



UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC)

Alumni Feedback 2021-22

About University of Madras

University of Madras is one of the three affiliating institutions established by the British in 1857. The University was organised on the model of London University. It takes pride in being the mother to all Universities in South India. The enactment of the Madras University Act, 1923 greatly encouraged the research and teaching functions of the University. Keeping in line with the motto of this great institution 'Doctrina Vim Promovet Insitam' which means Learning Promotes one's own innate knowledge, the University has been striving to deliver quality higher education to the masses for the past 164 years. Keep furtherance of knowledge in various disciplines and subjects as its primary goal, the University with 73 Departments offers Post Graduate courses as well as research and development activities through Post-Doctoral (D.Sc/D.Litt/LLD), Doctoral and M.Phil degrees to the students. The prime objectives of the University are to encourage and support continuously: (a) socially relevant education, (b) improvement of the quality of education and (c) an equitable access to all sections of the society to higher education.

The University under the capable leadership of the Vice-Chancellor supported by the Syndicate, Senate, Academic Council and the faculty of the Departments take holistic decisions and actions bearing in mind its primary goal. The mission and vision statements are framed such as to remain accountable to all the stake holders including the students, teachers, employees, employers, alumni, the society as a whole and the Government. The Vision statements of the University are

- To inculcate values of Equality, Unity and Justice.
- To make our education relevant and excellent.
- To promote educational programmes in various disciplines of knowledge with synergistic interaction with society and industry.
- To contribute to the advancement of knowledge through research, publication and disseminations.

- To provide leadership in higher education by imparting quality and socially relevant knowledge.
- To develop aptitudes and skills of students to equip them to face the challenges and needs of fast changing society.
- To give greater opportunity to women in order to prepare them to be effective leaders.
- To make students to be conscious of their duty to the country and to fellow human beings.

University of Madras is one of the top ranked Universities in India. The recently released Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings, which is a London-based higher education analytics firm has ranked University of Madras in the 541-550 band. It is ranked one among the 41 Indian Universities featured in the list and 2nd in the State of Tamil Nadu. In 2021, it was ranked at 28th position among the top 100 Universities by NIRF while it was ranked at 22nd position out of 100 in 2020. The university is ranked at 47th for the overall category by NIRF 2021. To maintain the quality standards and to carry out periodic checks to the education system, the University Authorities conduct the Academic Audits, Student Feedbacks and so on every year through the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), for the Students, Research Scholars, Faculty and Administrative Staff. This periodic internal assessment helps in updating the Syllabus/curriculum on a timely basis and also address any shortcomings in the academic process. During the year 2020-21 the IQAC audit and feedback mechanism was carried out using questionnaires in the online format. The feedback data was analysed and the results are discussed in the following sections.

The subsequent section details about the IQAC and its functions at the University of Madras.

About IQAC

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) proposes that all accredited institutions must establish Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) as a post-accreditation quality sustenance measure. Since, quality enhancement is a continuous process; the IQAC is a part of the institution's system and work towards realization of the goals of quality enhancement and sustenance. The prime task of the IQAC is to develop a system for conscious, consistent and catalytic improvement in the overall performance of institutions.

In line with the NAAC mandate, the University of Madras has established IQAC with effect from 01.07.2005. The University has been accredited by NAAC with 5-star status in 2000 followed up the IInd and IIIrd Cycle with 'A' grade in 2007 and 2014 respectively.

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) Committee was reconstituted on 14.01.2020 and the members of the IQAC are nominated as per the guidelines of the NAAC. The IQAC plays a vital role in the re-accreditation process, as the cell reviews the quality of education in the University in following ways:

➤ **Conduct of Academic Audit:**

The IQAC conducts academic audit for all the University Departments, by inviting subject experts from other Universities/Institutions to review the syllabus, question paper and answer scripts of the students of the respective Department. The report submitted by the expert is placed before the IQAC Advisory Committee and the same also placed before the Syndicate. Following which, as per the recommendation of the Syndicate, the report submitted by the experts will be sent to the Heads of the concerned Departments for further action.

➤ **Feedback Mechanism:**

The IQAC being at the helm of maintaining Quality at the University has a robust feedback mechanism in place. Feedback is collected from all stakeholders including Students, Scholars, Faculty, Administrative Staff, Employers and Alumni. Feedback is collected in the form of questionnaires. The questions are designed to quantitatively assess the performance and quality indicators of the process and infrastructure at the University. The periodic feedback assessment helps to maintain quality and foster a healthy environment between the stakeholders. The feedback is based on 5-point scale. This feedback is again scrutinized and placed before the IQAC Advisory Committee and the same is placed before the Syndicate. Subsequently the scrutinized feedback is sent to all faculty through the Heads of the Departments.

➤ **Annual Quality Assurance Report**

As per the direction of NAAC, the Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) must be submitted according to the prescribed format every year. The AQAR consists of the data of the University for the academic year, which includes details of academic activity, research

activity, financial resources, publications details and etc. IQAC prepares the report diligently.

➤ **Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for faculty:**

IQAC provides supports the promotion activities of faculty in various cadres under Career Advancement Scheme, by screening applications according to the API (Academic Performance Indicators) guidelines provided by the UGC.

➤ **Capacity Building Activities:**

From time to time, the IQAC conducts programmes for faculty regarding promotion under CAS. It also conducts programmes for IQAC Coordinators and Principals of affiliated colleges as well as for faculty members of the Departments of the University.

All the reports prepared by the Cell are scrutinised by the IQAC Advisory Committee and the same is placed before the Syndicate. Thus, the IQAC ensures the quality of the institution is maintained and helps for the betterment of the students. University of Madras adheres to the NAAC mandate and the IQAC team coordinates and tenaciously works to uphold the quality at the University level.

Scope of IQAC

The major aim of IQAC is to ensure quality at the university level, the IQAC team collects feedback from various stakeholders including Students, Faculty, Administrative Staff, Employers and Alumni. The feedback is collected using various questionnaires designed to assess the performance based on a Likert scale. From the academic year 2017-18 onwards, the student feedback is collected through the Online mode, prior to this the student feedback was collected through printed questionnaires for the academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18. The significance of IQAC, University of Madras are listed below:

- IQAC at the University of Madras acts as the nodal agency to ensure quality teaching, research and extension activities.
- It enhances adoption and dissemination of best practices.
- It warrants periodic conduct of academic and administrative audit and its follow up.
- Builds an organised system of documentation and internal communication.
- Enhances dynamic changes to quality improvement and assists in decision making for the University Departments.

Limitations

1. Although IQAC attempts to collect data from all sectors, there are certain limitations to the survey that is carried out. Some of the limitations are listed below:
2. Since the survey is not mandatory, hence achieving 100% participation from all stakeholders is not possible.
3. The questions are designed as closed response rating scales, hence the analysis is more quantitative in nature.
4. The rating scale is prone to subjective evaluation and hence sometimes provide unreliable results.
5. The rating scale questionnaire may not reveal accurate results.

Methodology

The methodology adopted to determine the quality includes data collection using questionnaire and data analysis using appropriate techniques. The IQAC collects data from all stakeholders to analyse the performance and to ensure quality for all University Departments/Centres. There are separate questionnaires that are prepared to analyse the performance and effectiveness of the various stakeholders. Each questionnaire is thoughtfully prepared to quantitatively assess the quality indicators. The questionnaires are closed ended responsive, which provides the respondent to choose from the best possible options to reveal their thoughts and feelings. The questionnaire consists of statements to assess the quality of infrastructure and relationship between the administrative staff and the University. The options are on a 5-point rating scale, similar to a Likert scale that ranges from 1-5 as defined below:

1- Strongly Disagree; 2- Disagree; 3- Neutral; 4- Agree; 5- Strongly Agree

The questionnaire helps to measure the satisfaction levels and acts as an input measure to make necessary changes towards improvement of academic activities at the University. The various questionnaires are analysed and the results are documented and discussed in the forthcoming sections.

Analysis:

Feedback from Alumni is collected and analysed to incorporate their opinions and ideas to improve the facilities at their alma mater. A total number of 13 closed end response questions were asked and the responses are obtained on a rating scale from 1- 5, 5 being strongly agree and 1 being strongly disagree. Responses from 170 research scholars from

various departments from sciences, social science and physical education have been collected and analysed.

1. Course content related to the programme

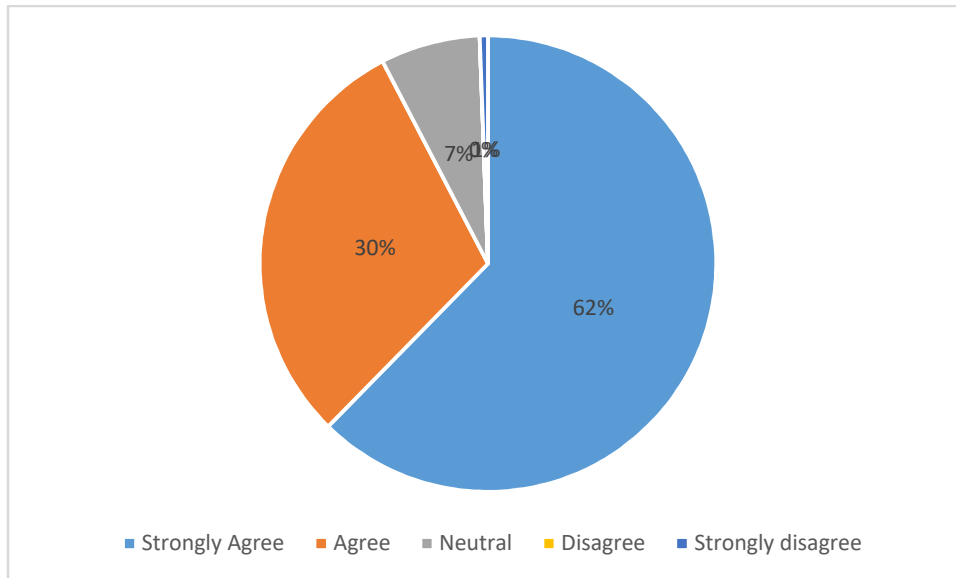


Figure i: Course content related to the programme

More than 92% of the alumni agree that the course content is relevant to the programme offered. Around 7% of the are neutral and only a negligible 1% disagree with the statement.

2. Course of the study was relevant to real life application

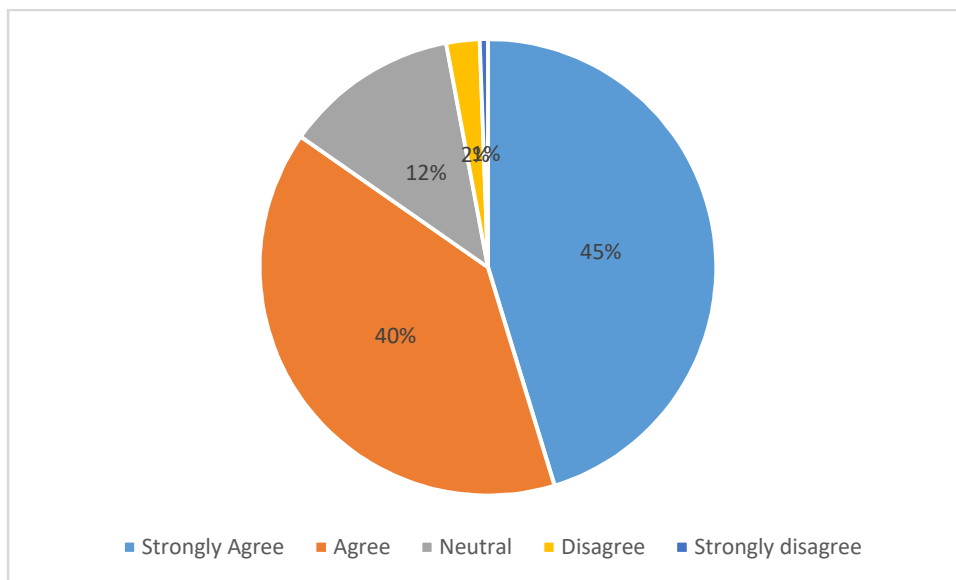


Figure ii: Course of the study was relevant to real life application

It is observed that more than 85% of the alumni feel that the course of the study is relevant to real life application. Although 12 % are neutral to the statement and less than 5% disagree.

3. Course creates interest to pursue research

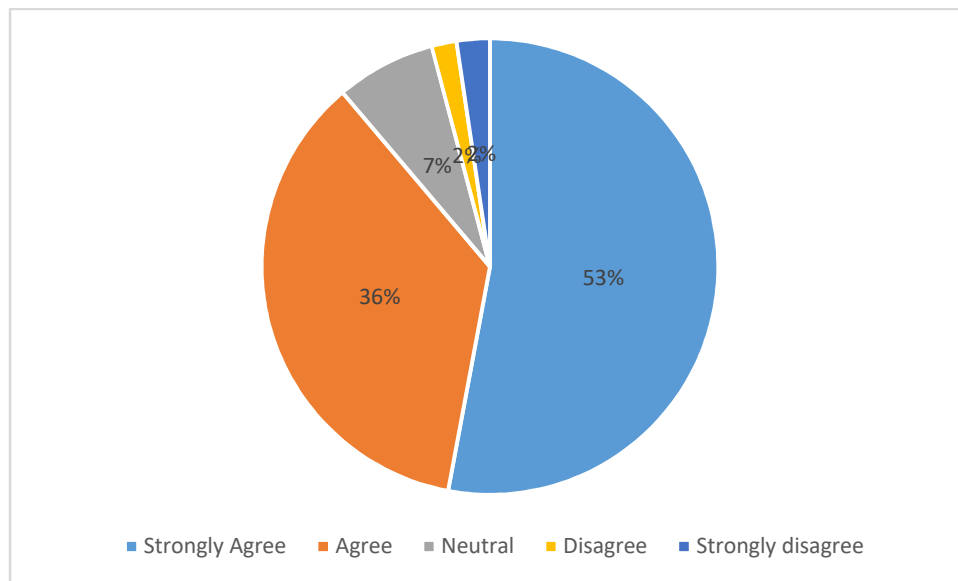


Figure iii: Course creates interest to pursue research

It is observed from the above figure that 89% of the alumni feel that the course promotes interest towards higher education and research. Less than 10 % disagree with 7% remaining neutral.

4. Skill related courses included in the programme

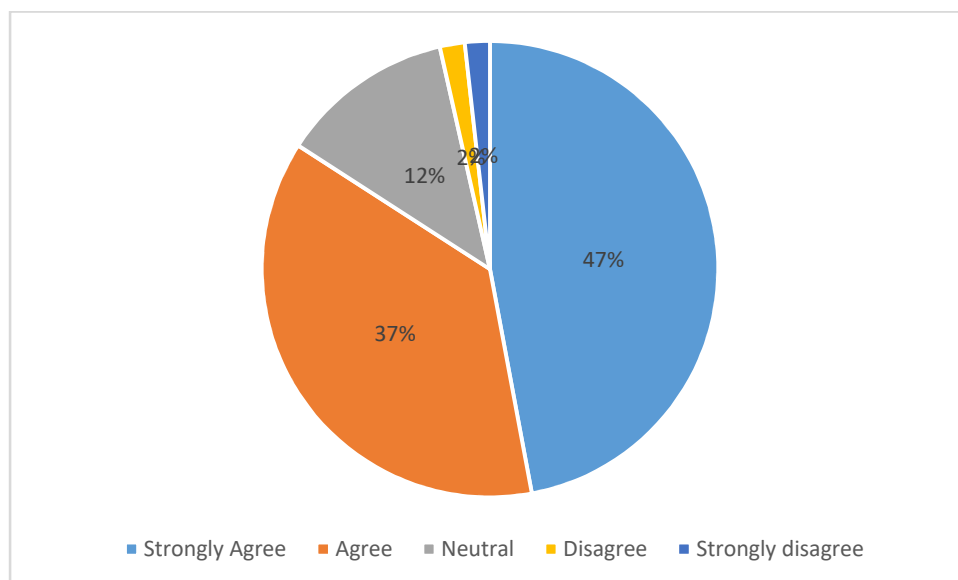


Figure iv: Skill related courses related in the programme

It is important to address the skills required at the work environment to achieve good and complete education. Overall more than 84% of the scholars agree with the skill development courses that are offered at the university. 12 % are neutral while less than 5% disagree.

5. Reading material was made available

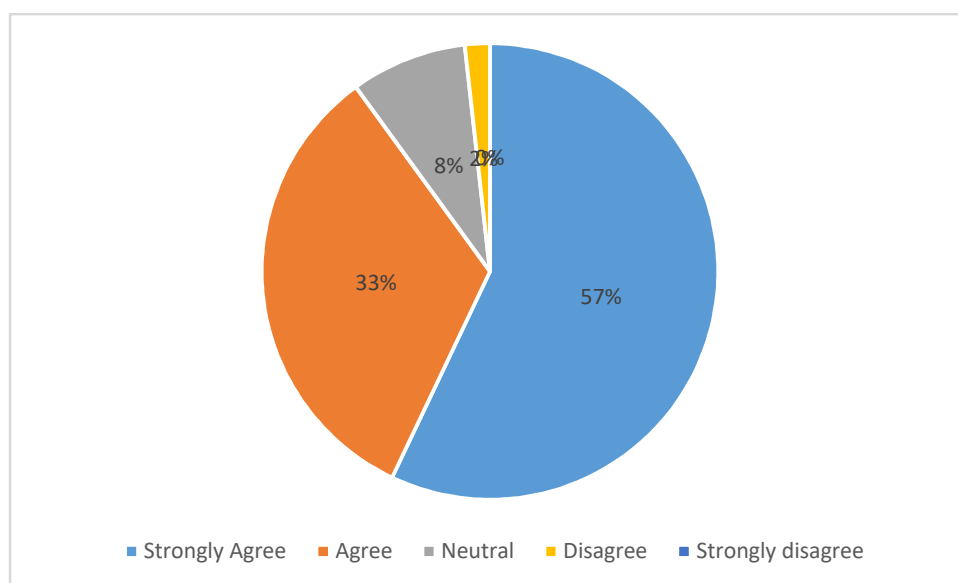


Figure v: Reading material was made available

90% of the respondents strongly agree to the availability of books and reference materials in their respective research areas, while less than 10% are neutral and disagree to the availability of reading material at the University.

6. Courses related to the current job market

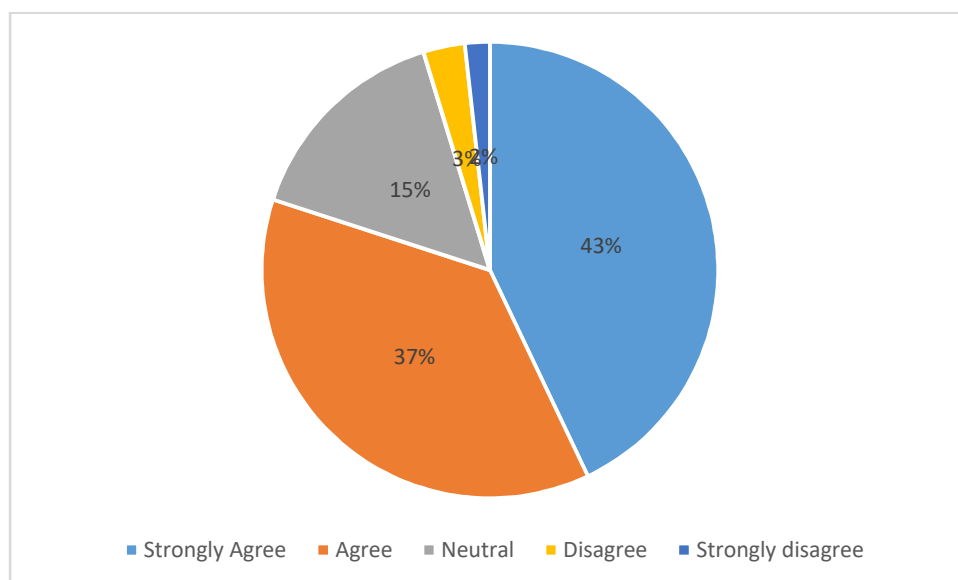


Figure vi: Courses related to current job market

The above figure indicates that 80% of the respondents agree that the courses available are related to the current work environment and serve the needs of the employers. However

15% are neutral and less than 10% disagree with the statement and feel that there can be more industry – academia collaboration.

7. Career counselling and guidance were effective

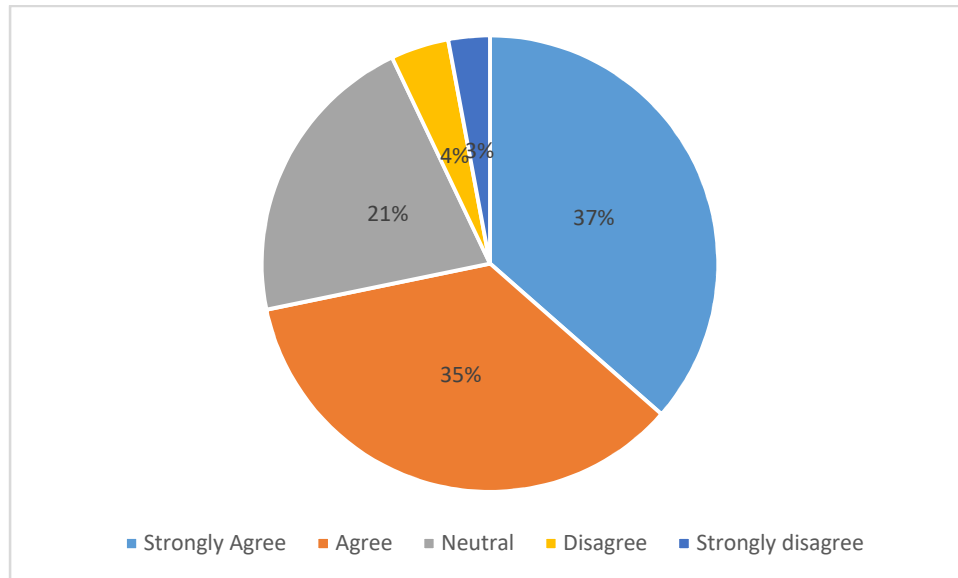


Figure vii: Career counselling and guidance were effective

72% of the respondents (37% strongly agree and 35% agree) are happy with the career counselling facility offered at the University. They feel that the guidance offered is very helpful, however 21% are neutral to the statement and less than 8% disagree.

8. Teaching practices were innovative

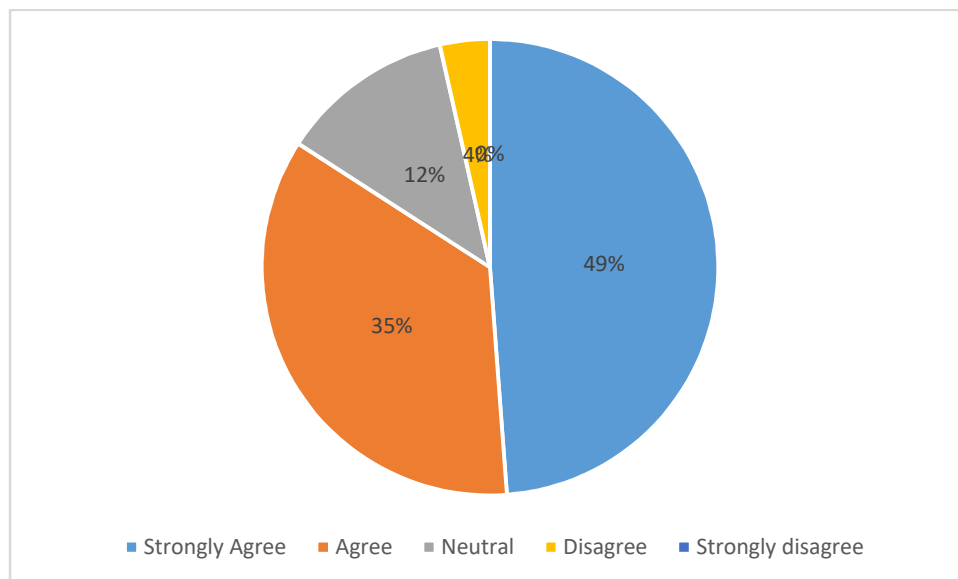


Figure viii: Teaching practices were innovative

49% of the respondents strongly agree while 35% of the respondents agree that the teaching practices were innovative, while 12% were neutral and less than 10% disagreed.

9. Learning experience in terms of teaching and learning was good

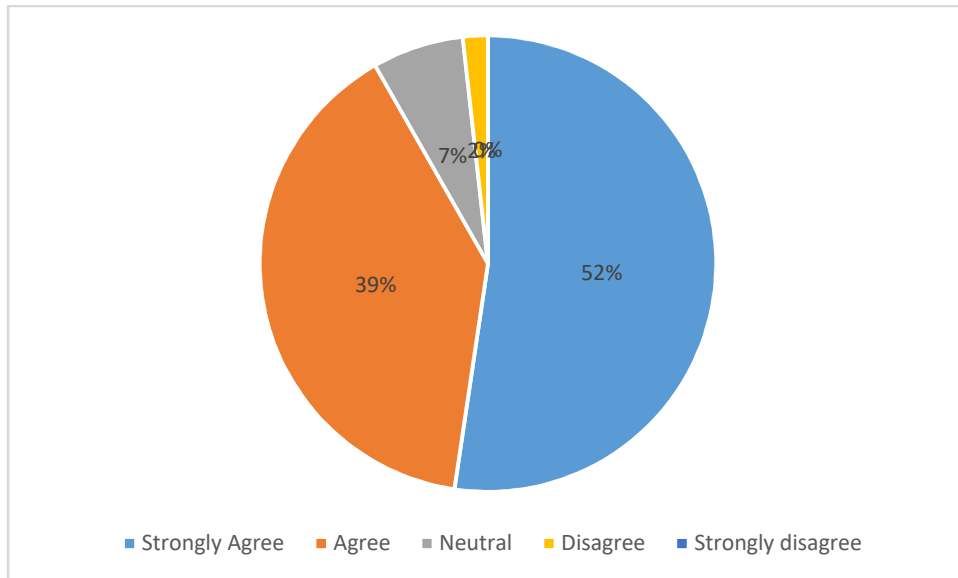


Figure ix: Learning experience in terms of teaching and learning was good

Figure x:

Maximum respondents of the alumni feel and strongly agree that leaning with respect to teaching and learning was very good and less than 5% disagree with the statement.

10. Infrastructure was excellent

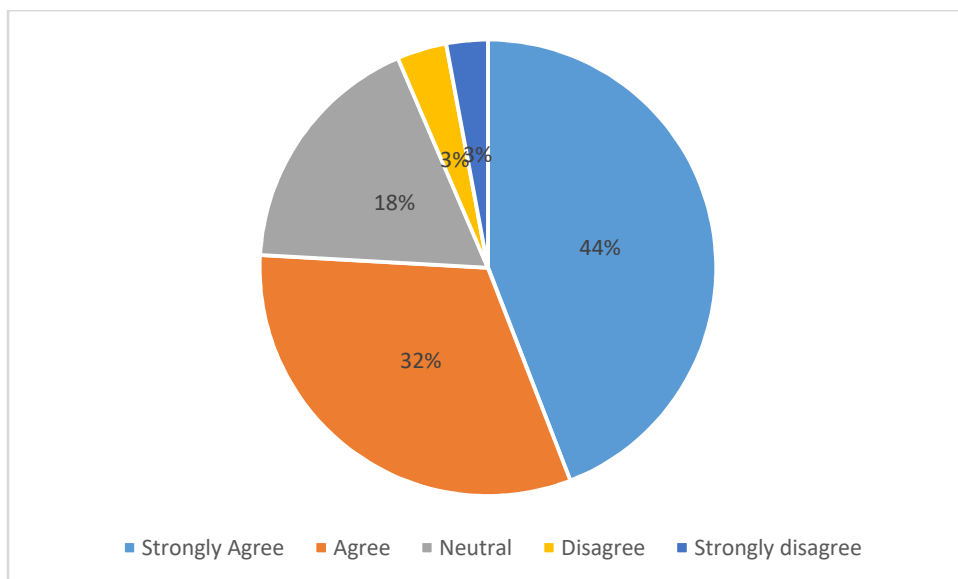


Figure xi: Infrastructure was excellent

Most of the alumni are happy and strongly agree (44%), 32% agree with the availability of labs and infrastructure facility at the university. 18% feel that there could be some improvement while less than 5% disagree with the infrastructure.

11. Employability skills enhanced during internship

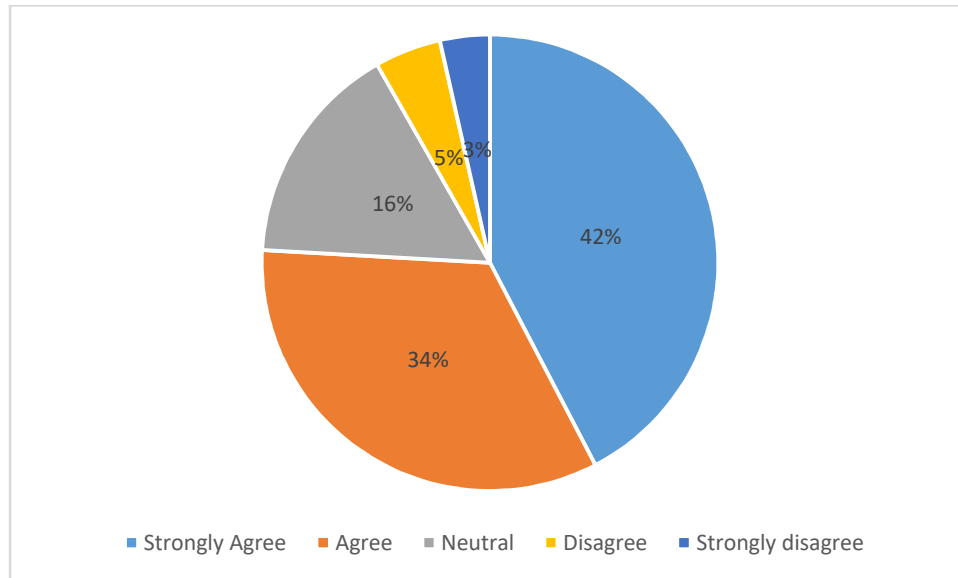


Figure xii: Employability skills enhanced during internship

90% of the research scholars are satisfied with the overall research ambience at the University. They also feel the university environment is conducive for research and learning opportunities. Only 2% of the respondents strongly disagree. This is also consistent with the responses to all the other questions.

12. Innovative and application driven projects undertaken

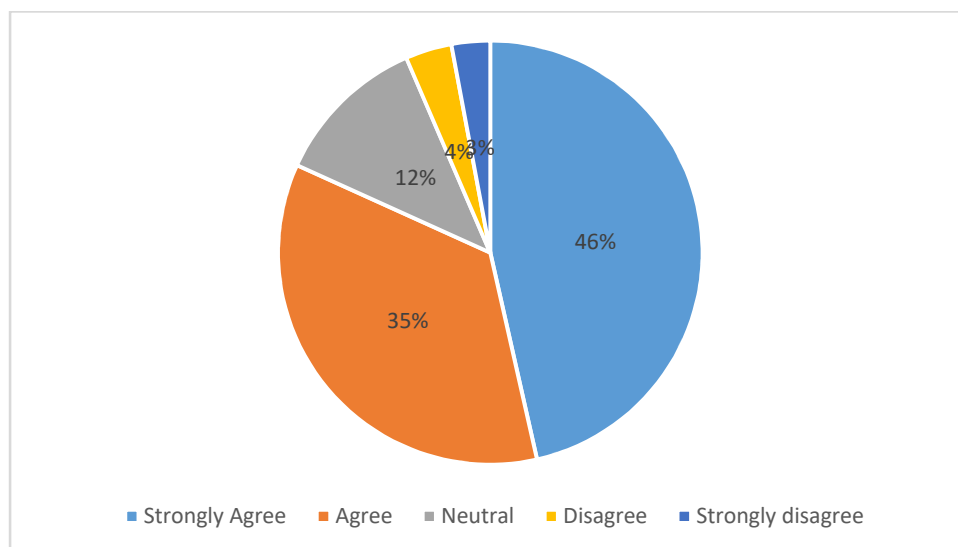


Figure xiii: Innovative and application driven projects undertaken

With regard to the innovative and application, 81% of the alumni agree that there are a lot of innovation driven opportunities provided. Although there are 12% who are neutral and less than 10% disagree to the statement. It is heartening to note that many of our alumni have been part of the start-up schemes and the Management and Commerce Departments organise innovation drives at the University.

13. Fieldwork provided real time problem solving experience

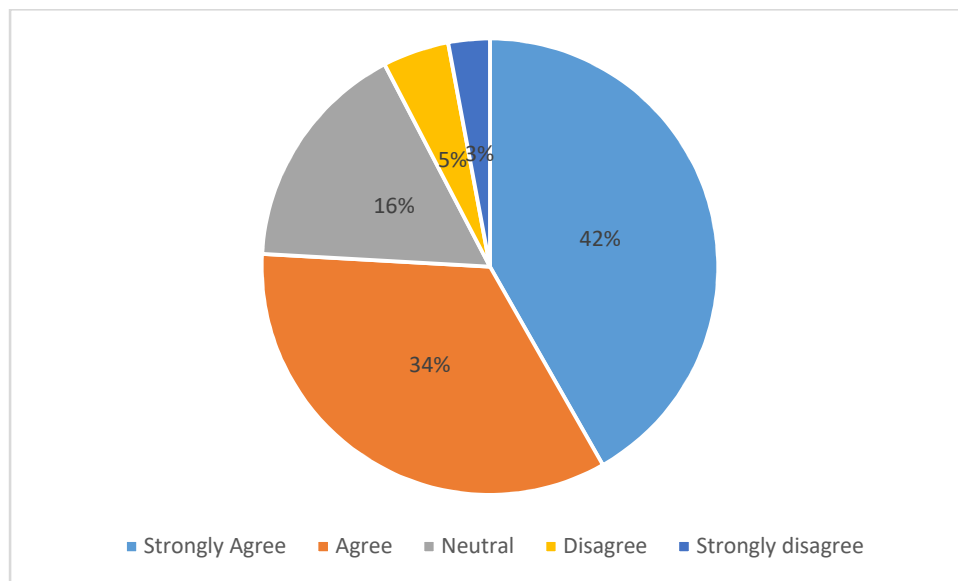


Figure xiv: Fieldwork provided real time problem solving experience

Fieldwork and internships are mandatory to the completion of the Post Graduate Courses at the University of Madras. This is visible from the above figure which indicates that 76% of the respondents who agree to the statement and 16 % are neutral while less than 8% disagree.

Conclusion:

The analysis for the alumni feedback collected indicates that majority of the alumni are very happy and satisfied with the educational experience at the University of Madras. There is concern only from less than 10% of the respondents. The concerns will be addressed soon by the University authorities. The authorities will strive further on to maintain this satisfaction index and give the best possible amenities and conveniences to promote study experience at the university.