

The Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) of the IQAC (2006-07)

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Year of Report: 2006-07

Part A: The plan of action chalked out by the IQAC in the beginning of the year towards quality enhancement and the outcome achieved by the end of the year.

Plan

- Leveraging technology for enhanced interaction and learning experience

To bring about better effectiveness in teaching it was decided to improve delivery of the programmes through better use of technology. It was also decided to increase the extent of computerisation in different processes related to academic administration such as admissions, result compilation etc.

- Initiatives for faculty development and focus on external collaboration

Among the focus areas identified for the year 2006-07 was faculty development and collaboration with leading Institutes around the world. The objective was to enter into mutually beneficial arrangements like knowledge sharing, student exchange and faculty exchange. Though the Institute had previously also encouraged exchange programmes, a clear objective was set to provide special focus and impetus to this area. It was also decided to strengthen and streamline the faculty development

process facilitating access to training programmes and self development of faculty.

Outcome

- Setting up of a separate division (ICCD) for International collaborations and faculty development. The international collaborations and capacity development (ICCD) programme division was set up in 2007 with the objective of fostering collaborations with prestigious and reputed institutions globally. The academic collaborations were an endeavor towards showcasing IIFT's legacy of over four decades and the same time to also gain from the expertise of the partner intuitions. Each of these partners have created a name for themselves around the world. It was decided to work towards strengthening student exchange and work out a plan to incentivize students from India to participate in such programmes with partner Institutes abroad. Efforts were initiated to invite faculty from partner Institutes and other recognised B-Schools to come and teach courses at IIFT. Also initiatives were taken for IIFT faculty visiting other Institutions such as the 6 month programme at DIE Germany.

Two students from CERAM Sophia Antipolis, France attended one trimester along with MBA(IB) 2006-08 programme under International Student Exchange Programme of the Institute. Four students of two-year full-time (MBA(IB) 2005-07 programme, attended one trimester at Pforzheim University of Applied Sciences, Germany.

Twenty-one participants of MBA(IB) 2006-08 for ONGC executives visited George Mason University in USA for two-week special programme under the guidance of their Programme Director, Dr. K. Rangarajan.

- Launch of Faculty development programme- These included initiatives like Building up the Management Teachers Programme on International Business launched in 2005, Nomination of two faculty members for the Global Management Programme, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona, US (2006-07)
- Strengthening of the programme using the VSAT platform. The Executive programme in International Business which was launched in collaboration with Hughes as Technology partner was strengthened to replicate the physical classroom experience and also processes for proper implementation and monitoring were established.

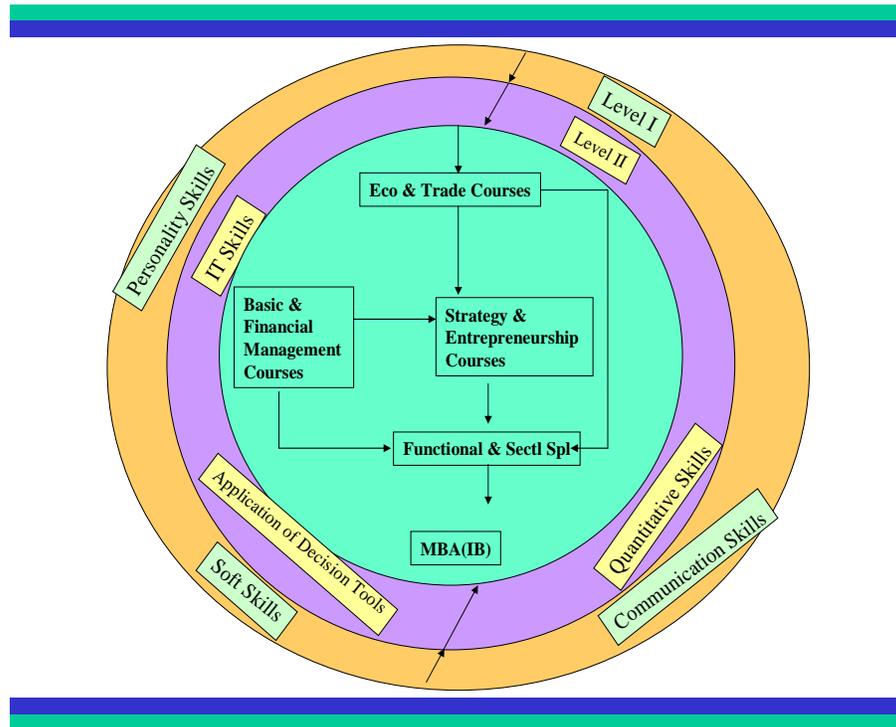
Part B:

1. Activities reflecting the goals and objectives of the institution:

The focus has been on Graduate Studies and the activities of this division were consolidated in terms of new programmes and introduction of new courses in the programmes. Simultaneously Research and Management Development Programmes (MDPs) were given the necessary impetus to surge ahead.

The approach for designing MBA (IB) course structure is guided by the need to develop soft skills and managerial skills. Courses on Economics & Trade, Basic and Functional Management and Sectoral specialization aim to sharpen managerial skills while common skill courses are required for soft skills. The broad relationship between these courses is shown in the following diagram:

Basic Model of the MBA(IB) Course Structure

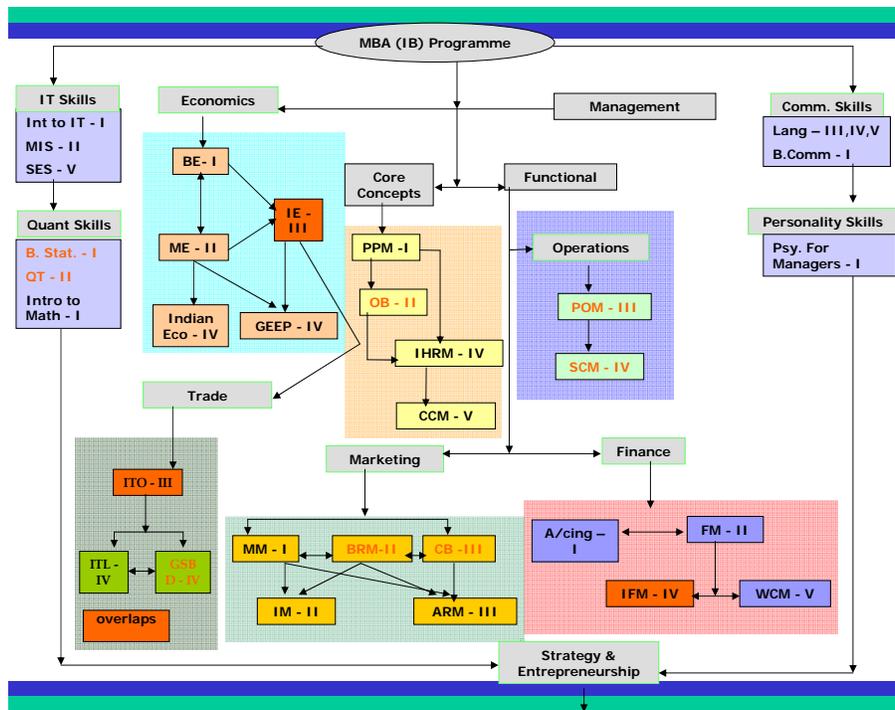


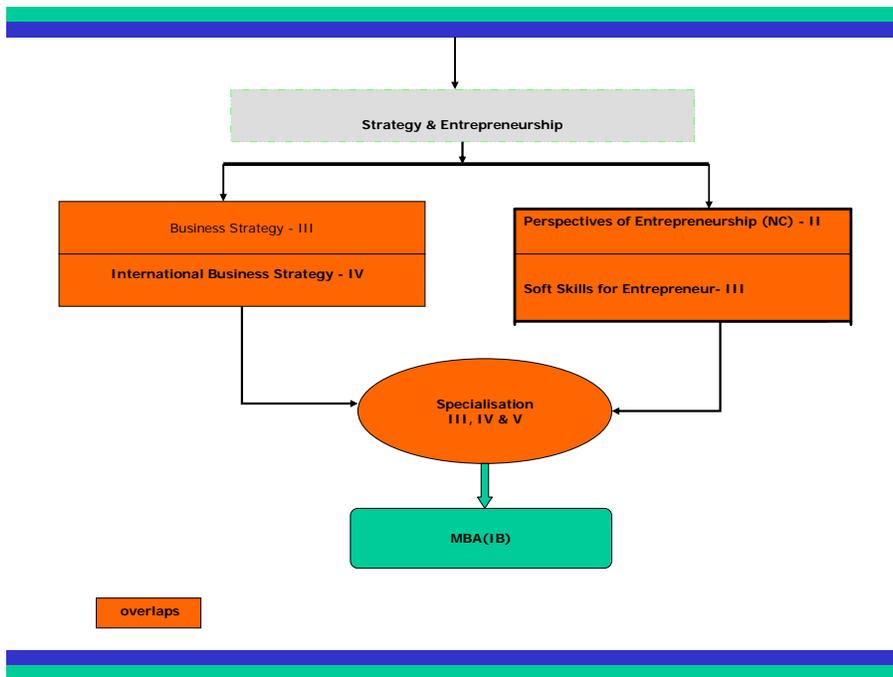
Courses on Personality Skills, Basic IT Skills, Quantitative Skills and Communication Skills are considered to be basic for all the other courses

through out the curriculum. Hence, they are offered predominantly in the first and second trimesters. In the Economics and Trade Stream and Management Stream the basic courses are offered in the first & second trimesters.

The inter-relationship between individual courses irrespective of the stream has also been considered to identify overlaps and proper course sequencing. For example in the Economics stream Business Economics, Macro Economics and International Economics which are offered in I, II and III Trimesters respectively, form a base for courses on Indian Economic Environment and Global Economic Environment offered in the IV trimester. Similarly, sequencing was considered for Functional Management areas like Marketing, Finance, and Operations.

A course structure chart was worked out to show the sequencing of courses in different trimesters. The chart also brings out the interrelationships between different courses thus identifying the overlaps. Given below is the course structure chart:





As indicated in the chart, Common skill courses, Economics & Trade and Management courses are together necessary to develop the skill sets for Strategy & Entrepreneurship. To stress the overall applications of learning from these courses, the students are required to select specialization courses in the second year along with other core courses.

2. New Academic programmes initiated

The Certificate Course in International Business Logistics (CCIBL) was designed to service a need from industry for trained professionals. Skill enhancement in the specialised area of International Business Logistics. Given IIFT's expertise and focus in International trade it was match of opportunity with the strength of the Institute. Launching of such a programme would also provide increased interaction with industry and further development of resources in this area.

3. Innovations in curricular design and transaction:

Development of blended learning- On campus plus off campus sessions and integration of self learning components in the programme conducted over the VSAT platform. Customising curricula and programme structure with emphasis on pre work and post work for each to ensure effectiveness of learning through the VSAT mode.

4. Inter-disciplinary programmes started:

All Management programmes offered by IIFT are all interdisciplinary in nature and incorporate elements from different basic sciences and social sciences like psychology, economics, quantitative techniques etc, further building on these and highlighting the applicability for decision making in business situations.

5. Examination reforms implemented:

Development of grading software to bring normalisation in results of Delhi and Kolkata centre, owing to different faculty teaching same course in different campus.

6. Candidates qualified: NET/SLET/GATE etc.

Not Applicable

7. Initiative towards faculty development programme:

Setting up of the International Co-operation and Capacity Development Division (ICCD)

Building up the Management Teachers Programme on International Business launched in 2005

Nomination of 2 faculty members for the Global Management Programme, Thunderbird School of Global Management, Arizona, US (2006-07)

Three faculty members, with ten participants of MBA(IB) 2006-08 programme visited City College Norwich, London.

8. Total number of seminars/workshops conducted: 6

9. Research projects

a) Newly implemented: 10

b) Completed: 3

10. Patents generated, if any:

Not Applicable

11. New collaborative research programmes:

Nil

12. Research grants received from various agencies:

Nil

13. Details of research scholars: 7

14. Citation index of faculty members and impact factor:

Data not available

15. Honors/Awards to the faculty:

Data not available

16. Internal resources generated:

Rs 18.16 crores

17. Details of departments getting SAP, COSIST(ASSIST)/DST. FIST, etc. assistance/recognition:

Not applicable

18. Community services:

The Koshish Club of IIFT undertook various activities like working with underprivileged children and organising special programmes for the girl child. The Institute continued with the compulsory internship with NGO's for 2nd year students. This internship helps students apply their learning for the welfare of the community and also sensitizes them to the conditions and needs of the lesser privileged or specially challenged members of society.

19. Teachers and officers newly recruited: 6 faculty and 12 staff members

20. Teaching – Non-teaching staff ratio: 0.36

21. Improvements in the library services:

Valuable information and data on International Business through books, periodicals, newspapers, documents, special research reports, video cassette, CD ROMs etc was collected and made available to faculty, researchers, traders,

participants of various training programmes conducted by the Institute and Government Departments. Research Scholars from various Institutes both Indian and Foreign made use of the Library for their doctoral and post doctoral research work.

The documentation section was further strengthened with the addition of new periodical titles on relevant disciplines. The literature was enriched with the publications procured from international organisations such as United Nations Agencies, ITC/UNCTAD/WTO, IMF, IBRD, national and international banks, Ministries/departments of the Government of India, Export Promotion Councils, Commodity Boards and other Trade Promotion Organisations.

Monthly List of additions of new books and reports and ARTINDEX were prepared regularly for in house circulation.

22. New books/journals subscribed and their cost:

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS DURING 2006-07

Section	Acquisition in 2006-07
Books, Reports, Video Cassettes & CD-ROMs (including complimentary publications)	840
Bound volumes of periodicals	550
New Journal titles added	1
Databases/Online Sites	2
Total	1,393

Total cost of books purchased= Rs 10,00,000/-

Cost of journals and periodicals= Rs 36,00,000 (new additions + continuation of existing subscriptions)

Cost of Databases= Rs 18,00,00/- (new additions + continuation of existing subscriptions)

23. Courses in which student assessment of teachers is introduced and the action taken on student feedback:

Student Assessment of teachers taken in all courses across programmes twice in each term- once for the Mid-term feedback and once for the End Term Feedback. Faculty take corrective action if any required based on the qualitative comments received. Mid-term feedback is particularly relevant for immediate steps at addressing student concerns while the course is still running.

24. Unit cost of education: Rs 1,73,765/-

25. Computerization of administration and the process of admissions and examination results, issue of certificates:

High extent of computerisation in the admission process

Computers also used for compiling of exam results and issue of certificates

26. Increase in the infrastructural facilities:

Start of the Kolkata campus in 2006 at Salt Lake, Sector V, Kolkata from July 2006. The campus started from rented premises. Complete classroom infrastructure and IT infrastructure was set up. IIFT Delhi and Kolkata campuses were connected with 2mbps MPLS link. Video conferencing facilities were also set up between Delhi and Kolkata campuses.

27. Technology upgradation:

Centralised UPS connectivity provided to all computer systems in the campus.

New Servers introduced . Total server infrastructure available in IIFT in 2006-07 as follows:

Delhi

- a. IBM Blade centre with 5 blade servers connected to SAN storage device
- b. Sun Enterprise-450 servers- 2 nos
- c. HP Proliant DL 380- 1 no.
- d. Sun Cobalt RAQ-XTR- 1 no.

Kolkata

- e. HCL WIN 2003- 1no.
- f. HP Proliant DL 380- 1 no.

28. Computer and internet access and training to teachers and students:

Continuation of computer training facility to teachers and students through the computer centre and also staff. Internet access provided to all through laying of more lease lines and faster connectivity.

29. Financial aid to students:

Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai awarded five scholarships to the meritorious students of two-year full-time MBA(IB) 2005-07 programme. The scholarship covers part of tuition fee subject to a maximum of Rs. 32,500 per student and does not cover hostel and/or other fees. Five students were awarded the scholarship for the academic year 2006-07.

In addition to the above scholarship, Export-Import Bank of India also awards one scholarship to a student belonging to SC/ST category of two-year full-time MBA(IB) every year. Under this scholarship, the total tuition fee of the student is awarded as scholarship amount. For 2006-07, the scholarship of Rs. 62, 500 was awarded to one student.

30. Support from the Alumni Association and its Activities:

Mentorship programme started with the support of the alumnus

31. Support from the Parent-Teacher Association and its Activities:

Not Applicable

32. Health services:

Part time consulting physician engaged to provide medical consultation to students, faculty and employees and to inspect kitchen and canteen from hygiene point of view along with checks on food quality.

33. Performance in sports activities:

Students participated in several inter-B school competition and won TT Doubles at Chakravayuha Sports Meet organised at IMT Ghaziabad.

34. Incentives to outstanding sportspersons: None

35. Student achievements and awards: Details attached- Annexure 1

35. Activities of the Guidance and Counselling Cell:

CPA has been proactive in providing the same

36. Placement services provided to students:

100% placement. Details in attached document- Annexure 2

37. Development programmes for non-teaching staff:

3 programmes conducted

38. Best practices of the institution:

Peer review of all courses, strong feedback mechanism for evaluation of course and faculty

39. Linkages developed with National / International, academic / research bodies:

See attached list - Annexure 3

40. Any other relevant information: NA

Part C: Detail the plans of the institution for the next year

- Expanding reach of quality executive education
- Increasing use of technology in evaluation process
- Upgradation of computer systems
- Putting in place measurement and incentive system for faculty

Name & Signature
of the Coordinator, IQAC

Name & Signature
of the Chairperson, IQAC