhD students.</p>	<b>Very Good</b>
5.	<p><b>Your feedback about laboratory facilities including research infrastructure and facilities in the department</b></p> <p>The lab facilities seem adequate- the English lab used for teaching was impressive.</p> <p>However, there was a need felt for a more substantially endowed social science and humanities library-in particular the faculty and scholars reported having to get books and journal articles from collaborators from outside the university. It would be good to therefore have a substantial investment in a social science and humanities library section and an access to e-libraries that cover a larger range of journals. The scholars can be consulted to suggest what books and journals are important.</p>	<b>Good</b>
6.	<p><b>Provide committee’s assessment of academic research of the department. In particular, provide your input about</b></p> <p>(i) <b>Quality of the research activities pursued by the department,</b></p> <p>(ii) <b>Number and quality of publications</b></p> <p><b>Your suggestions and advice will be of immense value</b></p> <p>The faculty is doing good work and given the average age of the faculty members, the publication list is impressive, especially in numbers. The review committee feels it is too early to judge the faculty members right away, so the following comments should be taken as our suggestions for the future.</p>	<b>Very Good</b>



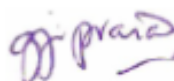
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	<p>While inter-disciplinary work needs to be encouraged, each researcher will ultimately establish reputations from how their field views them. This means that they need to publish in high quality journals. Social science and Humanities differ from sciences in the number of quality publications (journal articles/books) faculty can get in a year. For example, in Economics, in projects requiring experimental impact evaluation (RCTs involving fund generation), the time gap between idea to publication is often as much as 4-5 years-but this is what is needed for a high-quality publication. 2 to 3 years is the usual timeline for publications in high-quality journals in Humanities. This is the timeline for a book from a well-known international publisher as well. The pressure to publish at the same rate as the sciences means that faculty will aim the middle-low tier to meet the numbers requirement (SCOPUS has varied quality of journals-many of which are not considered great quality). This culture leads to proliferation of middling publications and does not establish the reputation of institution and researchers-for a young department like SOLA, this can be vital. Currently SOLA has set its own target for publications. We suggest that IIT Jodhpur nominate mentors for each of the fields within SOLA -they advise the department and set the journal requirements- such mentors will know the nuances of each field and can set the bar for journal publication-such a list should aim high but should also be something that young researchers from India can achieve.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Provide committee's assessment of different sponsored research and consultancies undertaken by the departmental faculty members.</b></p> <p>The consultancies and sponsored research show a strong connect with society. This Is much needed. We hope to see more such work situated in the region.</p> <p>A suggestion to deepen this further (from one of the reviewers)-The field of causal impact evaluation is the core of development Economics, following Nobel prizes to Professors Duflo and Banerjee. Most of the work that is currently commissioned to SOLA in the area of development research (especially economics group) seem to be in the area of measurement (for example, measuring out of pocket expenditures for health)-descriptive research which is useful for policy, but does not hit high on the publication bar. A way to blend sponsored research projects and great quality publications is to focus on developing links with local government in Jodhpur areas to run Randomized Control Trial experiments to evaluate the causal impact of interventions (public or NGO driven). These are projects that donors like to fund and have high impact research publications. Since faculty members are young, this will need personnel from IIT Jodhpur to take some initiative to set up these experiments-especially permissions and interactions with local government to set up such opportunities in Jodhpur area. These will draw funding from donors and over time high quality faculty to leverage IIT-J 's ability to open doors for them in this space. This way you address</p>	Very Good



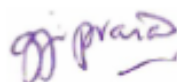
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	<p>issues of public policy relevance, research project funding, good publications, attracting good faculty members and local outreach in one stroke. Moreover-such impact evaluation often have a qualitative aspect to understand why certain interventions do or do not work-and this opens the doors for the excellent qualitative researchers that SOLA has, to participate. For example, in many cases, interventions have behavioural ramifications thus bringing into play psychology faculty members. Thus, in many sponsored research projects, one can get inter-disciplinary faculty interaction within SOLA-another plus from such initiatives.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Provide committee's assessment of industry interface and industry linked research activities by the department.</b></p> <p>We were informed about the interaction with industry to design the MSc program. There are some projects that show this interface as well.</p>	<b>Good (though this is harder for those in social sciences and Humanities)</b>
9.	<p><b>Provide committee's assessment about outreach, continuing education/executive education programmes of the department. Please indicate committee's suggestions for improving the same.</b></p> <p>We think SoLa has made a strong beginning. We think that the SoLA should hold more workshops for research scholars and laypersons. They also need to hold more conferences to help the school and IIT Jodhpur to make an impact.</p>	<b>Very Good</b>
10	<p><b>Please indicate committee's assessment about the departments linkage with the peer groups in the country and abroad. Please assess the extent of inter-disciplinary connect with other departments in the institute. Committees suggestions for improvement in these aspects will be of immense value</b></p> <p>While they have made beginnings, we would like to see more linkages with peer groups nationally and internationally. The same goes for inter-disciplinary connect with other departments. While this may be a result of caution on all sides, the boundaries may dissolve if institutional funds are made available for interdisciplinary (region based) research.</p>	<b>Good</b>
11.	<p><b>Provide committees assessment about faculty of the department:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Coverage of different areas of relevance for the department in the faculty</b></li> <li><b>2. Quality of the faculty of the department</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Suggestions about the areas for future growth of faculty strength will be highly appreciated.</b></p>	



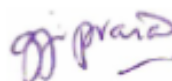
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	<p><b>Coverage:</b> While a beginning has been made to have diverse faculty, it is important to keep in mind is that there should be some deepening of each of the fields themselves. Spread too thin, the faculty does not benefit from being in a department. Each field in SoLA is a huge area of research-and needs a critical mass to create a whole bigger than the sum of its parts.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> While the faculty is impressive, they are young and will get even better. But given how each field has such few faculty members, SoLA needs more hiring. We advocate that SoLA should hire the best person available for each field-instead of looking too much at sub-specializations within each field. Most well-trained social scientists and scholars in Humanities and Culture Studies should be able to teach basic courses for their field at the masters level. It is important that SoLA recruit senior level field specific academics. They could be brought in as short-term visiting professors. Only senior professors can set and implement a vision which is not driven by short term pressures on young faculty members.</p>	<p><b>Good</b></p> <p><b>Very Good</b></p>
12.	<p>Based on Vision, Mission and Goals identified by the department comment about the committee's overall assessment of the progress made so far.</p> <p>SOLA has made impressive progress so far. A bit more practical mooring to the broader context of Indian academia (irrespective of the flux post NEP) would help.</p>	<p><b>Very Good</b></p>
13.	<p><b>Overall assessment by the committee and suggestions</b></p> <p>The school is an important initiative and has made a promising beginning. Its current faculty show promise but every flock needs a shepherd- in this case senior faculty members-one for each of the fields that SoLA has. This is needed to strengthen each field into being world class. The School may focus on deepening fields instead of spreading into more areas (history, geography).</p> <p>In an institute system known for a world class bachelors program, it is important for SoLA to have an undergraduate liberal arts program. The undergraduate liberal arts program will bring together the specialisation of research in each of the fields and truly reflect the strengths of the faculty.</p> <p>The School should also think of other MA/MSc programs – in Humanities and Culture Studies, for instance</p>	<p><b>Very Good</b></p>
14.	Any other aspect committee wish to note/highlight	



Purnima Singh



	All of us felt a sense of excitement and positivity in the school. With right planning, this school has great potential.	
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