

GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, AJMER

(NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'B')

Affiliated with M.D.S. University, Ajmer



Department of English (Undergraduate Level)
Profile of the Department (2017-2022)

- 1. Scope and importance of the Department:** Teaching/Learning English as Language and Literature equips the students to, in the words of Bell Hooks, to 'transgress' in a positive sense because 'Education as the Practice of Freedom' encourages them to question, debate, discuss and analyse within the four walls of classroom. As students of English Literature/Language they learn how to relate the 'classroom' to 'the world out there' through the curriculum/syllabus/subject that reflects, expounds, comments on 'the world out there' and even deviates/distorts (language of literature does that at multiple levels) for artistic purposes. As the learners read literary texts written across cultures around the globe the contemporaneity of these texts is revealed to them. One example would suffice to see how reading literature creates possibility for depoliticization of young minds: through a critical comparison of the characters of Shylock, the Jew and the Christian characters as depicted in Shakespeare's play *The Merchant of Venice*, literature classroom can place in perspective Shylock's seemingly universal plea for the rights of all people suffering discrimination in the present global/national context. The play, like several other literary texts which ring truer to our times, (Katherine Mansfield's story *The Doll's House* can be cited as an example here), is also about the 'othering' of anyone who is 'different' and 'not like us' seeking acceptance and benevolence denying demonisation of the 'other'. The most libertarian thing a language/literature teacher can do is to permit her students to 'challenge' the unequal world order at the intersections of caste, class, race and religion and express their own views.

By placing language teaching/learning at the centre, the Department of English attempts/aims to evolve a teaching/learning system that will encourage students to enhance competence in multiple languages along their mother tongue. Recognizing the 21st century workforce that exhibits new linguistic landscapes and emphasis on the inclusion of communicative competence as one of the essential skills of learners, the Department addresses the issue through a multi-modal approach to the teaching-learning process. Since growth of mindsets are language dependent, there is a focus on developing cognitive skills such as creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, storytelling, comprehension, analysis, synthesis, context-based correct language usage and weaning away the learners from informal language with slang, incorrect spellings, ungrammatical constructions, erratic punctuation marks, transliterations (instead of translation) and so on for betterment of their linguistic competence.

Swinging seamlessly between offline and online teaching/learning, the Department integrates materials from a variety of sources including websites offering print, audio, video, infographics, podcasts and so on to maximize learners' access to these learning resources.

- 2. Introduction to the Department:** (i) English Literature is offered as one of the optional subjects at undergraduate level for B.A. pass course (a three-year degree course).
(ii) General English (an essentially language-based course that aims at enhancing language-skills through Grammar, comprehension and vocabulary) is offered as a compulsory subject at undergraduate level for B.A./B.Sc./B. Com. Part I students.
- 3. Year of Establishment:** 1994. (UG)

4. Detail of Programmes / Courses offered (UG, PG, M. Phil., Ph.D., Integrated Masters; Integrated Ph.D., Short term courses, Career oriented courses, etc. (Current academic year):

Sr. No	Programme level	Name of the programme/ Course	Duration	Entry qualification	Medium of Instruction	Sanctioned/ Approved students-strength	No. of Students admitted
1.	UG	B.A. (Pass course)	3 Years	Senior Secondary	English and wherever required Hindi	One section 80 Students	80-100

5. Annual/semester/choice-based credit system/elective course pattern (programme wise):

Programme	Pattern	Year of Implementation
B.A. (Pass course)	Annual	1994

6. Number of Teaching and Non-teaching positions in the department:

Designation	Sanctioned	Filled
Professor	01	01
Associate Professor	01	01

7. Faculty profile with name, qualification, designation, specialization, (Ph.D. / M. Phil. etc.):

Sr. No.	Name of the Member of Faculty	Qualification	Year of Appointment	Designation	Specialization	Teaching Experience
1.	Dr. Praveen Mirdha	M.A. (1992) M. Phil. (ELT) (1993) Ph.D. (2003) (Madness: Perspectives and Representations in the Fictional Works of Joseph Conrad)	28.04.1995	Professor	Women's Writings, Human Rights Stories, Travel Writing, Partition Literature, Cross-cultural Writings and Comparative Literatures, Diasporic Imaginaries in literature, Translation Studies and Bhasha Literatures.	28 Years

2.	Mrs. Alka Panwar	M.A.	07.07.1999	Associate Professor	Wordsworth and Women's writings	24
----	------------------	------	------------	---------------------	---------------------------------	----

8. Research papers published in journals notified on UGC website (Last five years):

Sr. No.	Name of the Journal	Title of the Research Paper/Author(s)	ISSN/ ISBN No.	Whether peer-reviewed and Impact Factor, if any
1.	International Journal of Linguistics and Literature	<i>Limits of Catharsis in Auto/biography: An Exiled Son's Witnessing/Telling of Human Rights Violations in Hisham Matar's 'The Return' (2018).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	ISSN(P):2319-3956; ISSN(E):2319-3964. Vol. 7, Issue 5, Aug-Sep 2018; 21-32.	An International, Peer-reviewed journal with an impact factor (JCC): 4.8029
2.	Journal of Literature & Aesthetics	<i>Writing the Wor(l)d of Vivid Voices: Staging Rebellion from the 'Inner Courtyard' Stories' (2018).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	ISSN: 2278-523X. July-December 2018 issue (Vol. 18, No. 2).	An International, Peer-reviewed journal devoted to critical and creative writing in English (UGC approved journal. Ser. No. 342).
3.	IJELLH (<i>International Journal of English Language, Literature in Humanities</i>)	<i>Territory as Identity: Othello's Improvised Marginalization in Venice from Human Rights' Perspective (2019).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	E-ISSN: 2321-7065. Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2019.	An International UGC approved (serial no. 43979), Peer-reviewed (refereed), indexed, open access journal.
4.	CAESURAE: POETICS OF CULTURAL TRANSLATION	<i>Translating Orality: Empowering the Indigenous Culture and Literary Traditions in India (January, 2021).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	ISSN: 2454-9495. Combined Volumes (3:2 & 4:1), 2019-2020.	An International UGC approved Peer-reviewed e-journal.
5.	Motifs: An International Journal of English Studies	<i>Of Exile and Artists (2021).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	ISSN: (Print) 2454-1745/ (Online) 2454-1753; VOL. 7 No. 1, January-December 2021.	A Peer-reviewed Journal.

6.	Journal of Teaching and Research in English Literature	<i>Mirroring and Mimicking: A Postcolonial Study of Khushwant Singh's Story "Karma" (July, 2022).</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha	ISSN: 0975-8828. Volume 12 – Number 3 – July 2021.	An international peer-reviewed open-access journal.
----	--	---	---	---

9. Research papers published in National/International Conference-proceedings:

Sr. No.	Name of the Conference Seminar	Title of Research Paper/Author(s)	ISSN/ ISBN	Place & Date
1.	International Conference on 'Diaspora, Multiculturalism and Quest for Identity'	<i>Defining the Diaspora, 'Difference' and 'Dispersed' Identity in 'Wide Sargasso Sea'</i> – An Article in a book published as a conference proceeding titled <i>Diaspora, Multiculturalism and Quest for Identity</i> edited by Sr. Pearl and published by Authors press, New Delhi (2018). Dr. Praveen Mirdha (First Author) Mrs. Alka Panwar (Second Author)	ISBN: 9789388332101.	Sophia Girls' College (Autonomous), Ajmer on 17-19 February, 2018.

10. Number of books and book-chapters published in edited volumes:

Sr. No.	Title of the book/book-chapter published and Author(s)	National/ International	Year of publication	ISBN No.	Name of the Publisher
1.	"Terrorism as Madness: Can 'Innocence' or 'Goodness' Look beyond All 'Fear' to 'Hope' a Retrieval from Violence?" – A book-chapter in a volume titled <i>Interrogating Terrorism: Role of Media and Literature</i> edited by Divya Joshi and Divya Walia. Dr. Praveen Mirdha	National	2017	ISBN: 978-93-85528-62-0.	Yking Books, Jaipur.
2.	"Exilic Trajectories of Crossing the Kala Pani: Locating Female Subjectivity in the Writings of Ramabai Espinet and Gaiutra Bahadur" – A book-chapter in a volume titled <i>Kala Pani Crossings: Revisiting 19th Century Migrations from India's Perspective</i> edited by Ashutosh Bhardwaj, Judith Misrahi-Barak. Dr. Praveen Mirdha	International	December 24, 2021	ISBN: 9780367760885.	Routledge (London and New York) and Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
3.	"Indian Perspectives on Kalapani Crossing: 'Her' Indentured Exile with Special Reference to Munshi Premchand's Story 'Shudra'" – A book-chapter in a volume titled <i>Her Bazillion Voices</i> edited by Dr. Santosh Kanwar Shekhawat and Dr. Pragati Sobti. Dr. Praveen Mirdha	National	March, 2022	ISBN: 978-93-93388-27-8.	Bluerose Publishers, Delhi.

4.	<i>Madness: Perspectives and Representations in the Fiction of Joseph Conrad (2016) – A book.</i> Dr. Praveen Mirdha (Sole Author).	International	2016	ISBN: 978-93- 5207-297- 2.	Authors press, New Delhi.
----	--	---------------	------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------

11. Faculty as chairman/members in National committees/International Committees/ Editorial/Boards/BOS/University committees etc.:

Mrs. Alka Panwar, Member of BOS, English (2017-22), Sophia Girls' College (Autonomous), Ajmer.

12. Awards / Recognitions received by faculty/Students:

(i) **Dr. Praveen Mirdha**, Professor from the Department of English has been awarded with BEST PAPER CERTIFICATE for her research paper ***Limits of Catharsis in Auto/biography: An Exiled Son's Witnessing/Telling of Human Rights Violations in Hisham Matar's 'The Return'*** (2018) in recognition of the research paper quality, originality and significance in modelling and technical flow upon recommendation of the IASET Journals Best Paper Award Committee.

(ii) **Miss Neha Saini** and **Miss Neha Bisht**, students of B.A. Part II (Session 2017-18) from the Department of English were selected as Campus Ambassadors under the project Upskill Proficiency in English-Rajasthan 'UPER' through '**Hello English Premium App-UPER**', an Innovation Programme launched by the Commissionerate of College Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur for enhancing English Language Proficiency of the students of government colleges in Rajasthan. They represented the College at Campus Ambassador Conclave held in Jaipur on 14.11.2017 by the office of the Commissioner, College Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

13. Students Qualifying in State/National/International level examination (NET, SET, GATE, GMAT, GRE, TOEFL/UPSC/MPSC/State government examination, etc.):

Many of the students from the Department of English have qualified the REET and other competitive examinations conducted by Rajasthan State Subordinate Commission, Rajasthan Public Service Commission and other states' service commissions for the recruitment of First Grade/Second Grade Teachers, Assistant Professor in College/University and aptitude examinations held for other government jobs.

14. Special steps taken by the Department for Slow and Fast Learners:

Remedial classes and extra classes are conducted as per the needs/demands of the students.

15. Number of students receiving financial assistance from College, University, Government or any other agencies:

The meritorious students as well as students from the backward sections of the society from the Department of English get Scholarship benefits under several schemes of the state government as per the rules, norms and standards decided by the office of the Commissioner of College Education, Rajasthan, Jaipur.

16. Results of the Students of the Department of English:

Year	Program Code	Program Name	Number of students appeared in the final year examination	Number of students passed in final year examination
2017-18	-	B.A.	47	45
2018-19	-	B.A.	59	58
2019-20	-	B.A.	47	47
2020-21	-	B.A.	65	65
2021-22	-	B.A.	52	52

17. List of alumnae and their contribution to the Department:

Sr. No.	Name of the Alumna	Year of Graduation	Position held	Contact details (Email, Mobile No.)	Quantum of Contribution
1.	Rajani	2010	Assistant Professor, English, Government College, Bali (Pali) since January 17, 2019.	9549444416	NET, English (2014), source of inspiration for students aspiring to become College/University Teachers.
2.	Ankita Sankhla	2011	Assistant Professor, English Pedagogy, Regional Institute of Education, Ajmer since April 12, 2021.	9772215823	NET, Education (2017), source of inspiration for students aspiring to become College/University Teachers.
3.	Meenu	2013	LDC, Zila Parshad, Ajmer since 29.11.2022.	9521347468	Inspires and guides students.
4.	Neha Sharma	2008	TGT (HOD) Geography, Rani Laxmi Bai Public School, Jhansi (MP) since 2021.	9887253422	Earlier worked at Saint Mary's Convent Senior Secondary School, Ajmer from 2012.
5.	Gracy Dsouza	2008	Teacher (PRT) at Saint Mary's Convent Senior Secondary School, Ajmer since 2010.	9887476308	Keeps in touch with students of the College to inspire them.

6.	Rashmi Sharma	2008	TGT, English and PGT, Political Science at Queen Mary's Senior Secondary Girls' School, Ajmer since 04.04.2014.	9461698633	Keeps in touch with students of the College to inspire them.
7.	Renuka	2013	Teacher (TGT) at Government Senior Secondary School, Lamana (Block Pisangan), Ajmer since November, 2012.	8769860847	Keeps in touch with students of the College to inspire them.
8.	Usha Jaiswar	2008	Teacher (PGT) at Oxford Convent School, Ajmer (2017-2020); Genius Convent School, Ajmer since 01.04.2023.	8955047768	Keeps in touch with students of the College to inspire them.
9.	Aditi Dhadhich	2015	TGT, Art Teacher at Sophia Senior Secondary School, Ajmer since 09.04.2021. Earlier Worked as Commercial Art Teacher at Jay Shree Periwal High School, Chitrakoot, Jaipur, 2019-21.	9649124957	Winner of Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy Student Award 2017. Master's Degree and M.Phil. (Gold Medal) from Banasthali Vidyapeeth in Visual Art. Source of inspiration for students aspiring to craft career in Visual Art.
10.	Dr. Shalini Sharma (Mathur)	2008	Rajasthan Accounts Service, since November 26, 2015. Presently posted at Animal Husbandry Department, Jaipur.	9950410865	Source of inspiration for students aspiring to join Civil Services.
11.	Anjali	2013	Level-2 English Teacher at Bhadesar Block, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan since April, 2022.	7727050562	(REET, 2018), Keeps in touch with students of the College to inspire them.

18. Teaching methods adopted to improve student learning:

- **ADOPT A SHORT STORY A DAY** – This always keeps the learner's mind alert and imagination engaged. Some of the world's most memorable pieces of writing are short stories. Reading

short stories is a great way to stay entertained and connect to creativity leaving the mind thinking, lingering in one's own imagination. Short stories convey unforgettable life lessons very effectively, focused as they are requiring short attention span and limited time.

- Power Point presentation
- Use of Video Clip
- Project Work
- Video Lectures on YouTube
- Organized Workshops/Talks, Seminars, Group Discussions.

19. E-Content on YouTube:

(a) Link to Government Girls' College, Ajmer YouTube Channel: [cceraiggcajmer class - YouTube](#)

(b) Link to Dr. Praveen Mirdha's YouTube Channel (available on Government Girls' College, Ajmer YouTube Channel): [Dr. Praveen Mirdha GGCA - YouTube](#)

(c) Link to Mrs. Alka Panwar's YouTube Channel (available on Government Girls' College, Ajmer YouTube Channel): [ENGLISH WITH ALKA PANWAR - YouTube](#)

20. Participation in Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR) and Extension activities:

Session	Dr. Praveen Mirdha	Mrs. Alka Panwar
2017-18	Convener, Literary Forum; Coordinator, Language Club; Convener, 'Hello English Premium App-UPER' , for enhancing English Language Proficiency of the students; Member, UGC, NAAC and IQAC cell; Convener, Student Advisory/Career Counselling and Placement Cell; Member, Library Committee; Convener, B.A. Part III Admission Committee; Convener, Physical Verification Committee, College Library; Editor, English Section, College Magazine 'Tarangini' (2016-17 and 2017-18); organized 'English Language Improvement' Program as part of the Summer Camp (06-20 June, 2018).	Convener, YDC; Member, Literary Forum; Member, Language Club; Member, B.A. Part I Admission Committee; Member, Cultural Forum; Member, UGC, NAAC and IQAC cell; Member, College Magazine Committee; Member, Student Advisory/Career Counselling and Placement Cell; Member, Student Union Advisory Committee; organized 'English Language Improvement' Program as part of the Summer Camp (06-20 June, 2018).
2018-19	Convener, Female Harassment Prevention Committee; Member, UGC, NAAC and IQAC cell; Member, Anti-Ragging Committee and Grievance Cell; Convener, Literary Forum; Member, Library Committee; Convener, Faculty of Arts, Proctorial Board; Dean of Students, Student Union/Student Advisory Committee; Convener, Press Note Committee Organized Training Program (English Language for Communication Skills) as part of the Summer Camp (11-17 June, 2019) for Entrepreneurship/Skill-based Capacity Building.	Convener, YDC (Constituent of Youth Skill Development Advisory Committee); Member, Literary Forum; Member, B.A. Part I Admission Committee; Member, College Magazine Committee; Organized Training Program (English Language for Communication Skills) as part of the Summer Camp (11-17 June, 2019) for Entrepreneurship/Skill-based Capacity Building.

2019-20	Convener, Female Harassment Prevention Committee; Member, UGC, NAAC and IQAC cell; Member, Anti-Ragging Committee and Grievance Cell; Convener, Literary Forum; Member, Library Committee; Convener, Faculty of Arts, Proctorial Board; Dean of Students, Student Union/Student Advisory Committee; Convener, Press Note Committee; Editor, English Section, College Magazine; Convener, Committee for organizing the Debate Competition to commemorate 150 th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.	Convener, YDC (Constituent of Youth Skill Development Advisory Committee); Member, Literary Forum; Member, B.A. Part I Admission Committee; Member, College Magazine Committee; Member, Committee for organizing the Debate Competition to commemorate 150 th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2020-21	Academic In charge of the College and Paden Sachiv, College Development Council (since 18.11.2020); Convener, Female Harassment Prevention Committee; Convener, Annual Audit Programme (AAP) Committee; Member, Anti-Ragging Committee and Grievance Cell; Convener, Faculty of Arts, Proctorial Board; Convener, AAKASHI Calendar, Monthly Test, Time Table, Attendance and Workload Committee; Member, Library Committee; Convener, Biomatrix Attendance; Convener, Community Book Bank (Donate a Book) Committee.	Convener, Aanandam Programme; Convener, Literary Forum; Member, Examination Committee; Member, College Magazine Committee; Member, Women's Cell (Best Practices).
2021-22	Academic In charge of the College and Paden Sachiv, College Development Council (since 18.11.2020); Member, DRAC/RACE College-Level Committee; Convener, Female Harassment Prevention and Internal Grievance Committee; Convener, AAKASHI Calendar, Monthly Test, Time Table, Attendance and Workload Committee; Convener, Library Committee.	Convener, B.A. Part I Admission Committee; Convener, Aanandam Programme; Member, Literary Forum; Member, Women's Cell; Member, Student Union/Student Advisory Committee.

21. Preparedness of the Department for NEP:

- a. **Multidisciplinary/ Interdisciplinary Learning:** With an understanding of philosophy and aims of education, literature teaching insects with history, sociology, psychology, polity, economy and addresses issues of gender, marginalization and disability effectively. All these will eventually be mediated through language by way of interaction between the teacher and the taught.
- b. **Skill development:** Language finds place in our teaching-learning programme at Three-year degree course in all streams, that is, Arts, Science and Commerce. There will be an increased emphasis for the teachers and the taught on arriving at the classroom with an understanding of the nature, structure and acquisition of language. To make learning engaging the learners should be taught how to integrate the highly rule-governed systems of learning with socially appropriate language usage.
- c. **Integration of Indian knowledge System:** The 'Shruti Parampara' and structural tradition extending from Panini is to be adopted for language learning; this idea comes from the fact that all Indian languages, Hindi and Sanskrit in particular, are very scientific and expressive, that the script used for Hindi is also scientific, that languages are learnt largely from their

'environment' through imitation and practice, and that second and foreign languages are best learnt through a combination of grammatical rules and vocabulary.

- d. **Focus on outcome-based education:** For the conceptual clarity and cognitive growth of learners, it must be recognized that they arrive at higher education institutions with a 'language' simultaneously located in several different languages. The performative nature of language is multilingual because multilingualism forms the essence of being human. Since NEP draft talks a lot about multilingualism, the teacher has to recognize the importance of inter-language fluidity and not miss any opportunity to liberate the classroom from a monolingual situation. A focus on vernaculars in education will go a long way in helping future language learners to use the complex verbal repertoire through literatures in multiple languages/literatures in translation as a resource which reflect variations of style, idiom and folk songs and stories that are often socio-culturally rooted in learners' lingual background. We need to recognize that multilingualism constitutes the backbone of pedagogy and to make the education enterprise successful, the classroom will walk out of the frozen paradigms of 'teacher-taught-textbook-language relationship', invite students to engage in scientific inquiries and allow the voice of every learner to find space in the learning process.
- e. **Distance/Online education:** With increasing use of technology in the system of education, the educators understand how the learners will perceive any technological teaching tool and how the perceptions like visual, auditory and tactile will possibly have an impact on learners. For making performance-focussed learning plans, the teacher will map the time the learners can spend in the classroom, and design teaching methods, assessment criteria and classroom activities for better engagement of learners. Technology-enabled online classroom blended with traditional classroom will pave the way for student engagement in education programs and increase opportunities for collaborations in distance education. Blended learning, as against traditional classroom, more student-oriented and customized and lead on to the actualization of the three cardinal principles of education: access, equity and quality.

22. Contribution to Institutional Best Practices:

(i) **Vanita Saamarthya:** The course contents of B.A. Part I/II/III have several poems, essays, short-stories which are being constantly used in the classroom discussions for creating awareness on gender-oriented societal and cultural issues. Special mention can be made of the texts such as Robert Browning's poem "My Last Duchess", O. Henry's story "The Gift of the Magi", William Wordsworth's poem "The Solitary Reaper", William Blake's poem "London", Shakespeare's plays *Macbeth* and *Merchant of Venice* and other literary works.

(ii) **Harit Utthan:** As far as generating awareness on environmental issues is concerned there are several texts prescribed in syllabus which are being exploited for the purpose of making students sensitive towards environmental hazards and telling them to be responsible towards the sustenance of green earth. These writings include poems by pre-Romantic and Romantic poets such as James Thomson, Thomas Gray, William Wordsworth, P.B. Shelley, John Keats, the poem "Birches" by Robert Frost, short-stories such as "The Axe" by R.K. Narayan, "The Three Dancing Goats" and other literary texts.

23. SWOC analysis of the Department:

- i. **Strengths:** E-contents on YouTube channel on a range of topics covering the syllabus of the MDS University, Ajmer and various competitive examinations make learning accessible to students across the globe in addition to the students of this institution.
- ii. **Weaknesses:** (i) No postgraduation course offered in the Department of English. (ii) No language-based and skill-oriented program run by the Department to facilitate the learners with job-oriented communication skills in English language.
- iii. **Opportunities:** English language and literature offers job opportunities as teachers, translators, interpreters and creative writers.
- iv. **Challenges:** Procuring financial assistance to establish Language Lab and start skill-based language programs for the students of the College.

24. Future plans (Five years plan of action):

- a. Start postgraduation course in English Literature.
- b. Start a short-term course at college level for mastery in English Grammar that can be useful for all competitive examinations.
- c. Start a short-term course at college level in English Pedagogy.
- d. Start a short-term course at college level in Translation studies to enable the learners to translate texts to and from English language.
