

Report of the Peer Team on the Institutional Accreditation of the Shravannath Math Jawaharlal Nehru College Hardwar, Uttaranchal.

Section I: Preface

Shravannath Math Jawaharlal Nehru College, popularly known as S.M.J.N. College, Hardwar, Uttaranchal, affiliated to H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar was established in the year 1960 by late Shri 108 Mahant Mahadevnathji of Shri Shravannath Math and was passed on to its parent body Panchayati Akhara Shri Niranjani to be managed through its Shiksha Arogya Samiti to promote higher education in the region. Initially the College was affiliated to Agra University, Agra. In 1967, the affiliation of the college was transferred to the Meerut University, Meerut (presently CCS University, Meerut). Since November 2001, the College is affiliated to the H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal with the formation of Uttaranchal. Through the past 44 years, the College is providing a fairly good education particularly to the female students of the area.

The College is spread over an area of 29330 Sq. Mtrs and is situated in Govindpuri Colony, just half a kilometer from the Haridwar railway station and inter-state bus terminus. The College has grown into a good institution with a student strength of 2147 students(1310 Female & 837 Male) on regular basis. The College has the faculty of Arts & Commerce with the subjects of English, Economics, Hindi, History, Pol. Science, Sanskrit, Sociology and Commerce. The College has 15 permanent teachers

including 10 Readers, 2 Selection Grade Lecturers and 3 Senior Grade Lecturers (2 Female & 13 Male) and 17 working on part-time basis (8 Female & 9 Male). Besides the College has a strength of 21 Non-Teaching Staff (1 Female & 20 Male). The Non-Teaching Staff includes 9 Class-III and 12 Class-IV Employees. The College has a good number of buildings like Arts Block, Commerce Block, Central Library, PG Block and Staff Cabins. The College has 2 Under-Graduate Programmes, 5 Post-Graduate Programmes & 5 PhD. approved research centres.

The College applied for institutional accreditation by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore. The self-study report necessary was submitted to NAAC in the month of December 2003. The Peer Team consisting of three experts namely Dr. K.L. Johar, former Vice-Chancellor, Guru Jambheshwar University, Hisar (Haryana) as Chairperson, Dr. R.K. Behl, Professor of Geography & Education (Retd.), Punjab University, Chandigarh as Member and Dr. Usha Mukundan, Vice-Principal, Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai as Member Co-ordinator visited the College on March 3 & 4, 2004 for validation of the self-study report and for accreditation.

The peer team went into the detailed study of the various support services. It interacted with the Principal, members of teaching and non-teaching staff, Students, alumni, parents and the Managing Committee. The peer team took a round of the various departments. On the basis of self-study report, interaction with various components of the college and information provided by the Principal, the following observations crystallized.

Section II: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion 1: Curricular Aspects

Besides the faculties of Commerce and Humanities at the Under-Graduate level, the college is running six Post-Graduate programmes in the subjects of English, Hindi, Economics, Pol.Science, Sociology & Commerce. At the Under-Graduate level, besides the subjects enumerated above, subjects of History and Sanskrit are also being taught. Post-Graduate programmes have been introduced in phases at various points of time. It is satisfying to note that Post-Graduate departments of English, Hindi, Economics, Pol.Science and Sociology have university approved research centres where the students have been enrolled for Ph.D. programmes. To that extent, the college offers a fairly good research orientation. The teaching is consistent with institutional objectives.

Since it is an affiliated college, the curricular contents are based on broad framework designed by the University. The revision of the curriculum is the task of the affiliating university. However, it was informed that the members are closely associated with some of the university bodies and thereby help in the formulation of the syllabi. However, the faculty has to take a little more interest for inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary components keeping in view the stipulations of employability and other social requirements. It is suggested that feed back on these programmes may be obtained from the various components and the community on a

regular basis. Interaction with the academic peers and employers will also help enrich various aspects of academic life in the college.

There is no doubt that the college works under serious academic and financial constraints. But it is suggested that more courses which are job-oriented are introduced in the interest of the students. Some such programmes can be vocational in nature under UGC scheme. More programmes related with existing courses with computer inputs may also be considered.

Criterion 2: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

It is a matter of common knowledge that the end of all educational activity is to promote human and intellectual capital of tall order. The college is trying its best to provide quality education to the students in various academic programmes at UG and PG programmes. Admissions are made according to the rules formulated by the university and the state government. The college prospectus is printed in advance and it contains all necessary information with regard to admission, fee structure and other details. The process is absolutely transparent.

The admissions are on the basis of merit. Although, there is good number of admission seekers at the undergraduate level, but some of the postgraduate programmes are starved for students. For instance the subjects like Hindi, Pol. Science and Sociology have a strength of 3, 14 & 8 students respectively as against the sanctioned intake of 60 in each subject. On the

other hand, admissions in the subjects of Commerce, English and Economics are flourishing.

It is learnt that the teachers identify weak students and help them to come up to the level of obtaining pass percentage. However, it will be appreciated if remedial courses are introduced for weaker students on regular basis, even if some funds have to be provided by the college management. It will not only help alleviate the complexes suffered by the students belonging to disadvantaged sections of the society, but also improve the college results. Similarly, it has been seen that although the college results are reasonably good, there are very few merit positions. It will be appreciated if advanced students are provided extra coaching to ensure their placement in merit in various university examinations.

Chalk and talk method in teaching continues in the college. It will be appreciated if college supplements the lecture method of teaching through OHP, LCD Projector and computer aided devices. It is suggested that seminars and faculty development programmes may be organized from time to time for more frequent exposure of the students and teachers to the latest trends of knowledge. The college may like to go in for centralized media to prepare audio-visual and other teaching aids.

It was noted with satisfaction that the students are informed in advance about the system of evaluation through college prospectus, notice boards and verbal communication.

The recruitment of teachers is on all India basis through open advertisement as per UGC qualifications, government norms and university rules. This is being done by State Recruitment Commission. New teaching positions are created by the Directorate of Higher Education on a request by the college. However, tutors on temporary basis on meagre emoluments of Rs. 100/- per lecture are appointed as per rules of the state government by the college authority. The peer team feels that the work-load is on the higher side and more teachers on temporary/adhoc basis may be appointed. It is also felt that the faculty may be encouraged to take additional academic initiatives. However, it is satisfying to note that the teachers are engaged in research at personal level by publishing papers in various national and international journals, by publication of books and also by guiding scholars in research registered in their postgraduate departments.

But to give further fillip to research and interaction, the college authorities may consider to earmark some funds for deputing teachers to attend national level workshops and seminars as the knowledge gained on these platforms will surely percolate down to the student level. It was noted that only one teacher participated in national level seminar. The faculty needs to be more computer savvy and in this respect internet accessibility should be provided to them.

The Principal informed that there is no system for self-appraisal of the faculty. It will be appreciated if a proforma, preferably one designed by UGC in this regard is introduced and the teachers fill up the proforma on annual basis. It is believed that such an exercise leaves a lot of scope for introspection and helps improve the academic health of the college.

The peer team feels that although the teachers are doing their best academically, the guest faculty be invited on larger scale for better exposure and interaction.

The college which had 88 teaching days during the year 2001-02, had 118 teaching days during the year 2002-03. The principal explained that a time slot of five months is left for teaching after we take into account two months summer break, three examinations i.e. one annual examination, two re-appear examinations and other gazzeted holidays. However, it is suggested that all possible steps be taken to fix schedule in a manner that number of teaching days conforms to the UGC stipulation of 180 days. But it is appreciated that college office works for about 250 days.

It has been noted that the ratio between full-time staff and temporary staff is almost 3:1. The peer team suggests that more full-time teachers be appointed for the smooth engagement of classes, extra curricular activities and sports.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

As an indication of commitment of the Principal and the teachers, the college has emerged as a research centre. As many as five departments namely English, Hindi, Pol. Science, Economics & Sociology have university approved research centres. Even teachers of postgraduate department of Commerce are doing commendable work. Many scholars

have registered themselves for Ph.D. in various departments. It is a matter of satisfaction that about 60% teachers are engaged in research. 14 teachers working on part-time/temporary basis are registered as research scholars. As many as 10 scholars were awarded Ph.D. during the last three years. The college management may consider doling out some funds to further orient its teachers towards research activity. At the same time, teachers may submit research projects to UGC and various other funding agencies for financial support.

Linkage with various industrial units may also be of some help. The college may think of taking steps to do job work and render consultancy services to banks and other units through the experience and expertise of the teachers.

It was a good experience to interact with teacher-incharges of NSS & NCC. These two units are rendering useful service in the area. Whereas, NCC makes the college life colourful on various ceremonial occasions, NSS unit is working for community development, health & hygiene, adult education, literacy, AIDS awareness and other areas of social concern. Students of NCC take part in national functions like Republic Day not only at the district level but also in the Republic Day Parade at Delhi. It will be appreciated if the college applies for additional units in NSS & NCC and spread their wings in the various extension services in the rural belt.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Situated in the heart of the town, the college has prime land of about 7.5 acres. It has a building complex consisting of Arts Block, Commerce Block, P.G. Block, Office Complex, Central Library and Staff cabins. Separate rooms have been provided for extension services like NSS & NCC. There is a medical room and the doctor visits on part-time basis everyday. The college has separate examination section. Girls are provided with a common room sans facilities of wash and toilet. The college authorities may look into the matter on priority and give the girls a better accommodation as common room. The college has a Career Bureau where press-clippings for various type of employment are displayed along with various magazines and other periodicals. It is mostly manned by the senior students of the college. Generator facilities are available as stand-by arrangement as power failure is not uncommon.

The college has received UGC grants for putting up a non-resident students centre and computer centre. The college is also planning to have an auditorium and gymnasium in the near future. The college has made arrangements for indoor and outdoor games. But in the absence of a regular or even a part-time sports officer there is not much coordinated effort to promote sports. Outstanding sports persons are provided Sports Kits and prizes whenever they represent the college in state or inter-collegiate competitions. It is satisfying to note that 34 students of the college participated in state level/inter-collegiate or inter-university games and won 3 silver & 9 bronze medals. The peer team feels that even though there are

some achievements, much more can be achieved in the fields of sports and extra curricular activities.

The library has 29000 books and the college also subscribes to 50 journals and periodicals. However, in the course of visit, it was noticed that the library is in a dilapidated state and a portion thereof had already collapsed but it was informed that a sum of Rs. 10.00 lacs had already been earmarked for revamping of the library. Although there is an advisory committee to monitor the functioning of the library, it will be appreciated if the college authorities appoint a qualified librarian and computerize the library with internet facility. However, it was appreciated that the library works for 274 days.

The college authorities agree that a good computer centre is the need of the hour. The peer team also emphasized this point in their interaction with the Chairman and other members of the Managing Committee. The Principal informed that the management has agreed to spare a sum of Rs. 12.00 lacs initially for putting up a good computer centre with internet accessibility.

It will be appreciated if the canteen facilities with seating arrangement for about 100 students is provided at the earliest in the non-resident student centre likely to be put up with UGC assistance.

It was noted that class rooms are spacious, airy and well lighted. However, furniture is not in good shape and steps may be taken to provide better furniture.

It is hoped that with the enlightened management and progressive outlook of the college authorities, the task of providing necessary infrastructure conducive to proper academic exercise is neither difficult nor impossible.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

During the last four decades of its existence, the college has made significant contribution in building up human resources in the educationally backward region of Haridwar. The college has produced thousands of graduates who have obtained either gainful employment or have taken to various types of business activity. The Principal assured the peer team that the college will continue to do so with renewed vigour and provide better human resource with added facilities and infrastructure.

The college brings out a College Prospectus on annual basis and it contains comprehensive information regarding procedure of admissions, fee structure, number of seats etc. It gives clear picture of the admission rules and the university system of examination.

The admissions are made on merit. The university and government rules are strictly adhered to. The policy of reservation in admission is observed. Many students benefit from the financial assistance received as stipends and scholarships from the union and the state government. Transparency is the hallmark of the accounting pattern which is appreciated.

The peer team feels that NGOs and Alumni association may also be associated with this exercise to further promote the interests of the students.

Although the college is taking steps towards personality development through sports, extension services and competitions, yet the peer team feels that more steps need to be taken in this direction to raise the level of confidence of the student community which is so very important in this era of globalization and international competitiveness.

Steps need to be taken to reduce the drop-out rate which is as high as 14%. The college results are reasonably good. Many graduates join postgraduate programmes. Those who clear postgraduate examination appear for the UGC (NET) examination and join teaching as a profession. But the peer team suggests that the steps be taken to prepare the students for various competitive examinations in state, banking and railway & civil services etc. It is appreciable that the college has set up Career Bureau and guidance centre to guide the students in this direction. It is hoped that the college with its limited resources will bring about all round development and work more wholeheartedly to promote the interest of their student clientele.

Criterion 6: Organisation and Management

The college was founded by late Shri 108 Mahant Mahadevnathji of Shri Shrivannath Math and passed on to its parent body Panchayati Akhara Shri Niranjani to be managed through its Shiksha Arogya Samiti. A meeting with two saints namely Mahant Shri Hargovind Puri & Mahant Shri

Ramanand Puri and two other members of the Managing Committee namely Shri Prem Prakash Bhalla & Shri Rammurti Vir were very rewarding. The energetic Principal Dr. S.S. Jaiswal has an excellent work relationship with the management and monitors all the departments in the college. The relationship between various components of the college i.e. Management, Principal, staff and students presents a picture of an experiment in democratic living. The college has an efficient internal coordination and monitoring mechanism. The college is functioning through various committees. As the ban on recruitment by the state continues, the college managing committee permits the principal to make appointments of tutors to meet the faculty requirement.

The college has grievances redressal cell which handles the grievances of the faculty, staff and the students. The peer team feels that the college should have inbuilt mechanism to improve the work efficiency of the faculty and the non-teaching staff. The teachers and non-teaching staff should be called upon to fill up self-appraisal proforma on annual basis. The college authorities may like to conduct faculty development programmes as also arrange a week long computer awareness programme for the non-teaching staff.

It is appreciated that even with moderate fee structure and no tuition fees for girls students, the college is pulling on in a reasonably good manner. But in order to improve and modernize, the educational machinery has to be greased and oiled with more funds which is not impossible when the college has produced a large alumni and is now being run by an all important and extremely resourceful Niranjani Akhara.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices.

The college has evolved a concept of participatory management in which various components like the teachers, Principal, Management and the students participate in decision making thereby leaving no room for conflict and recrimination.

The teachers keep a constant check on the students and through close interaction do not allow any chinks to develop. The Principal tries to sort out the problems of the teachers and the students with patience, sympathy and understanding.

The college brings out a prospectus with comprehensive information including fee structure, duration of course, choice of subjects, system of evaluation and all other rules and regulations.

Within its limitation, the college is trying to work for all around development of personality of students. This is done through General Knowledge Tests, quiz programmes, debates & group discussions.

Community services are sought to be promoted through National Service Scheme and NCC.

The college has undertaken to organize camps to bring about AIDS awareness, protection from environmental hazards and literacy drive.

The college lays emphasis on spirituality and value added education particularly under the guidance of the saintly management structure.

Members of the faculty unitize the syllabi and prepare academic calendar much ahead of the commencement of the session and are fully committed to the growth of the students.

Section III: Overall Analysis

The college has been trying for the last 44 years to meet the objectives of providing higher education to the students of educationally backward region both at the graduate and postgraduate level. The college authorities, within their limitations with regard to financial resources, ban on recruitment have been making concerted efforts to improve the quality of education. But the members of NAAC team feel that there is considerable scope for overall improvement. If there is good progress in certain aspects, there are areas of concern which can not be overlooked.

Commendations

- The college has done fairly good work during the 44 years of its existence and has produced a good number of graduates and postgraduates. This fact was in evidence at the meeting of alumni association
- The account system of the college is very transparent where every penny has been accounted for.

- NSS unit of the college is very active. It has adopted a village where adult literacy, AIDS awareness, environmental protection, hygiene and sanitation are promoted.
- NCC unit of the college is in full gear and a student of the NCC unit of the college was even selected to represent the state in Republic Day parade at Delhi.
- Introduction of postgraduate programmes has met a long felt need of the students of the area as earlier the students had to go to Dehradun for higher education.
- The college lecturers are research oriented and have registered a good number of scholars in their respective postgraduate departments.
- A close rapport between the Principal and the members of the staff on one hand and the staff and students on the other hand was noted with satisfaction.
- The management is progressive and forward looking and during interaction, promised to spare more funds for library building and computer centre.

Although the college is rendering good services in educationally backward area, particularly to the benefit of the female students, yet if the college authorities attend to and work for the implementation of the following suggestions, the college can make further progress and be one of the leading institutions in this part of the country.

Suggestions

- A computer centre with at least 25 computers is the need of the hour and the college authorities may take all necessary steps. In an era of fierce competitiveness, such a provision will be beneficial to all concerned.
- Internet accessibility may be provided initially at least on 10 computers.
- Possibility of providing a hostel may be looked into.
- An Audio-Visual material needs to be provided to add a touch of modernity to the teaching methodology.
- Members of the staff may be encouraged to participate in various faculty development programmes.
- Some computer training programmes may be organized for the non-teaching staff.
- Teachers must look into the possibilities of preparing and submitting research projects to funding agencies like UGC etc.
- The library services may be provided in the form of more books, national and international journals particularly in the postgraduate departments and computerization may be provided.
- The possibility of having part-time sports officer may be looked into.

- Canteen and girls common room of appropriate standard may be provided at the earliest.
- The college may look into introducing some self-financing courses as also some course under the vocational stream.

Name and Signatures of the Peer Team

(Dr. K.L. Johar)
Chairperson

(Dr. R.K. Behl)
Member

(Dr. Usha Mukundan)
Member Co-ordinator

I agree with the report

(Dr. S.S. Jaiswal)
Principal
S.M.J.N. College, Hardwar