

Executive Summary (2022-23)
Self-Assessment Report (SAR) of Program Associate Degree in (Psychology)
Directorate of Quality Enhancement (DQE)
Virtual University of Pakistan

Virtual University of Pakistan is providing world class ICT-based distance education to the aspiring students in Pakistan and abroad and addressing simultaneously the acute shortage of qualified professors in the country. To fulfill needs of Quality Assurance Agency of HEC for ranking the program, Department of Psychology initiated the Self-Assessment process for Associate Degree in Psychology. The current document summarizes the findings of the self-assessment process of Associate Degree in Psychology. The process includes:

1. **Self-Assessment Report (SAR)** development by Program Team (PT).
2. **Assessment Report (AR)** by Assessment Team (AT) after critical evaluation.
3. **Rectification Plan** administered by the Head of Department.

Methodology:

The Department adopted the identical methodology defined by the Quality Assurance Agency of HEC. The methodology includes the nomination and notification of PT and AT after the approval of the competent authority. PT developed the SAR in accordance with eight (8) criteria provided by QAA. Various recommended surveys were also conducted for collecting diverse feedback. A meeting was arranged for critical evaluation of the program by AT in which Head of Psychology Department and staff of Directorate of Quality Enhancement were also present. After the visit, AT submitted a report and feedback form (Rubric Form) to DQE. Based on the findings of AT, the Head of Psychology Department were requested to develop a rectification plan

Program Team and Assessment Team Formation

| Sr.# | Name | Status | Designation |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------|---|
| 1. | Ms. Samreen Najeeb | Program Team Member | Tutor/Instructor (Department of Psychology) |
| 2. | Dr. Nabia Luqman Siddiquei | Assessment Team Member | Lecturer (Department of Psychology) Virtual University of Pakistan |

Key Findings of the SAR:

The AT appreciated the efforts of PT to develop such a comprehensive report of the 'Associate Degree in Psychology' program. The expert endorsed the program structure and study scheme designed by the

department. The infrastructure and support provided by the university to execute the program were also reviewed and considered compatible with smoothing execution of the program. However, the following few observations were reported by AT in its report:

1. Department and program mission statement needs to be approved, so that we may align the objectives and mission of the associate degree program accordingly.
2. Program objectives and outcomes should be aligned with approved objectives and outcomes of the respective program. Outcomes of associate degree program are not available on the website as well.
3. The curriculum of this program should be categorized in specific domains i.e. foundation, major, general courses as suggested by HEC instead of required or elective courses.
4. Proper time should be provided to faculty for research related activities and projects. More opportunities must be explored to attend seminar and conduct training workshops related to contemporary issues in the media at national as well as international level.
5. The department should maintain a student-teacher ratio that is well-justified and supported by valid reasons.
6. A physical library has been established, and there is a need to improve and modernize it in order to better assist the faculty in accessing current and relevant knowledge in their respective areas of expertise. A specific section within the library has been designated for psychology-related books. Furthermore, steps should be taken to expand online access to digital libraries, ensuring a wider range of resources is readily available.
7. Psychology department must subscribe to international journals so the faculty remains in touch with the current trends in theory and research in the field of Psychology.

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Analysis of the Criteria Referenced Self-Assessment reveals that performance of the department is good in most of the areas, however, poor performance has not been observed in any of the areas. It is reflected by moderate overall assessment score (79.20/100) reported by AT. Based on this average score, the rectification plan needs to be implemented for further improvement.

In accordance with AT report, fair performance of the department has been observed in some of the areas which, if improved, may lead to excellence in terms of performance. The aforementioned areas have been depicted in Criterion # 1 (Program Mission, Objectives and Outcomes), Criterion # 2 (Curriculum Design and Organization), Criterion # 6 (Faculty) and Criterion # 8 (Institutional Support). Department and program mission statement needs to be approved, so that we may align the objectives and mission of the associate degree program accordingly, category of each course i.e. foundation course, major course, compulsory course, general course and elective course (as per HEC study scheme) must be mentioned in study scheme uploaded

on Website of Virtual University.Limited time available for research, limited access to digital resources and physical library has been reported as the areas that need improvement.

The areas that need corrective actions identified during self-assessment process have been reported to the Head of Psychology Department for rectification. DQE will follow up the implementation plan as per the specific time-frame to track continuous improvement.

Prepared by:



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