

## Department of Statistics, The University of Burdwan - A Profile

The Department of Statistics at The University of Burdwan was established in 1989. Three faculties from Department of Mathematics of the University of Burdwan were transferred to the newly formed Department. Later two more faculties joined within one year. Afterwards several faculties either retired or left the job while new faculties were recruited at various faces of the development of the Department. Presently, the Department has two Associate Professor, two Assistant Professors and another Assistant Professor is in Lien for one year. One Post of Professor and one post of Assistant Professor are lying vacant and these posts are advertised also. The Department was instituted at the first floor of its present habitat and later the ground floor of the canteen building was renovated for the Department in 1999. Of Late some more extension works have taken place to arrive at the present shape. The first batch of the students passed out in 1991.

The faculty members from the very inception of the Department felt the need of computer intensive Statistics teaching and research and syllabus were framed with enhanced exposure to programming language and statistical software available at that time. Apart from teaching and research in the initial years, the Department carried out a series of consultancy programs with CESC Ltd. Kolkata by developing a Load / Energy Forecasting Software and formulating a comprehensive rehabilitation packages for dislocated peoples on account of open cast mining at Sarsatoli and Tara blocks of Salanpur, Burdwan, West Bengal. The second work was a part of international collaboration with BHPE Kinhill Joint Venture, Australia. To enhance the visibility of the Department, the first and second Burdwan Symposium on Applicational Statistics and Computational Techniques were held in 1993 and 1996 respectively with financial assistance as well as participation from several industries like Dishergarh Power Supply Corporation, Durgapur Steel Plant, CESC Ltd., ONGC, Hindustan Liver Ltd. etc. as well as research institute like Indian Institute of Psychometry. Apart from the two symposiums, a workshop on Computer Aided Quantitative Techniques in Industrial Management mainly addressing the statistical perspectives of various problems related to a wide spectrum of industries was also held in 1996. Many eminent statisticians from ISI, IIM, VU and other institutions also participated in those events as resource persons. These ventures had immense effect on Industry Institute Partnership that emphasized the growing needs of Statistics as a tool for solving industrial problems. Department has organized several workshops and seminars with financial assistance from MoSPI, Govt. of India and other funding agencies. Notable among them was a workshop on Official Statistics in 2010, where the resource persons were from academics and MoSPI and the participants were UG students from Colleges affiliated to BU, CU and KU.

Prior to 1999, there was no special paper or module in the M. Sc. Course. The offering of special modules to students was started with the third revised syllabus. Three special modules viz. Industrial Statistics (comprising of the topics like Advances Statistical Quality Management, Industrial Experimentation, Reliability Theory and Operation Research), Biostatistics (comprising of Survival Analysis, Statistical Genetics, Epidemiology and Clinical Trials) and Mathematical Statistics (includes Parametric, Non-Parametric and Semi-Parametric Inferences and Bayesian Methods) were offered to the students. A compulsory special paper on Advanced Data Analysis with emphasis on Bayesian Computation, Re-Sampling Techniques, Generalized Linear Model and Longitudinal Data Analysis has been introduced in 2006.

The faculty members of the department extended the frontiers of research in various pure, applied an interdisciplinary field. Several thrust areas research have been identified which are: Epidemiology and survival analysis; quality, reliability and warranty analysis; design of experiment and regression analysis; mathematical statistics; demography, development and population science also. The department gained international exposures with the faculty members visiting several renowned overseas universities and institutes in various capacities. The faculty members regularly published scholarly articles in renewed Indian International Journals. Since its inception, about 12 students have obtained their Ph. D Degrees from the department and their works have drawn accolade from Statistics communities at national and international levels. The department has been awarded the DST-FIST grant in 2003. Several international visitors along with renewed Indian academics delivered series of talks on various theoretical, applied and inter-disciplinary areas. The faculty members successfully executed several minor and major projects from UGC. They have also successfully Completed several consultancy projects from India science lab, General Motors, Bengaluru and Health Effects Institute, Boston, USA, in recent time. After successfully completing the DST-FIST Level-1 project in 2007, the Department has once again been identified by DST-FIST for renewal of the Level-1 grant for another five years. The department could not apply for SAP from UGC on technical reasons, as the total full time faculty strength at any point of time never exceeded five thus failing to satisfy the stipulated bench marks of six faculty members.

A seminar library was established from its very inception and at present there are more than 1500 copies of books on various topics that are purchased from UGC as well as DST-FIST grants. Faculties, scholars, non-teaching staffs and the students can use the internet connection in the Department through which various resources of e-journals and e-books can be accessed. The passed out students of the department are well placed both in India and abroad and are associated with academic and government institutions, software industries, pharmaceutical industries, banks and financial institutions, NGO's in various capacities. The Department regularly organizes programmes to promote healthy campus life and enduring teacher - student - non-teaching staff relationships.

It had a modest beginning, overcome various hurdles to assume its present shape, & expects to grow further in coming years to make a mark in higher education scenario in its catchments area in West Bengal & adjacent states.