

NAAC report of MV Muthiah Government Arts College for Women

SECTION1:INTRODUCTION

M. V. Muthiah Govt. Arts College for Women owes its origin to a generous philanthropic feat of the three sons of late M. V. Muthiah Pillai of Anguvilas establishment of Dindigul town. Inspired by a deep desire to provide higher education to the backward and inadequately women of the area, the three sons of the late industrialist made available 40 acres of land for starting a womens college at the place. They also donated an amount of one lakh rupees for the same purpose. It was a good incentive for the Govt. to come forward and start the present Arts College for the Women. Located between the Sirumalai hills on the one side and the Kodai hills on the other, the site has subsequently been developed into a congenial academic campus. The establishment of the of the college has undoubtedly contributed to the enlightenment and empowerment of the womenfolk of Dindigul and neighbouring areas. In fact, it has proved to be a boon to the educational, cultural and intellectual growth of the whole region for during the years after its starting, the town itself has undergone great change, finally becoming a District headquarters in the recent past.

M. V. Muthiah Govt. College for Women had the good luck to receive ample support from the local public. Parents Association extended whatever help was possible for them from time to time. Recently the Alumni Association has come forward to contribute its mite for the growth of the institution, though in a modest way. Being the only Govt. womens college of this relatively backward area, such cooperation from the parents and the old students is welcome. The Peer Team only wishes that the college authorities are able to mobilize more such help and cooperation from the local people who are the primary beneficiaries of the institution.

The college has done reasonably well in providing opportunities for higher education to the womenfolk of the Dindigul district. During the last three and a half decades of its existence, it has grown into a major educational center. It is affiliated to the Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai. The college has over two thousand students and seventy permanent and thirteen temporary teachers. The college now offers ten degree programmes, two P. G. courses, a P. G.

diploma and two certificate programmes. Nine teachers hold Ph. D and many have M. Phil degree. It seems that it is their collective academic enthusiasm that prompted them to pause, look back and take stock of the achievements of the college during the last 35 years of its existence. The process naturally led to a desire to get the college assessed and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Accordingly they volunteered for the process and submitted a self-study report for the purpose to the national apex agency. The NAAC then appointed a Peer Team to visit the college. The Team consisted of the following persons: Dr. A. N. P. Ummerkutty, former Vice Chancellor, Calicut University (Chairman) and Dr. Jagadeesha, Professor and Chairman; Dean Management Studies, Karnataka State Open University, Mysore (Member), Dr. Madhusudan Pillai, Academic Consultant, NAAC coordinated the work of the Peer Team efficiently and smoothly both during the visit of the Team and before their arrival in the Campus. The Team visited the college on 22nd and 23rd of January 2003. Before coming to the institution, the Team thoroughly studied the Self-study report and the additional information sent later by the college. During their stay in the campus, they visited all the academic and administrative departments, common facilities like the general library, the computer center, various laboratories, the hostels the auditorium, the canteen, non-resident center, health center, sports facilities etc. The Team interacted and held discussions with the Principal, the management, the faculty members, student representatives, parents, alumni and others. They also looked through all the documents that were displayed for authentication and validation. In the light of all the above, the Peer Team has pleasure in presenting the following report:

SECTION 2-CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS

CRITERION I: CURRICULAR ASPECT

M.V. Muthiah Government Arts College for women established in the year 1966, is a Arts, Science and commerce college affiliated to the Madurai Kamaraj University. It offers various UG Courses and two PG Courses, a PG diploma and a Diploma Course in Gandhian studies to achieve not only academic excellence but also to create self confidence in the minds of women students. The college, a boon to the women folk of the Dindigul district offers UG courses including B.A. in History, B.A. Tamil, B.A. English, Business Economics, B.Sc. in chemistry,

Mathematics, Geography, Zoology, Computer Science and B.Com. Course. In addition it also offers two PG courses including M.A. in English and M.A. in Tamil. The college also offers vocational courses such as PGDCA, B.Sc. in water Management and Environment to match the needs of the profession. All these courses are offered under the semester scheme of the M.K. University. The College will be affiliated to Mother Teresa University.

The programme options under B.A. have been restructured to make it career oriented. Besides Computer Science and PGDCA are also career oriented. Being an affiliated College, it has no option but to implement the academic courses as approved by the University. There are some industries in and around Dindigul. The curricula include portions on industries, environment, Water Management(B.Sc. in Zoology), History of Science and Technology, Business Economics etc. As such the college can have regular industrial linkage to make the said programme more practical.

The peer team observed that some of the faculty are the members of various Board of Studies. They make sincere efforts in getting the revised syllabus based on the needs of the society.

The college which has not been following definite feedback to improve upon the academic programmes, may develop an institutionalised mechanism for obtaining the regular feedback from the academic peers, seminar, workshop etc.

CRITERION II: TEACHING LEARNING AND EVALUATION

The college has been serving the great cause of imparting higher education to empower women mostly from the rural areas of the district. In order to achieve the objectives, the college admits candidates based on Merit-Reservation of the Tamil Nadu Government.

The College has been conducting remedial course for the benefit of linguistically weaker students. The success rate in PG, UG and Professional Course is satisfactory, though the dropout rate at UG level is found to be 10%. The college is successful in obtaining University ranks in a few disciplines. The teachers give assignments to the students periodically and communicate

them of their position. They also conduct seminar mainly to create self confidence in the minds of the students. The syllabus is unitised. Modern teaching aids such as Model, Charts, OHP and LCD are being used to make the teaching learning effective.

The college teachers conduct tutorial system, where each teacher is assigned with 20 students. In additions, the teacher offer personal counselling classes during these session. However the college require regular counselling arrangements for the benefits of students. The college has not constructed a Grievance Redressal Cell and Placements Cell, the later seems to be a need to empower women.

The college strives hard to provide good academic input. This is effected through the training of teachers. The College deputes its teachers to undergo refreshers courses organised at the University level. The teachers enrich their knowledge using library books, journals/magazines maintained in the library. Recently the college introduced internet browsing in the Department of computer science which enable the teachers in updating their knowledge. This inturn helps teachers in delivering good academic input to all the courses in general and professional courses in particular.

Self appraisal reports are submitted by the teachers only for their Carreer Advancements. But the latest technique is not adopted to evaluate the performance of the staff. Presently feedback is collected from the out going students. The peer team suggest that the regular confidential system of feed back be evolved to collect it from the current students also. Teachers participation in the seminar at state level and National level is appreciable.

CRITERION III: RESEARCH CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION

The College has been encouraging its teachers to carryout the research work. Some teachers have Ph.D., while some teachers are pursuing to their research work under FIP of the UGC. In addition, some teachers have registered for Ph.D. on part time basis. Three teachers of Tamil

Department are recognised as research guides by the Madurai Kamaraj University. A faculty member of that department was conferred by the state the best " Literacy"™ Award. One of the teachers of the department of English has participated as Resource person at the National level seminar.

The College may take some initiative in getting consultancy assignments in the area including trade, water management, environment etc.

The extension activities undertaken by the college along with Government Organization and Non-Government Organization are commendable. The broad areas of such activities includes community services, AIDS awareness, blood donation camp, Adult Education. Literacy etc. Besides the college has been creating awareness in the field including environment , health and hygiene. For this purpose, the college encourages students participating in NCC/NSS through the certificate and awards.

NSS Unit of the college is one of the best units at the University level. They have erected roads to villages and constructed a library building for the physically handicapped, erected a borewell, 33 low cost latrine and carried out desilting and renovation of channels in the rural areas. Some of the volunteers of the NSS unit have won medals and awards at not only university level but also state level. They have also engaged in rain harvesting technique in collaboration with the concerned department of the Government.

The college has NCC unit with 50 cadet operating under a second lieutenant. The officer who has already 3 years experience has expressed her inability to continue for the 2nd term. The unit seems to be not functioning properly although the cadets evinced a lot of interest. Efforts may be made to replace the officer in charge of NCC in the larger interest of such cadets.

Consumer awareness and consumer Education could well be an area of extension activities of the college. In association with the consumer Forum in Dindigul, the Rotary club of the college could spread such awareness.

CRITERION IV : INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The peer team is pleased to note that the Government has built generously the good infrastructure to run various academic programmes. The technical division of the PWD has taken up the responsibility of maintaining the college with clean and tidy. The class rooms are spacious and fit for womens college. Laboratories are well equipped. Building committee of the college reviews the situation and ensure utilization of facilities available.

The college has computer center in the Department of Computer Science. In addition, there is computer facility setup by NIIT under the "CM scheme" of computer literacy for Non-computer students. The computers are maintained by the college on "Call basis". The peer team observed there is under utilization of the facility as the centre function only during the college hours . The faculty members have voiced to make available Computer facility to all the Department.

The college has 40,000 volume strong Library but it lacks a separate Building with reference rooms. The Peer team has advised the college to strongly represent before the Govt. to construct a separate building . Some of the Departments have maintained Library books at the Department level also . As the Library is not Computerised ,it is suggested to Computerise to make it students friendly and administrative convenience. Reprographic facility may be provided taking the support from the external agency. In order to ensure effective utilization of Library, the working hours of the library need to be revised. If possible, Library can be kept opened one hour before the class starts and one hour after the close.

The college has encouraged the sports for which playground is well maintained . Some of the students have participated at the national level and won medals. Though there is good participants in sports and atheletes , physical education can be made very effective under the supervision of a physical director which has been vacant for the last several years. This adversely affects the sport activities of the college . Steps may be taken up to convince the higher ups to fill up the vacant position.

The college has a good Canteen. It also has a hostel to accommodate students from far off places. Efforts may be made to make Doctors available atleast once in a week.

CRITERION V : STUDENT SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION

The college offers UG ,PG and Diploma programmes and the total number of students is around 2000. The annual prospectus provides all the details regarding admission of various courses. Various kinds of financial aids are made available from the central and state Government besides Tamil medium stipend and merit scholarship is also extended to meritorious women students. The success rate is about 85% . Many students pursue their higher studies . No data is maintained about the oppurtunities of the students getting jobs. A few students have cleared NET Examination.

Alumni meet at Annual day. Some of the old students of the college have occupied different positions not only in Tamil nadu but also in USA . Efforts may be stepped up to mobilise resources for the overall development of the college. The college has been encouraging its students reasonably in recreation, co-curricular and extra curricular activities.

CRITERION VI : ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Government college recognised by the UGC under 2F and 12B is administered by the principal of the college under the directions of the Director of the Collegiate Education, Chennai. The principal administers the routine matters through various internal committees. The committee consisting of the Principal, Teacher representative and Bursar monitors the work efficiency of both teaching and non -teaching staff. The Principal enjoys the support from the staff of the College. The Academic calendar is prepared by the Academic Committee shows the various activities throughout the year. The college has maintained well discipline.

The administrative work need to be computerised to make it students friendly . Further the non-teaching staff have to be trained up to update their knowledge and skill. The college can augment

its financial resource by offering need based Courses on "Self Financing".

Recruitment of teaching and non-teaching is done by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Peer team noticed that all 2 faculty members and a few supporting staff are paid from the funds of PTA. The college has various welfare programs for the staff . Auditing of the annual account is done as directed by AG s office of the Tamil Nadu Govt. The elected council of the students gives leadership for the conduct of various co-curricular and extra curricular activities under the guidance of the Principal.

CRITERION VII : HEALTHY PRACTICE

In the context of working of the college, the following are the healthy practice as observed by the peer team.

Students friendly approach of the academic departments.

Linkage with NIIT creating Computer awareness for the non-user of computers.

Remedial course for weak students.

Alumni meets annually to give away awards to the meritorious students.

Weekly assembly and Mass drill instill discipline.

Committed to provide education to women of rural areas also.

Salary to few temporary teachers and supporting staff is paid out of PTA.

SECTION 3 - OVERALL ANALYSIS

Like many public sector institutions, the M. V. Muthiah Govt. Arts College also faces a few inherent drawbacks in achieving a breakthrough growth. Firstly, the college authorities have very limited powers to design its growth which is planned and regulated by the Department of Collegiate Education at Chennai. The finance is entirely controlled by the Govt. Funds raised by parents and alumni are relatively meager. Secondly, in the absence of any academic autonomy, the institution has to simply follow the syllabi and curricular contents as prescribed by the

University. Freedom is limited even for starting new courses and programmes. The result is that the traditional pattern is followed with no horizontal mobility for the students, no credit system etc that give some freedom of option to the students. However, despite these in-built limitations, the College has shown notable dynamism in some areas that deserves mention. Such features that the Peer Team noted are listed below as "commendations". The Peer Team also felt it necessary to list a few suggestions that should be brought to the notice of the College and the Govt. authorities for their consideration in planning future growth of the institution. Such points

COMMENDATIONS

Faculty qualifications are reasonably good, with many holding M. Phil degree and nine holding Ph. D. degree.

The launching of career-oriented and practically useful courses such as B. Sc. Computer Science, B. Sc. Zoology with water management and environment, B. A. Business Economics, B. A. History with tourism, B.A. Tamil with journalism etc is indeed academically progressive steps.

Cooperation of the parents in contributing amounts for appointing temporary staff is highly appreciable.

That after admission, attempts are made to improve the language proficiency of the freshers through remedial courses is a welcome step.

That during the last 5 years two NSS volunteers were honoured with University Awards and that the Programme Officer herself received honours from the University and from the Govt. for good performance are creditable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At present, there is feedback system regarding teaching or other types of performance by

teachers only from the outgoing students. The system could be extended to the current students as well since they are the primary beneficiaries of any improvement in the educational process. A suitable confidential system may be evolved for the purpose in line with the modern trends in higher education.

A research culture can take roots only if research activities are organized, encouraged and coordinated by a centralized Research Committee. It is, therefore, desirable to constitute such a committee under the chairmanship of the Principal to give research activities a real push. Though essentially a U. G. College, research could be organized at least in some Depts. where qualified teachers are available on subjects relevant to the area.

Research also requires initial financial support for preparing appropriate projects, schemes etc. It is, therefore, advisable to set up a small Research Corpus Fund to sustain research initiatives by the teachers. Good projects are always supported by the funding agencies.

Though an affiliated institution, curricular probing and exploration deserve closer attention of the institution. Authorities may consider constituting a Curriculum Formation Cell to constantly study and evolve newer and more useful courses or changes in the existing courses and make appropriate suggestions to the University for approval. This practice will be particularly relevant in the case of self-financing programmes and course with career orientation.

Consultancy in a semi-urban environment may not attract much funds, but if organized properly, it could be highly useful to the surrounding community, specially so since it is a womens institution and the teachers could very well establish rapport with the womenfolk of the area. It is, therefore, desirable to constitute a Consultancy Cell to pursue consultancy activities on a regular basis.

Since some of the courses offered have vocational content, it is advisable to have regular and formal tie-ups with many more business and industrial houses to give the benefit of on-the-job-training and experience to the students and also to enhance their employment potentialities in such firms. This is all the more necessary since field works form part of the learning

programmes.

Similarly, an Employment Cell also could be thought of, not only to help local employment of the students but also to explore the possibility of their absorption by major employers in other parts of the State. It will be useful if the Cell organizes an annual Campus Interview inviting potential employers to the Campus and giving an opportunity to the students to interact freely with them.

The functioning of the library may be improved with longer working hours (on some rotational basis of the existing staff, if more staff are not available),

Total computerization of the library deserves special attention of the management. The Govt. may be persuaded immediately for the purpose.

Reprographic facilities in the library is also an essential requirement .

The infrastructure facilities available in the computer centers of the college and under CM scheme made more effective in order to provide computer literacy to a large section of the students.

It will be useful if the College could organize occasional seminar, conferences etc that could help the faculty members to get more intimate contacts with experts in different fields of subjects.

This will also be a method of improving faculty capabilities.

The authorities could think of organizing regular in-service training and updating programmes for the non-teaching staff as well so as to improve their efficiency. Introduction of computers for the office work also deserves attention.

An internal quality assurance cell may be constituted to regularly and vigorously review and monitor the functioning of the college. This will be a worthy follow-up action of the current assessment process.

The Peer Team wishes to express its gratitude to the Principal, the faculty members, the students,

the non-teaching staff and all others concerned for the warm treatment they received during their stay at the College and for the sincere cooperation extended to them in their work The peer Team wishes the institution all success in its future plans of growth.

Dr. A. N. P. Ummerkutty (Chairman)

Dr.Jagadeesha (Member)
