



24-25

Report of the External Peer Team of IQAC

St Xavier's College (Autonomous)
Ahmedabad

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Introduction

St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, has a long-standing reputation for excellence, but to stay in the lead there is a need to innovate and adapt to the changing educational landscape. Hence, as a strategic exercise in maintaining quality and fostering growth; an academic audit was conducted by the IQAC with the support of the management, HoDs, staff and students

The primary purpose of the audit is to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the academic. The main objectives of the audit are:

- To assess the effectiveness of curriculum development strategies and gather feedback from key stakeholders
- To gauge the efficacy of the department's teaching, learning, and evaluation methodologies
- To evaluate the department's research outcomes and consultancy initiatives
- To measure the department's efforts in promoting holistic student development and fostering alumni engagement
- To appreciate and document quality initiatives and overall departmental efforts in various aspects of academic functioning

A successful audit should result in improvements in the academic processes and procedures. Additionally the audit may also achieve the following outcomes:

- Identifying gaps in the teaching, learning and evaluation methods and the creation of a roadmap to address the deficiencies
- To set clear targets in terms of faculty achievements, student achievements, research output and placement percentage
- To identify the strength, weakness, opportunities and challenges of each department, resulting in an action plan addressing these for the next year

The most significant outcomes are the readiness achieved for the accreditation and assessment process for NAAC, NIRF and other quality rankings and ratings.

The IQAC convened a team for the audit consisting of the Principal, Vice-Principals, Counselors and Heads of Department. Instructions and templates for data to be filled were provided and the team interacted with all major stake holders in the college. The detailed schedule for the audit is as follows:

Schedule of the visit:

Date & Coordinating member from IQAC/MIQAC	Time	Team	Interaction with	Department	Venue	
8th September (Monday) (Dr. Sanjeev Gupta & Dr. Uma H)	9:45 to 10:40	Sr. Jisha	Students	Economics	LR-30	
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Vice Principal's office	
		Dr. Sudeshna	HOD		Department	
	11:15 to 12:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	English	LR-30	
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Vice Principal's office	
		Dr. Sudeshna	HOD		Department	
	12:15 to 13:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	Gujarati	LR-30	
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Vice Principal's office	
		Dr. Sudeshna	HOD		Department	
	8th September (Monday) (Dr. Savan Patel)	9:45 to 10:40	Fr. David	Students	Psychology	AV Room
			Fr. Suresh	Staff		Principal's office
			Dr. Rajesh	HOD		Department
11:15 to 12:15		Fr. David	Students	Sanskrit	AV Room	
		Fr. Suresh	Staff		Principal's office	
		Dr. Rajesh	HOD		Department	
12:15 to 13:15		Fr. David	Students	Theater	AV Room	
		Fr. Suresh	Staff		Principal's office	
		Dr. Nithya	HOD		Department	
13:15 to 14:15		Fr. David	Students	Sociology	AV Room	
		Fr. Suresh	Staff		Principal's office	
		Dr. Nithya	HOD		Department	

Date & Coordinating member from IQAC/MIQAC	Time	Auditor	Interaction with	Department	Venue
9th September (Tuesday) (Dr. Arti Oza)	11:15 to 12:10	Sr. Jisha	Students	Botany	Lab 4-5 (BC-BT dept)
		Fr. Johnson	Staff		Principal's office
		Dr. Pinky	HOD		Department
	12:15 to 13:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	BC-BT	Lab 4-5 (BC-BT dept)
		Fr. Johnson	Staff		Principal's office
		Dr. Pinky	HOD		Department

	13:15 to 14:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	Chemistry	Lab 4-5 (BC-BT dept)
		Fr. Johnson	Staff		Principal's office
		Dr. Pinky	HOD		Department
	14:45 to 15:40	Sr. Jisha	Students	Maths	LR in Library building
		Fr. Johnson	Staff		Principal's office
		Dr. Pinky	HOD		Department
9 th September (Tuesday) (Dr. Dhara Bhatt)	11:15 to 12:15	Fr. David	Students	Microbiolo gy	LR in XRF
		Fr. Sunil	Staff		Principal's office
		Dr. Nithya	HOD		Department
	12:15 to 13:15	Fr. David	Students	Physics - Electronics	Lab 4 Chemistry
		Fr. Sunil	Staff		Vice Principal's office
		Dr. Profaina	HOD		Department
	13:15 to 14:15	Fr. David	Students	Statistics	Lab 4 Chemistry
		Fr. Sunil	Staff		Vice Principal's office
		Dr. Profaina	HOD		Department
	14:45 to 15:40	Fr. David	Students	Zoology	Lab 4 Chemistry
		Fr. Sunil	Staff		Vice Principal's office
		Dr. Profaina	HOD		Department

Date & Coordinating member from IQAC/MIQAC	Time	Auditor	Interactio n with	Departmen t	Venue
10 th September (Wednesday) (Dr. Nandini Ghosh)	11:15 to 12:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	Commerce	LR in XICA
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Managers cabin
		Dr. Rashmi	HOD		Vice Principal's office
	12:15 to 13:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	Computer Science	LR in XICA
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Managers cabin
		Dr. Rashmi	HOD		Vice Principal's office
	13:15 to 14:15	Sr. Jisha	Students	BDA/AI (Data Science)	LR in XICA
		Dr. Mallika	Staff		Managers cabin
		Dr. Rashmi	HOD		Vice Principal's office

The audit focused on both the quantitative and qualitative metrics for the evaluation. The data for the quantitative metrics were collated from the annual report submitted by the departments for the academic year 2024-25. The data for the qualitative assessments were based on the annual report and the interaction of the team formed with the students, staff and head of each department. The method of marking and the benchmarks set were in line with NAAC accreditation process. The methodology of the evaluation in each criterion and the marks scored by each department are as discussed further.

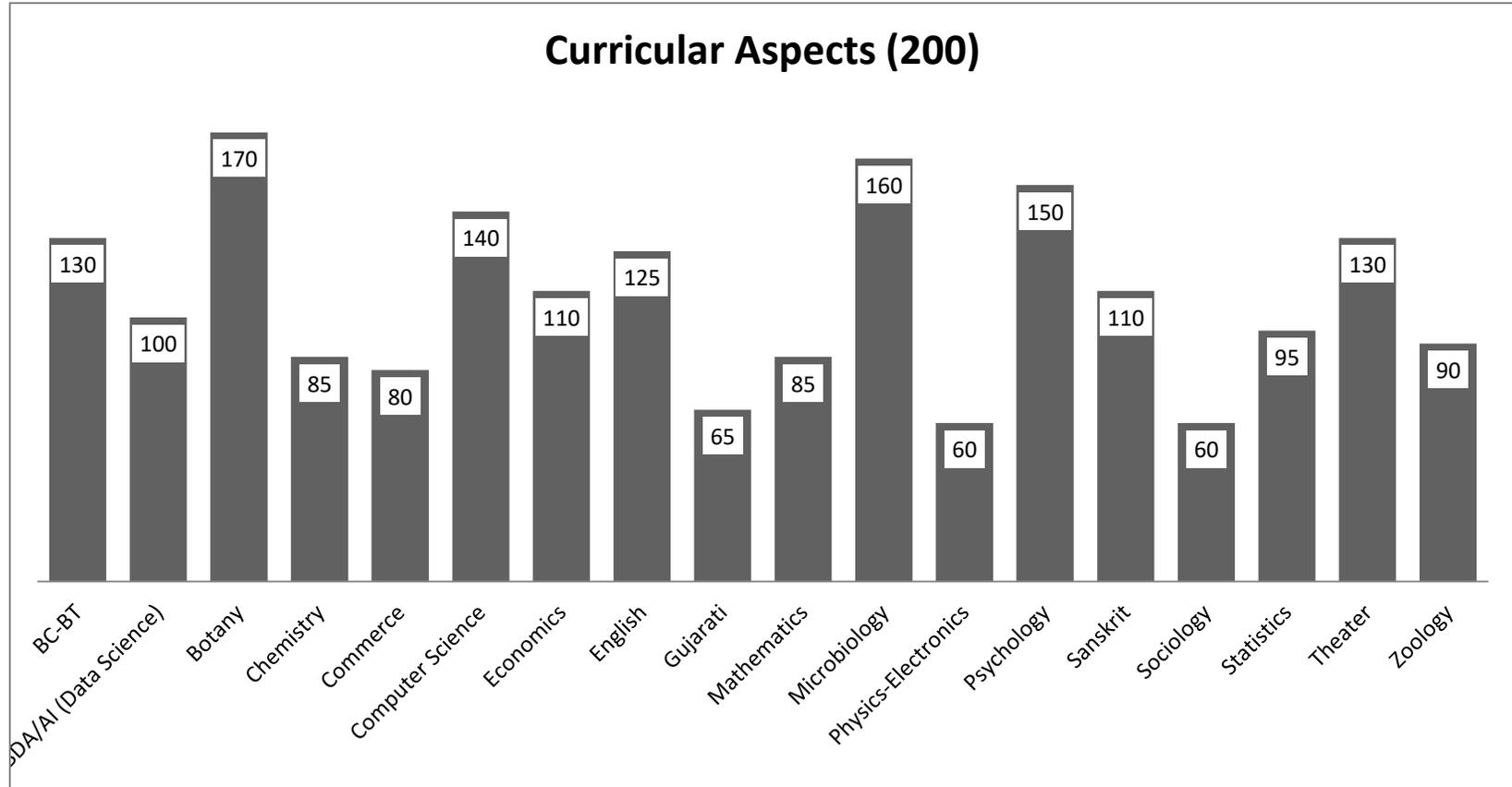
Curricular aspects

For SXCA, as an autonomous college, the Departments are independent to frame appropriate curriculum for each program and revise them on a regular basis. This ensures that the programs offered are relevant to the current trends nationally and globally. The periodic revision is supported by a periodic feedback of all stakeholders including students, alumni, peer teachers and employers. For the audit process, questions from the annual report relevant to this criterion were marks for each department.

For the internal audit, the methodology of evaluation adopted was based on the following:

Metrics		4	3	2	1	0	Weightage
Quantitativel	Details of New courses (Q-5-annual report 24-25)	≥20	15-20	10 to 15	5 to 10	<5	20
Quantitative	Stakeholder Feedback taken (IQAC data) A. Feedback taken from four stakeholders B. Feedback taken from only three stakeholders C. Feedback taken from only two stakeholders D. Feedback taken from only one stakeholders E. No Feedback taken	A	B	C	D	E	10
Qualitative	Based on interaction with students, staff and HOD combined with the pass percentage						20

The scores obtained by each department are as shown in the graph below:



Teaching, learning & evaluation

Teaching, learning and evaluation are the core of the existence of the College. This criterion focuses on the efforts of the Departments to serve students of different backgrounds and abilities through effective teaching-learning experiences. It evaluates the quality of the teaching faculty, the innovation in instructional methodologies, and the ultimate attainment of learning outcomes.

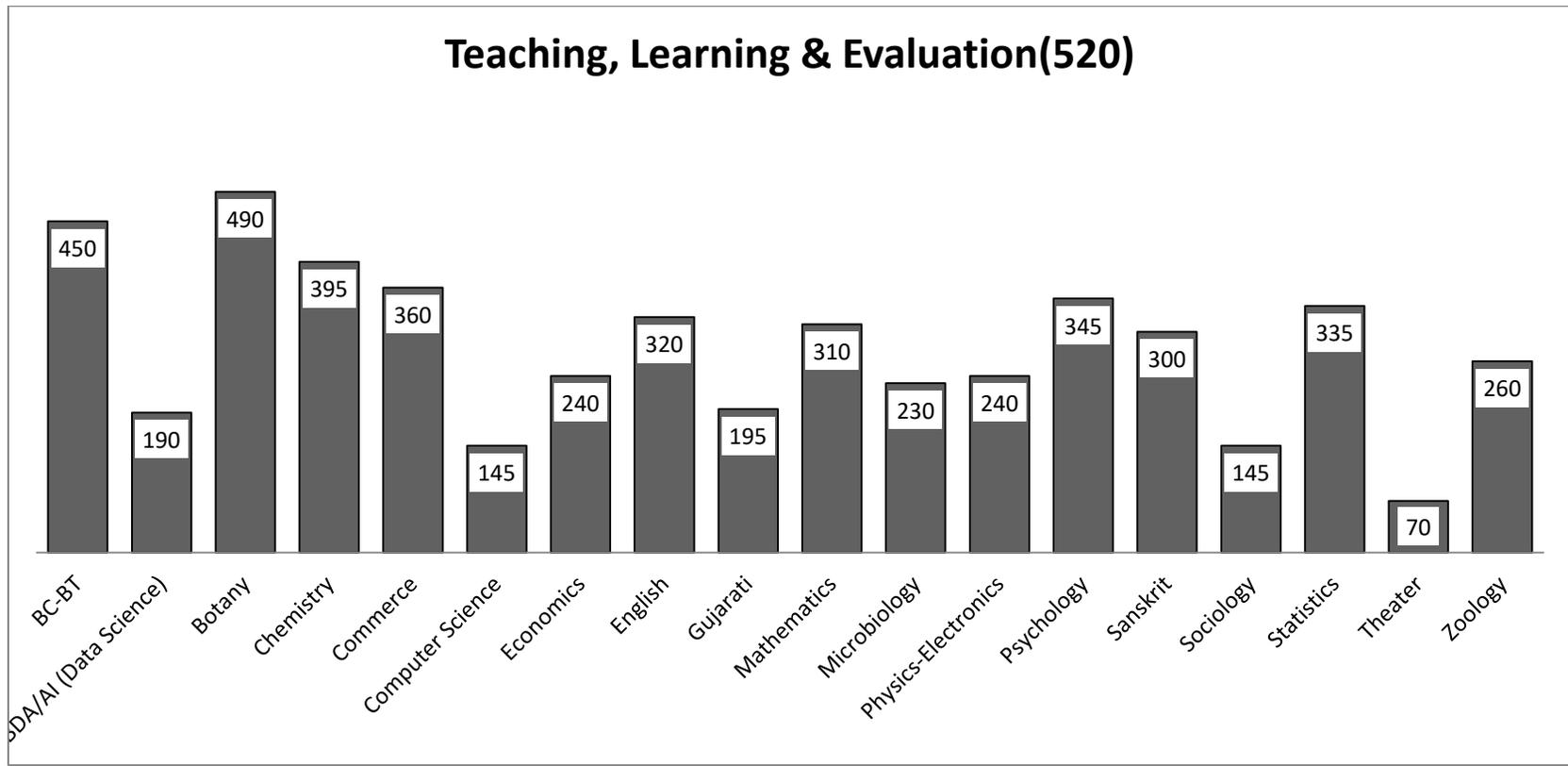
By analyzing this criterion, the ability of the departments in ensuring that teaching is student-centric, technology-integrated, and supported by a good evaluation system can be assessed.

The methodology adopted is as shown in the table below:

Metrics		4	3	2	1	0	Weightage
Quantitative	Percentage enrolment (IQAC data)	≥90	80-90	70-80	50-70	<50	10
Qualitative	Details of Innovative Teaching Methods/ student centric learning mechanisms/ experiential learning employed in the department in AY 2024-25 (Q-8 Annual Report)						30
Quantitative	Details of remedial classes (Q-9 Annual report)	YES				NO DATA	15
Quantitative	Percentage of staff involved in extension or outreach activities (Q-15 & 17 Annual Report)	≥30	20-30	10-20	5-10	<5	15

Quantitative	Student: Faculty Ratio (IQAC data)	<20:1	20:1 to 30:1	30:1 to 50:1	50:1 to 60:1	>=60:1	15
Quantitative	Pass percentage (IQAC data)	≥90	80-90	70-80	60-70	<60	20
Quantitative	Percentage of staff with Ph.D. (IQAC data)	≥70	60-70	50-60	40-50	<40	25

The scores of the department from 520 are as shown below:



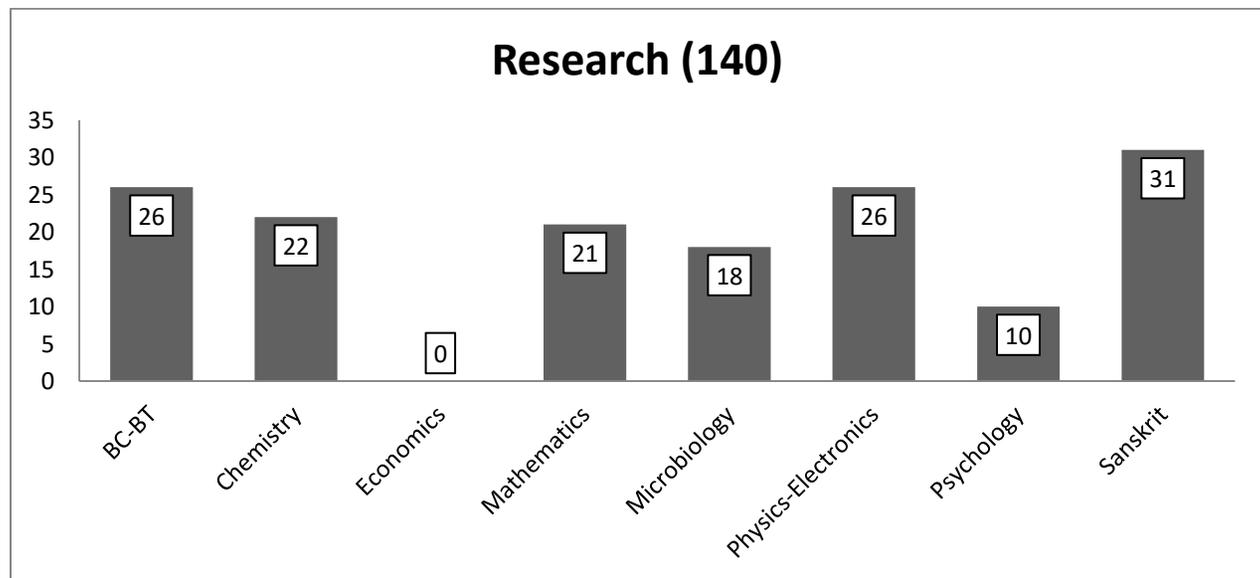
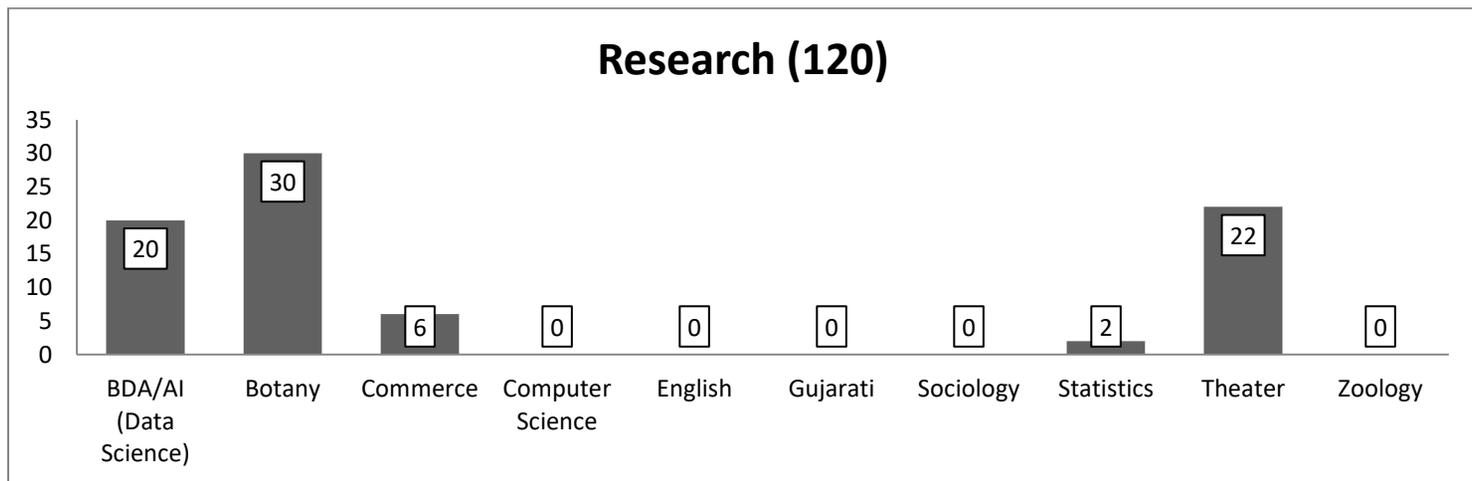
Research

This criterion assesses the inculcation of the "research culture" in the departments in terms of publications, books published, funded projects, Ph. D. guideship, activities under functional MoUs. The benchmarking are in-line with those recommended by NAAC.

Metrics		4	3	2	1	0	Weightage
Quantitative	Percentage of staff receiving awards and prizes in the department (Q-7 Annual Report)	≥5	4-5	2-4	>0-2	0	5
Quantitative	Number of research papers per teacher in the Department (R & D Committee & Annual Report)	≥5	3-5	2-3	1-2	<1	6
Quantitative	Number of book or book chapters per teacher in the Department (R & D Committee & Annual Report)	≥8	5-8	3-5	1-3	<1	5
Quantitative	Percentage of staff with internal projects (Q-16A Annual Report/R & D Committee)	≥30	20-30	10-20	5-10	<5	2
Quantitative	Percentage of staff with external projects (Q-16A Annual Report/ R & D Committee)	YES				No	5
Quantitative	Percentage of staff participated in seminar/conferences/workshops/refresher/orientation (Q-12 & 14 Annual Report)	>15	11 to 15	7 to 10	3 to 7	<3	2
Quantitative	Number of candidates for PhD per research guide in the Department (Q-18 Annual Report) Exempted for departments with no research guides	≥6	4-6	2-4	1-2	<1	5

Quantitative	Number of functional MoUs (Q-25 Annual Report)	YES				NO	5
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The scores obtained by each department are as shown below:



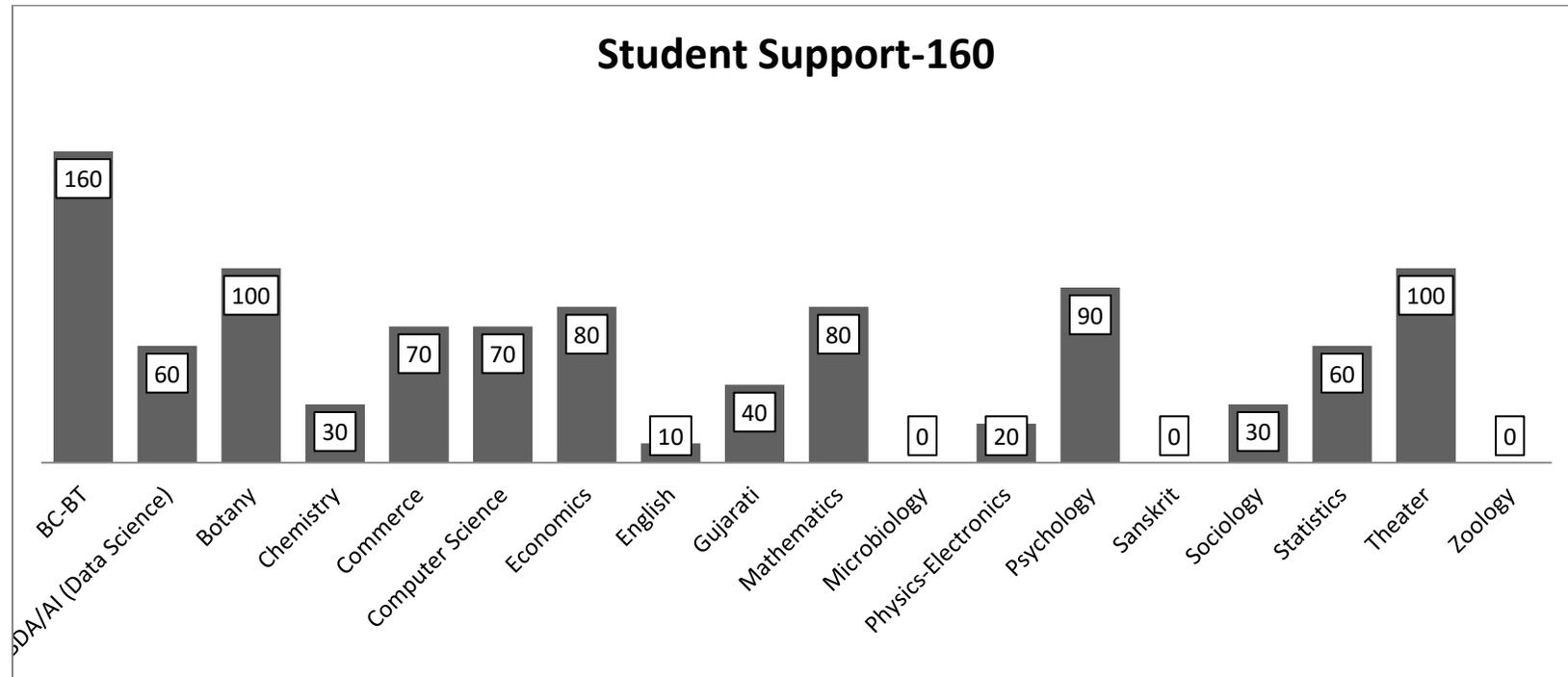
Student support and progression

Student Support and Progression focuses on the department's efforts to provide a holistic environment that facilitates the academic, professional, and personal growth of its students.

The methodology for evaluation is as below:

Metrics		4	3	2	1	0	Weightage
Quantitative	Percentage of students qualifying in competitive examinations (Q-6 Annual Report)	≥ 1	0.8-1	0.6-0.8	0.4-0.6	<0.4	10
Quantitative	Number of special accolades received by staff and students (Q-19 Annual Report)	≥ 5	4-3	1-2	----	-----	15
Quantitative	Seminars//Conference/academic fest/lecture series/guest lectures Organized at the department (Q-20 Annual Report)	≥ 2	1	----	-----	----	10
Quantitative	Alumni engagement activities (Q-34 Annual Report)	YES				NO	5

The scores obtained by each department are depicted in the graph below:



Best Practices of the Department

The departmental Best Practices represent that rather than merely fulfilling syllabus requirements, the department take initiatives in enriching the overall quality of student life and institutional culture. This metric was purely qualitative and marked from a by a weightage of 30.



General Remarks, Commendations & Recommendations

Based on consultations with students, faculty, and Heads of Departments (HODs), the following remarks and recommendations have been compiled:

ARTS

Economics

General remarks & commendations:

- The curriculum especially financial literacy, field trips and research activities are highly appreciated by the students
- The students were also appreciative of the faculties and value added courses offered by the department
- The department has been successfully conducting Ecofest

Recommendations

- Proper communication with the students regarding examination pattern, time tables and other aspects of regular functioning is recommended
- Syllabus completion and regularity in conduction of classes is also suggested
- Systematic mentoring and proper career guidance is also recommended
- The department needs to resolve interpersonal issues to function more efficiently

English

General remarks & commendations:

- The students feel the programs are good and challenging
- Managing XAP, Media team and all AECs

Recommendations

- Newly recruited faculties to be supported for better class engagement
- Syllabus content to be reviewed by an expert and rectifications to be done
- More extensive resources including language lab access for research purposes to be provided to students

Gujarati-Hindi

General remarks & commendations:

- Students expressed high appreciation for the field visits and career guidance initiatives. They specifically commended the faculty's dedication to providing practical, real-world experiences and fostering holistic development
- Alumni support is also commendable

Recommendations

- The department needs to focus on introducing more value added courses, proper

time table for minor subjects

- The visiting faculties to be monitored during classroom engagement
- To focus on gaining more admissions and conducting research

Psychology

General remarks & commendations:

- Students commended the robust curriculum and the multidisciplinary opportunities provided under the National Education Policy (NEP)
- Additionally, they expressed high satisfaction with the faculty's performance and the effectiveness of the assessment modules

Recommendations

- Experienced teachers needed for SF programs
- Minors are dissatisfactory and no choice provided
- Skill oriented programs should be more practical
- More short term/certificate courses to be introduced

Sanskrit

General remarks & commendations:

- The department focuses on holistic development with emphasis on life skills
- Regular seminars/workshops and other activities for student engagement
- Timely guidance for Research components is provided

Recommendations

- More activities like essay writing, creative writing to be conducted
- Faculties should be non-judgmental and impartial
- To provide career guidance to improve admissions

Performing arts

General remarks & commendations:

- The students commended the helpful nature of the faculties
- The real experiences provided by viewing performances is also commended

Recommendations

- Organize more activities so that students get more chances to perform
- Organize more theatre-based workshops and better professional guidance
- To avoid biased behavior and sort out interpersonal issues amongst the staff members

Sociology

General remarks & commendations:

- Faculty supportive
- Teaching is good

Recommendations

- Infrastructure
- Field trips needed
- More technology in teaching
- Expert lectures needed
- Library resources

SCIENCE

Botany

General remarks & commendations:

- The efforts of the HoD in arranging financial assistance for needy students is commendable
- The visiting faculties are excellent
- Sufficient activities to engage students in various ways are conducted
- Syllabus is well designed

Recommendations

- Some faculty members need to respect personal boundaries and should behave in an unbiased way with the students
- Teaching sessions need to be more interactive and better teaching techniques to be adopted
- The department needs to establish better laboratory facilities
- Focus on collaboration and MoUs

Biochemistry-biotechnology

General remarks & commendations:

- Research-based modules and multidisciplinary courses offered by the department
- Career guidance provided, approachability and open mindset of the teachers are appreciated by the students
- Laboratories are well maintained and syllabus is completed on time
- Alumni engagement is commendable

Recommendations

- Curriculum and course details need to be finalized well in advance for better academic planning

- More internships to be embedded in the curriculum
- Organize more industrial visits and smaller batch of students for practicals to be made

Chemistry

General remarks & commendations:

- Timely completion of syllabus content & regularity in conducting classes
- Disciplined environment and supportive faculty members

Recommendations

- Syllabus of MSc Organic to be upgraded
- PG Sem 4 can have dissertation/research project and less of theory
- To organize more industrial visits and other activities
- To organize more research-based activities
- Students to be supported for differential learning

Mathematics

General remarks & commendations:

- The syllabus designed has excellent content
- The guidance and support provided by the teachers is commendable
- The department provides ample opportunities to the students by organizing various events

Recommendations

- Advance and timely completion of syllabus to facilitate students in exam preparation
- Adequate support for academically weak students to be provided in the form of remedial classes/tutorials
- To organize more research-based activities in the department

Microbiology

General remarks & commendations:

- The well-set academic calendar and good teaching techniques were appreciated by the students
- Focus on cultural activities alongwith academics was also appreciated

Recommendations

- Laboratory infrastructure needs to be upgraded
- Syllabus to be reviewed and repeating topics to be eliminated
- Teachers should be unbiased in their interactions with the students

Physics-Electronics

General remarks & commendations:

- The practicals and teaching were commended by the students
- The quanta of research activities conducted were also appreciated

Recommendations

- Practical can be reviewed and upgraded further
- Funds for experiential lab and model making
- More industrial linkages to be done

Statistics

General remarks & commendations:

- The congeniality amongst staff members is commendable
- The co-curricular activities conducted by the Department are also appreciated by the students

Recommendations

- Syllabus to be reviewed and AI & data analysis to be incorporated

Zoology

General remarks & commendations:

- The department has experienced and well-qualified staff
- The departmental library is also well-maintained

Recommendations

- Faculty members need to refrain from professional boundaries with students

Computer science

General remarks & commendations:

- The department has qualified staff-supportive towards students
- The strong point in the curriculum is the SDP program
- The laboratory up gradation is also commendable

Recommendations

- More linkages needed for better placement opportunities for students

BDA/AI

General remarks & commendations:

- Strong alumni
- Strong curriculum

- Placements

Recommendations

- Nil

Commerce**General remarks & commendations:**

- The congenial and qualified staff along with the good curriculum is commendable
- Start-up boot camp organized by the department is also appreciable
- The student are provided one-to-one mentoring

Recommendations

- The department needs to focus on acquiring more linkages and MoUs

Suggestions for the management

The interactions also put forth a lot of suggestions for the management. These general suggestions made by most of the departments are as below:

1. Academic & Policy Suggestions

- NEP Clarity: There is a need for a meeting with the NEP committee at regular intervals for staff and students for clarity regarding choices in the curriculum, evaluation pattern etc
- CIA: There is a major "stress" factor due to the continuous evaluations for most of the staff; hence meaningful evaluation patterns needs to be implemented.
- SWAYAM: Technical issues with SWAYAM and lack of clarity needs to be addressed

2. Administrative & Communication Efficiency

- A recurring grievance is the lack of timely information and "unapproachable" administrative staff; hence soft skill training to become more student-centric and responsive to emails may be provided to administrative staff

3. Infrastructure & Campus Environment

- Hygiene & Safety: There is a need to focus on the basics: clean washrooms, managing stray animals, and campus security
- IT & Library Resources: Integration of N-List and better IT infrastructure are essential
- The class rooms in SAH need to be either soundproof or shifted to a better location

4. Career & Student Support

- Scholarships: Streamlining the application process for scholarships and providing more scholarships is vital
- A dedicated team to look into the gap bridge the gap between industry and college is required (leading to increased functional MoUs and placements)