
Government Degree College, Darsi

Department of Botany: Profile

Establishment

The Department of Botany was established in 2021. It offers Botany as a core subject within the B.Sc. (BZC) curriculum.

Vision

To produce skilled academicians, researchers, environmental stewards, and entrepreneurs through a value-based educational approach.

Mission

To empower students by strictly adhering to academic guidelines while utilizing creative pedagogy. This includes project work, skill development classes, life skills training, certificate courses, internships, and community-based extension activities.

Criterion-I: Curricular Aspects

Syllabus and Affiliation

The Department follows the Common Core syllabus framed by the State of Andhra Pradesh. We strictly adhere to the curriculum designed by our affiliating university, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur. Currently, the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) pattern is implemented for all three years.

Curriculum Revisions

- **1st Year:** Revised in the academic year 2020-21.
- **2nd Year:** Revised in the academic year 2021-22.
- **3rd Year:** Revised in the academic year 2022-23.

Academic Planning and Feedback

- Faculty members submit an annual academic plan to the Principal at the beginning of every academic year to ensure proper curriculum implementation.
- Department members maintain teaching notes and diaries, which are countersigned by the Principal monthly to monitor departmental progress.
- Student feedback on the curriculum is collected and reviewed annually.

Criterion-II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

Teaching Methods

- The primary teaching method involves the traditional blackboard system, supplemented by ICT resources such as YouTube.
- Induction programs are conducted for first-year students to familiarize them with the curriculum.
- Remedial classes are provided for slow learners.
- The current student-teacher ratio in the department is 15:1.

Student Engagement

- Faculty members prepare and distribute question banks for each topic.
- Students are encouraged to utilize social media resources (e.g., YouTube) to update their knowledge.
- Active participation in classroom seminars is encouraged. Students often present topics at the board to build leadership skills and overcome stage fear.

Evaluation Methods

Student evaluation is continuous and comprehensive.

- **Formative:** Classroom questioning, assignments, quizzes, group discussions, and seminars (both offline and online).
 - **Summative:** Slip tests and mid-term examinations are conducted to assess academic progress.
 - **Examinations:** Question papers follow the format prescribed by the affiliating university to familiarize students with the final examination design.
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Criterion-III: Research, Consultancy, and Extension Activities

- **Research:** Research articles have been published in reputed national and international journals. The writing of new textbooks aligned with the revised CBCS syllabus is currently underway.
 - **Extension & Consultancy:** The department organizes diverse extension activities to cater to the needs of students and the community. Consultancy services regarding Botany are provided to enterprises upon request.
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Criterion-IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

- **Library:** The Departmental Library is currently in the process of being established.
 - **Laboratories:** Botany lab equipment has been recently purchased.
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Criterion-V: Student Support and Mentoring

- **PG Entrance Support:** B.Sc. students interested in pursuing an M.Sc. in Botany are supported with PG entrance reading materials. Special coaching is provided during regular and extra classes.
 - **Interdisciplinary Support:** The department collaborates with sister departments to cover common fundamental topics, fostering unity and academic novelty.
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Criterion-VI: Governance, Leadership, and Management

Faculty

- Dr. N.V. Ramana: Head of Department / In-charge.

Services

- Student mentoring services are actively maintained.
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Criterion-VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices

- **SASA Programme:** Conducted every 3rd Saturday.
- **Cultivation of Mushroom training.**

SWOC Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Challenges)

Strengths

- Qualified and competent faculty.
- Dedicated staff accessible to students.

Weaknesses

- Students often come from rural backgrounds and may lack motivation.
- The college is currently located in a high school building without a permanent dedicated facility.

Opportunities

- Utilization of additional inputs (Newspaper clippings, PPTs, LMS videos) for enhanced teaching.
- Offering certificate courses, student projects, and internship training³⁶.
- Motivating students to pursue higher education³⁷.

Challenges

- Proliferation of private colleges in the town.
- Unhealthy competition and unethical practices used by competitors to attract admissions.
- Introduction of Botany Major or Minor subject in the college.

Future Plans

- To develop a sophisticated Botany laboratory.
- To promote Eco Club activities and campus beautification.
- To offer online courses and add value to conventional curriculum.
- To initiate Azolla farming.