

Peer Team Report on the Institutional Accreditation of the Dahiwadi College, Dahiwadi, Man Taluka, Satara Dist, Maharashtra, 18th and 19th February 2004.

Section 1 : Introduction

Dahiwadi College, Dahiwadi is situated on the banks of Man river in the eastern part of Satara Dist in south Maharashtra. Being highly draught-prone, the place is thinly populated with a only a few educational institutions as feeding base for a degree college. Yet Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, the well-known educational agency of Maharashtra, started the Dahiwadi College in 1965. Launched in 1919 by the late Padmashri Dr. Karmveer Bhaurao Patil, the parent agency itself always targeted weaker sections from urban areas, dalits, tribal communities and women for their educational activities. It is to the credit of the Sanstha that it runs more than 600 educational institutions of various kinds in 14 districts of Maharashtra and in a neighbouring Karnataka district.

Though the College took its origin in 1965, its growth was gradual. Only B.A. (in English, Marathi, Hindi and History) was commenced in the beginning. Later, Geography, Political Science and Economics were added in 1969, 1973 1985 respectively. B.Com was introduced in 1984. Later still in 1988, B. Sc. in 4 subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology) was also brought in. By the time the College itself was shifted from its temporary premises to the present campus. Apart from the 12 programmes in B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com. the College also offers MS-CIT of the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation and Diploma in Library Science of the Shivaji University, Kolhapur to which the College is affiliated.

Situated in a 16-acre plot, the College has built up adequate infrastructure during the last near 4-decades of its existence, including the academic and administrative blocks, a central library, computer lab, health centre (in the gymkhana), a small botanical garden, good sports facilities, guesthouse, canteen, workshop (sharing with the adjoining Junior college), vehicle parking shed etc. Presently there are over 1200 students for various degree courses, apart from 265 students for Diploma and Certificate courses. Pass percentage is about 70 and first class about 10. The temporal pattern followed is annual. There are 37 permanent members on the faculty of which 8 hold Ph. D. and 7 M. Phil. A couple of teachers have registered for their research degree. There are also 4 temporary and 2 part-time teachers.

In line with the broad goals of the Sanstha, the College also has set before itself some clear aims and objectives. They include imparting education to the children of farmers and labourers of remote areas of Man Tehsil, inculcating social awareness and sense of responsibility among the youngsters, making students understand the value of 'learn-and-earn' scheme, teaching life-related education and developing overall personality of the students.



When the Maharashtra State took initiative for the assessment and accreditation of all its colleges, the Dahiwadi College seized the opportunity and arranged on its own lectures for the benefit of its faculty, students and other stakeholders on the need for accreditation. Even the students of the College reportedly conducted street plays and bicycle rallies on their own accord on accreditation themes in the neighbouring areas. The College then prepared a detailed Self Study Report (SSR) and submitted it to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). The latter constituted a Peer Team for the purpose with the following members: Dr. A. N. P. Ummerkutty, former Vice Chancellor, Calicut University (**Chairman**), Sr. Thresiamma, Principal, Maris Stella College, Vijayawada, AP, (**Member**) and Prof. Prasanna Kumar Biswasroy, Department of Commerce, Berhampur University, Berhampur, Orissa (**Member-Coordinator**).

The Peer Team visited the College on 18th and 19th February 2004. The members of the Peer Team came to the campus after studying the SSR thoroughly. During the visit, they went round all the facilities in the campus, including the academic departments, the administrative block, the library, computer lab, sports facilities, the canteen, vehicle parking shed and all other functional centres. They held discussions with the Principal, the faculty, the administrative staff, representatives of the students, parents, alumni and other stakeholders. They also perused through all the documents and records placed before them for their scrutiny. On the basis of all the above, the Peer Team presents the following report.

Section 2 : Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I : Curricular Aspect

Dahiwadi College, Dahiwadi is affiliated to Shivaji University and follows the syllabus offered by the University. The college has 12 departments in Science, Arts and Commerce streams. The college is offering English, Marathi, Hindi, Economics, History, Geography, Political Science, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology in UG level. Mathematics and Statistics are the other options available for the science students. The college is also offering Advanced Accounting and Auditing at B.Com. level. The mission and goals of the college are to develop basic qualities in the students like character, sense of responsibility, team spirit and the desire to serve the community. One teacher of the Commerce Department is in the Board of Studies of Shivaji University. A few teachers of the college participated in the workshops conducted by the University Departments to review and redesign the syllabus. The college offers UGC model syllabus adopted by the University. The management has resolved to introduce short-term courses on Yoga, wormiculture and repair of Electrical Appliances from the next academic session. The college offers certificate courses in Library Science of the Shivaji University. The management may obtain feedback from the academic peers and employers to identify need based career oriented courses before introducing any new courses.



Criterion II : Teaching – Learning and Evaluation

The college admits students on academic performance in qualifying examinations. Terminal and preliminary examinations are regular features to assess students' knowledge and skill.

The temporal plan is annual for UG courses. At the beginning of the academic session courses are divided into units and teachers prepare the teaching plan accordingly. Teaching diary to record daily progress of teaching has been introduced. The college follows conventional lecture method of teaching. A few departments supplement the lecture methods with graphs, diagrams and wallpapers. The college makes efforts to adhere to the norms laid down by UGC for teaching and working days. Teachers' recruitment is as per the UGC/ Government guidelines. The management has appointed few teachers on temporary and clock-wise basis to meet teaching needs. During the last two years some teachers of the college have taken the benefit of faculty development programmes (FDP) and participated in seminars, refresher / orientation courses and workshops. One teacher from the Department of Hindi and another from the Department of Commerce are recognised as M.Phil. Guides of Shivaji University, Kolhapur. The Principal Dr. S. D. Jadhav is a Governor's nominee on the senate of the Shivaji University and Dr. R. D. Salunke is a member of the Academic Council of SIBER, an autonomous institution, as the nominee the Shivaji University. The examinations are conducted as per University rule. The college has introduced self-appraisal method for teachers' evaluation. The management may consider introducing a system to get student feedback on performance of the teachers. The college may take steps to supplement the lecture method with participative teaching and use of modern audio visual aids like TV, VCR, OHP and Slide Projector. The unit cost of education is Rs. 10,255.

Criterion III : Research, Consultancy & Extension Activities

Out of the 37 permanent teachers, 8 teachers possess Ph.D. degree, 7 teachers from different department have completed their M.Phil. Programmes. Teachers are encouraged to attend seminars and conferences. Teachers from the department of Physics and Botany have published a good number of articles in reputed journals. Two teachers from the department of History and Hindi have authored reference books. One teacher from the department of Hindi has supervised an M.Phil. scholar. The college encourages the teachers to undertake research work. The college has provided study leave to three teachers for completing their M. Phil / Ph.D. under the Ninth Five Year Plan of UGC.

The college provides informal consultancy services in the areas of water analysis, plant protection and integrated pest management. The management should impress upon the members of the teaching staff to take up consultancy services on commercial basis.

NCC cadets and NSS Volunteers have undertaken the extension activities of the college. The extension activities are conducted under the supervision of two faculty members. The college regularly conducts extension activities in the areas of community



development, health and hygiene, HIV AIDS and environmental awareness programmes. The NSS unit of the college undertakes various welfare programmes in collaboration with GOs and NGOs. The NCC unit of the college has taken up tree plantation, blood donation camp and participated in local body elections to maintain law and order.

Criterion IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Dahiwadi College spreads on a campus area of 6 acres. The college normally maintains infrastructures from the college development fund. The college ensures optimum utilisation of its infrastructure facilities by providing space for administrative office, class rooms, laboratories, library, common rooms, canteen, Gymkhana, Principal's quarter, Guest house and vehicle parking shed. The infrastructural facilities are allowed to the GOs and NGOs for holding academic, social and cultural functions. The college library is housed in a separate building with provision of reading rooms and Xerox facilities. The library remains open on 235 days in a year from 8.30 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. on all working days. The library has 36430 Nos. of books and it subscribes 33 Nos. of Journals / Periodicals. There is an advisory committee for the library. There is a book bank facility in the central library. During the academic year 2002-03, 1243 students have taken the benefit of Book Bank scheme. Extra coaching facilities are provided to outstanding sports persons. Some students have participated at University and State level games.

Criterion V : Student Support and Progression

The overall performance of the students in the University examination is satisfactory. The dropout rate of the student is a matter of concern. The college publishes its prospectus annually. The prospectus gives details of academic programmes, eligibility criteria for admission in different programmes, general rules and student supports available in the college. Financial aids are available to different categories of the students through scholarship from the State and Central Government. The departments of Geography, Chemistry, Physics and Economics conduct study tour.

The college maintains records of past students and employed graduates. The college has an alumni association. This association conducted blood donation camps and Nav Chetana Shibir in Yogas during the year 2003. Recreational and leisure facilities are available to the students. Students are encouraged to participate in cultural activities, debate, wallpaper presentation and to write articles in the college magazine. The management may consider to start a placement and career guidance cell in the college to guide the students for further studies and job opportunities.

Criterion VI : Organisation & Management

The management of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha monitors the administration of the college. It sanctions the finances, appoints non-teaching staffs and temporary teachers. A local



management committee comprising of representation of faculty, the non-teaching, the principal and patrons take policy decisions for the smooth administration of the college. The different committees carry out the curricular, co-curricular and extra curricular activities of the college. Office administration committee headed by the Principal supervises the efficiency of the non-teaching staff. The college budget is deficit. A Chartered Accountant carries out the audit. The permanent staff is recruited as per the guidelines of the Government of Maharashtra and UGC. The placement and promotion of the staff are made according to the rules of the Government of Maharashtra. The Rayat Sevak Cooperative Bank provides loans ranging from Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. 5 Lakhs to every permanent member of teaching and non-teaching staff. The Rayat Sevak Cooperative store supplies practical books / maps / stationery etc. to the college family. There is a grievance redressal cell in the college.

Criterion VII : Healthy Practices.

The College took initiative in constituting a Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) immediately after deciding to go for the NAAC process. The QIC functions regularly, calls for reports on quality improvement from different constituents of the institution and promptly acts on them. The QIC reportedly transacts business in annual teaching plan, completion of monthly reports etc.

The Principal holds regular meetings of the various committees and also that of the students' council. Because of this several routine problems are settled then and there. That the parents of irregular students are informed of such irregularities through post is good practice. A four-tier system of exam is followed – under this two tests and two home assignments are given to students. Also they have to participate in at least two extracurricular activities.

The survey activities of students of various departments are appreciable. The students of the Political Science Department made a complete survey of nearby villages. Students of Chemistry collected water samples from nearby wells and analysed them for hardness of water. Commerce students made a survey of the income and expenditure of fixed income groups. The economics students conducted a socio-economic survey of the college itself. Students performed street plays for enlightening public on various current issues of vital importance. Such participation of students in different people-oriented activities is good.

To inculcate a sense of value among the youngsters, various functions are conducted. Celebration of birthdays of eminent personalities like the founder of the Sanstha, Mahatma Gandhi, Mahatma Phule, Dr. Ambedkar, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj etc. offer opportunities to students to imbibe their values. Street plays by students on national integration, secularism, gender equality, dignity of labour etc. are creditworthy.

The 'earn-and learn' scheme practised in the College is in tune with the Sanstha programme deserves particular attention. Many students including several members of



the teaching and non-teaching of the College itself were able to complete their graduate and PG courses because of this very useful and noble scheme.

Some of the personality development programmes such as 'Navchetana Shibir' is interesting. Teachers who received training under Shri. Shri Ravishankar gave classes to the students at the College including many yoga exercises. Nearly 300 students attended such classes. Reportedly, it has helped to improve their performance.

Section 3 : Overall Analysis

The starting of Dahiwadi College at Dahiwadi has done great service to the people of the area and its surrounding villages. But for this college thousands of young men and women would not have got the benefit of higher education so near their home. When the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha started several educational institutions all over the State, its main objective was to open the doors of higher education to rural and backward masses. Now that excellence in attainment has assumed larger dimensions, the College would do well to concentrate on the quality side of education. In fact, they have shown signs of such promises by deciding to for the NAAC process and organizing their future orientation in that direction. The parent body of the College, the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, has a very elaborate system of supervision and self-improvement. The Dahiwadi College also seen to be keen to benefit from this scheme. During the perusal of the SSR and during the visit to the various units of the College, the Peer Team noticed a number of features that deserve special mention. They have been listed below as commendations. In a growing situation there will also be many issues that should attract the attention of the authorities for future growth of the College. Such points noticed by the Peer Team have been compiled below as suggestions. The authorities may act upon them for the better growth of the College.

Commendations

- Reportedly there is limited horizontal mobility within the faculty.
- Though not in the syllabi, students are often given practical exposure of various sorts. This adds value to the course.
- Prominent persons from society are invited to deliver lectures and to interact with the students.
- Similarly, the faculty members of the College are invited by institutions in the neighbourhood for delivering lectures or participating in important functions. Such activities will empower the faculty.
- Interdisciplinary options such as Technology and Development, Public Administration, Cooperative Movement, History of Social Reforms in Maharashtra etc are available to students.



- Few members actively participated in the designing of curricula of different subjects in the Shivaji University. One faculty member was on the Board of Studies for Commerce from October 2000 to December of that year.
- Constitution of Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) is highly appreciated. That the teachers are to respond to its queries and act promptly on its suggestions are laudable. Departments plan and execute the instructions of QIC.
- Term-wise reports are collected from the teachers on curricular works reviewed and monitored by the Principal.
- In recruitment, persons coming from outside the College are given equal consideration as the insiders.
- Temporary teachers are appointed by the Management whenever need arises.
- Self-appraisal by the teachers is subjected to scrutiny of the QIC before they are forwarded to higher authorities. Appropriate directions are then given to teachers. Similarly academic audit forms are collected from the teachers at the end of the year by the QIC and the career development performance appraised and communicated to them.
- Three teachers were given leave for taking their research degrees. One teacher belonging to SC/ST category was given study leave under direct award system.
- Informal consultancy is rendered by some teachers in water analysis, plant protection, personality development, competitive exam, tax filing etc.
- Presentation of street plays and rallies by the students on social themes such as population explosion, blind beliefs, health awareness etc. is appreciable.
- College premises are optimally used. So also are the grounds.
- Giving free books to brighter and poor students are good practices.
- It is nice to know that all the teaching and non-teaching staff regularly contribute some amount to development of infrastructure of the College.
- That the competitive centre helped a few persons to get through MPSC is creditworthy.
- Participation of students in 'Vivek Wahini' to create scientific awareness among the public is greatly appreciable.

Suggestions

- Diversification of courses is an urgent necessity. Courses suitable for the rural environment may be identified with the help of an expert committee and introduced in a phased manner.
- In this connection, there is nothing wrong in thinking of self-financing programmes that could be brought in at least cost. One such self-financing option with two aided programmes can increase the variety of options without imposing financial burdens.
- In addition to the existing Certificate and Diploma courses, authorities can consider evolving many more empowering evening courses such as a practical Electronics, Statistics for common man, Taxation, Accountancy for traders and shopkeepers etc. Students who opt for such courses will be greatly empowered when they seek jobs in the market.

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- ✓ • Many teachers have attended and participated in seminars/conferences in other institutions. However, it is all the more necessary for the College also to organize similar functions in their own premises. That will provide good occasions to all the faculty and students to interact with experts and experienced teachers from other institutions.
- Similarly, short-term Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) may be conducted by the College itself inviting experts and senior teachers from other colleges. After intensive exposure, tests can also be conducted for the faculty. Learning should inevitably go with teaching.
- ✓ • In teaching more modern aids should be used.
- ✓ • In a UG College research need not be alien. In fact a Research Committee (RC) should be formed to explore the areas of research possible in the area and to identify the faculty capable of undertaking some meaningful investigations in such areas. They could then be persuaded to submit minor research projects to funding agencies for financial support. The RC can include experts from outside and can coordinate all research activities.
- ✓ • The Sanstha should be persuaded to set up a modest corpus fund for extending seed money to teachers to prepare good research projects.
- The present level of informal consultancy could be made more formal so that it would be continuously beneficial to local farmers, Panchayats etc.
- Library needs immediate attention. Computerization will have to be completed on a time-bound basis even with external assistance. Working time extended a little more to enable students to come to library outside class hours more freely and frequently. Probably, the students of Library Science could be used for this purpose on earn-and learn basis.
- The existing computer lab can easily be expanded to a computer centre by adding some facilities and extending the working hours. The authorities can also consider introducing some computer literacy courses both for the students and for the public during the extended hours. It will be good service at low cost.
- Whatever the college is doing at present to help the students to get some jobs can be formalised as Placement Cell with a teacher in charge. He can regularly correspond with the potential employers, even distant ones, and help the youngsters in securing some jobs.
- Though the college is remote from major towns, efforts could be made to establish some linkages with industrial or business house at least for the Dept of Commerce. Such linkages will give better exposure to students.
- The management may consider to start UG course in Mathematics (Special Mathematics)
- The College may consider to constitute a cultural centre and a multipurpose community hall may be constructed to conduct cultural and other academic programmes in the college.
- The College may open a health centre especially to answer the needs of girl students and start Karate classes and NCC for their benefit.
- The college may start short-term courses in computer hardware, software and special English course to augment the learning skills of the students on self-financing basis or as part of the regular programmes of the Competitive



Examination Centre (CEC). Also, the College may consider introducing career-oriented courses and training students to face competitive examinations.

- The College may extend the library facilities to students by setting up Departmental libraries and giving students facilities for more cards for issue of library books.
- Rigorous coaching and remedial classes are needed for disadvantaged students.
- The Art of Living programme of the college is appreciable. The college may start a full-fledged Yoga centre with the financial assistance of UGC.
- Training programmes for non-teaching staff on office automation, book keeping and computer programming be arranged to improve the efficiency of the staff.
- The introduction of new courses may be finalised in consultation with Academic Peers and Employers and also assessing the local job market in a phased manner.
- The Peer Team noted that apart from the permanent teachers on the UGC scale there is a number of other teachers working on clock hour basis. The Team was told that they are paid for only seven hours a week even though they might be working for a longer duration. This is a matter of concern since any work done should be properly remunerated, especially since the hourly rate is itself very low.

The members of the Peer Team thank the Principal, the Management, the Faculty, the Students, the non-teaching staff and all others for the excellent cooperation and much cordiality extended to them during their work in the campus.


19/2/04

1. Prof. A. N. P. Ummerkutty
Chairman


19/2/04

2. Prof. Prasanna Kumar Biswasroy
Member-Coordinator


19/2/04

3. Sr. Thresiamma
Member

I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the Peer Team in this report.


19-2-04
Principal

Principal,
Dahiwadi College Dahiwadi,
Tal. Man, Dist Satara.

