

Shyama Prasad Mukherji College For Women
University of Delhi
Mentorship Report 2022- 2023

Mentorship program for year 2022-23 was held from July-December. The main aim of carrying out this program was to know the issues and challenges faced by students pertaining to Academics, Library, mental health, career counselling, Infrastructure, safety and security and any other issue as well as its effect on holistic development of student.

The students were encouraged to share their experiences regarding the classes, syllabus, career and other related concerns.

Highlights of responses received by students

Academic

Students reported they have class timings from 8:30 am till 5:00 pm with one small break. This should be reduced. Further they complained they are overburdened with multiple tests and assignments. They said they should be given two to three breaks during entire day for refreshments. Despite the fact that assignments and tests are being spaced out throughout the semester they are unable to manage time and hence work seems to be always more than what can be handled with ease timetable is very hectic. They need to utilize tutorial classes better because lot of discussions can be done on one- to-one basis with the faculty

Several topics pertaining to academia were covered. The emphasis was on the DU system's academic scoring structure. The division of the grade between the internal assessments and the end term exams was discussed. Different internal evaluation methods, including class examinations, assignments, presentations, and projects, were addressed. Regularity, consistency of performance, and classroom participation were emphasized as important. Additionally, the value of attendance was highlighted. The significance of routinely attending class, participating in class activities, and acquiring knowledge and skills were highlighted. It was also talked about the value of internships and how they need to give participants the chance to develop their professional expertise. Thus, during their break from college, students were urged to locate and sign up for such internships. They were also encouraged to take part in intra- and inter-college competitions in order to develop their personalities and abilities. Students can boost their productivity in class and during tests by learning appropriate coping mechanisms for academic demands. Various scholarship provided by the college and university were also discussed. Focus on overall growth and productivity was highlighted.

Library

Students said that library is well stocked. Good reference material and text books are available. However,

- This semester cards were renewed quite late hence they were unable to issue books
- Some of them said that they are unable to locate books on the shelf
- Some more references can be added

Overall students were satisfied with library facilities.

Canteen

Students reported that the canteen does not have ample space to accommodate the students during the thirty minutes lunch break scheduled at 11:30 am - 12:00 pm. Also, they do not get any other break from 12 to 5 pm. They also complained about poor quality of food in college canteen. Some students complained about food poisoning after having lunch from college canteen. Few students mentioned that canteen should provide more health-conscious diet.

Mental Health

Some discussion was also around constant pressure and increasing levels of stress and how to cope with it. Students discussed how they are finding it difficult to cope with daily struggles. We discussed that through some exercise/ yoga, music, dance, taking some time off from all gadgets, praying, meeting up with friends, sitting with elders, taking up some activity which gives pleasure, reading books, walking etc. any of these can be taken up in a mixture to create some positivity and add some fun in our lives. They were also advised to talk about whatever they are feeling or going through with someone they are comfortable with or take help from professionals. They were told about Family counselling centre which is functional in the college.

Safety and Security

Police presence is much required outside the college for a sense of security. Students were advised to act civilly around one another. All DU campuses have been emphasised as **ragging-free zones**, and students have been informed of the potential penalties should they be found guilty. Last but not least, emphasis was placed on preserving order and proper etiquette on the college campus. All other concerns raised by the students were also periodically discussed and suitably addressed.

Infrastructure

College has good infrastructure. The looming issue however, is the poor network and no Wi-Fi connectivity which is a limiting factor for courses which can utilise web-based data in classroom teaching- learning.

Students complained about the hygiene in washrooms and suggested installing soap dispensers, and covered dustbins in the washrooms. They also talked about the bad water quality in water dispensers and that they need to purchase packaged mineral water bottles for the same. They reported college do not have adequate sports infrastructure for chess and skating.

Career Counselling

Identifying what one wanted to do, how to go about it, researching, keeping track of forms, preparation for entrances etc. We decided that department would try and get more information about various avenues but they too should research and share information. Few students spoke about going abroad for further studies so discussions were held regarding that.

Any Other Issue

- Department/ college should organise events which are related to personality development
- Dance society should have some defined space for them to practice
- Cleanliness in the premises can be improved. Students found littering and defacing college premises should be reprimanded
- Sanitary napkin dispensers should be made available

All queries of students were answered in lucid manner by all faculty members. All the sessions were very interactive. The students were directed to share the skills and experiences which have helped them in smooth functioning during the pandemic. The optimistic insights were appreciated. The meeting (s) ended with an assuring note from the mentor(s) to look into their concerns, suggestions and grievances and also solving their concerns. The mentor(s) encouraged the mentees to reach out to them in case of any need of guidance related to academic or personal issues in future. They had lot of inhibitions to join college after pandemic. Mentors helped them settle to offline college life.

Dr. Neeru Jain
Dr. Kulbir Kaur
(Co-Convener)

Dr. Renu Aggarwal
(Convener)