REPORT OF EXTERNAL ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 2022-23

JSS COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE OOTY ROAD, MYSURU – 570 025

Introduction

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science is the first degree college established in 1964 by JSS Mahavidyapeetha and is situated on a sprawling 7.08 acres plot with a spacious building and a girls hostel in a picturesque surrounding at the foot of Chamundi Hills. The college is a Multifaculty, Co-educational and autonomous College affiliated to the University of Mysore. The college is re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (CGPA: 3.21) and recognised as College with Potential for Excellence by the UGC. The college is contributing to the Vocational Education at Graduate and Postgraduate levels through DeenDayalUpadhyayaKaushal Kendra and Kaushalya Karnataka schemes of UGC and GoK, respectively. The College has been recognized as 'Research Centre' under University of Mysore to undertake research in nine subjects, namely, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Kannada, English, Commerce and Social Work. The college is hosting the Community Radio Station 'JSS Radio 91.2 FM' which was sanctioned by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Govt. of India since 2021. The College aims to provide need-based, skill integrated, cost-effective, quality and holistic education for transforming the students into a globally competitive, employable and responsible citizen. The college offers BSc (18), BA (10),B Com, BCA, BBA, B Voc (03: Food Processing & Engineering, Software Development, and Animation and Multimedia), MSc (08: Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Botany and Zoology), M Com, MA (02: English and Kannada), MSW, M Voc (2: Food Processing & Engineering, and Software Development), MCA and Ph D (09: Kannada, English, Social Work. Commerce, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics). In addition to the above, Advanced Diploma in Animation & Multimedia and Retail Management, PG Diploma in

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Protein Scale up and Expression [sanctioned by Government of Karnataka under BiSEP] and others, are also offered. Students are given opportunity to study various COCs.

The academic activities of the college are well supported by a dedicated and qualified 178 teaching staff of which 56 have Ph D and 06 have MPhil degrees. The college is being supported by 60 non-teaching staff. The total student strength of the college for the year is 3526 of which 2359 are from UG, 1120 from PG and 47 from PhD programmes. In the year 2022-23, 06 scholars have successfully secured PhD degree under the supervision of present and superannuated teachers in the college who are recognized guides of the University of Mysore. An esteemed tradition of acknowledging excellence ensures the top three achievers in each program honored with cash prizes, endowments, and certificates at the annual Graduates' day. Further, the college's illustrious alumni, now thriving as researchers, writers, politicians. administrators, and bureaucrats, maintain a nostalgic and affectionate bond with their alma mater. Students are actively engaged in extracurricular and co-curricular pursuits, including NCC, NSS, and various sports activities. The college provides extensive sports facilities. including a sizable ground, indoor and outdoor stadiums. The NCC and NSS units' spirited participation in state and national-level camps and Republic Day Parade reflects the institution's commitment to holistic development. The academic calendar of the college brims with diverse events like National and State Level Seminars, Workshops, and Special Lectures, showcasing a culture of continuous improvement. Constant efforts in curriculum development and examination reforms accentuate the institution's commitment to evolving educational standards.

Each year, the college undergoes a comprehensive evaluation of its academic and administrative endeavors. This assessment is conducted by the External Academic and Administrative Audit (AAA) Committee, comprising seasoned academicians and administrators of repute. Through their extensive evaluation, the committee scrutinizes the outcomes, benefits, and overall results achieved. This external academic audit serves a dual purpose—it not only

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assesses the quality and performance of the college's academic initiatives but also contributes to refining and amplifying the institution's vision, mission, and objectives. The establishment of such a committee stands as a tangible testament to the management's unwavering dedication to upholding excellence in higher education.

Thus, the JSS Mahavidyapeetha has constituted the External AAA Committee mentioned below to review and audit the academic and administrative activities of the college for the year2022-2023:

Prof. T K Umesh	Chairman
Former Vice Chancellor (I/C)	
University of Mysore, Mysuru - 570005	
Prof. B Mahadevappa	Member
DOS in Commerce	
University of Mysore, Mysuru - 570005	
Prof. Vijay Sheshadri	Member
DOS in English	
Sir M. Visvesvaraya Postgraduate Centre	
University of Mysore, Mandya - 571434	

REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

On the first day, the 16th of November 2023, the audit committee assembled in the college at 10 AM and initiated their assessment in the Seminar Hall. Dr. S. Prathibha, the Principal, extended a warm welcome to the esteemed members of the Committee, offering a comprehensive overview of the academic activities and the administrative operations for the year 2022-23.

Dr. N. Rajendraprasad, the IQAC Coordinator, delineated the objectives, role, and functions of the IQAC, detailing the meticulously planned initiatives at the start of the academic year and reporting on the progress made regarding these pivotal endeavors.

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The Committee's observations underscored the institution's robust infrastructure. featuring an ample number of classrooms, well-equipped laboratories, a spacious sports ground. and technical facilities. Notably, several laboratories, including PG Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Physics, Food Processing and Engineering, and Computer Science. have undergone modernization and boasting sophisticated instruments to enrich the learning environment. Academic activities were noted to be conducted systematically within a studentcentric atmosphere.

The institution has successfully acquired significant research equipment through grants from funding agencies in the past, further bolstering its research capabilities. Additionally, a spacious Auditorium, accommodating up to 600 individuals, is equipped with essential audio, stereo, and supplementary amenities. Notably, the college prides itself on inclusive infrastructure, offering lift facilities to support physically challenged candidates.

Administratively, the institution is under the capable leadership of the Principal, overseen by the Chief Executive, a senior academician and administrator, ensuring efficient management and supervision.

Preparedness of the College to NEP

The NEP-2020 has been implemented by the college on par with NEP-2020 guidelines. It was evident that the preparatory plans, workflow and regulations were built at the beginning of 2021 and subsequently the required training was given to the faculty through a workshop. The intended objective of conveying the framework, benefits and advantages of such new education policy has been inculcated in the teaching fraternity of the college. By way of completing the process, the college has introduced the Four Year Multidisciplinary Undergraduate Honours Programme with two major disciplines along with languages, generic electives, ability enhancement, skill development and vocational courses, including the extracurricular activities Randens Way Ship with Multiple Exit Options from the academic year 2021-22.

Academic Bank of Credits

The College is completely prepared to implement Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) framework as directed by the University Grants Commission through National Academic Depository (NAD). The college has registered in NAD portal for establishing the Academic Bank of Credits. Dr. B. Prabhuswamy, Controller of Examinations, has been nominated and registered as nodal officer, who is actively managing the whole process for ABC implementation for the convenience of college students.

Skill Development

It is observed that appropriate efforts have been made by the college to integrate adequate knowledge and skills of the students to ensure employment opportunities of the graduates. With the assistance from UGC, the college has established DDUKK, offering Advanced Diploma in Animation and Multimedia and Retail Management (Community College Scheme). Bachelor (BVoc) and Master (MVoc) of Vocation Programmes in Food Processing and Engineering and Software Development. BVoc programme in Animation and Multimedia is also offered. These programmes have the assessment at different levels in accordance with National Skills Quality Framework (NSQF).

Moreover, the college has meticulously aligned the undergraduate (UG) programs with the directives of the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020, introducing specialized courses focused on Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship. Simultaneously, for postgraduate (PG) students, a consistent emphasis is placed on Skill Development training. The institution regularly hosts Skill Development and Training programs, aimed at equipping students with the essential competencies vital for both academic and corporate employment opportunities. This proactive approach ensures that students are well-prepared for diverse job sectors.

A key facet of this initiative involves the active involvement of industry experts. Through collaborations with bodies such as the Confederation of Indian Industry-Industry Institute

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Interaction and Higher Education (CII-III & HE) Panel, Mysuru zone, notable personalities from the Central Food and Technological Research Institute (CFTRI). Excel Soft Technologies Pvt. Ltd., and other esteemed organizations, students are given the necessary exposure and contemporary skill sets offered by these industry stalwarts.

Appropriate Integration of Indian Knowledge System

At the JSS College of Arts, Commerce, and Science, a robust language curriculum includes Kannada, English, Hindi, and Sanskrit, encompassing the essence of linguistic learning. Students keen on exploring additional languages receive dedicated support and access to relevant learning resources to aid their individual pursuits. Additionally, the institution integrates the teachings of essential Indian Traditional Knowledge, exposing students to the imperative nature of preserving and understanding traditional Indian wisdom in the domains of Science, Arts. Commerce, and Vocational programs. This emphasis fosters a deeper appreciation and comprehension of India's rich traditional heritage.

Moreover, the college's induction program plays a pivotal role in sensitizing students to universal human values, ensuring that along with academic pursuits, learners are instilled with a profound understanding of ethical and universal human principles.

Focus on Outcome Based Education

The institute is dedicated to equipping its faculty members with the principles of outcome-based education (OBE) as part of a transformative shift from a teacher-centric education system to a student-centric approach. In close collaboration with all stakeholders, the institute has embraced the OBE model as a means to achieve the attainment of Graduate Attributes.

The institute's mission revolves around empowering students to acquire these Graduate attributes, emphasizing areas such as enhancing students' analytical and problem-solving Emederate Shape

abilities, nurturing research and development skills, fostering social consciousness, refining communication skills, and cultivating employability skills.

Enrolment of Students

The college has implemented inventive strategies to increase its admission rates, effectively publicizing admission notifications through print, electronic, and social media. In the current academic year, the student body stands at 3526, comprising 2359 enrolled in undergraduate (UG) programs, 1120 in postgraduate (PG) programs, and 47 dedicated research scholars pursuing their doctoral degrees.

In the academic year 2022-23, 06 candidates successfully completed their PhD degrees from the University of Mysore under the guidance of recognized faculty members from the college. Notably, the institution hosts 30 students from different states, enriching the cultural diversity on campus.

A noteworthy aspect is that over 65% of the student population hails from rural areas, showcasing the college's commitment to providing educational opportunities to a diverse demography. Moreover, the institution maintains a healthy teacher-to-student ratio of approximately 1:20, ensuring enriched learning prospects for students.

Diverse teaching learning methods such as ICT-enabled, seminar, group discussion, project work, field work, internship etc., have been adopted for the effective learning of the students. The evaluation system has adopted the components of internal assessment and external evaluation. The internal assessments of students are by way of tests, assignments, seminar, projects and so forth. The external assessment will be made through end semester examinations.

Teaching - Learning Process: Teacher Profile and Quality

Through the presentation made by the Principal, IQAC and Heads of the Departments, it is noticed that the college has 09 aided, 170 non-aided and 10 other qualified and experienced faculty members. Out of these, 55 have PhD and 06 possess MPhil degrees. A number of

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teachers from different subjects are pursuing their doctoral studies and their number stands at 18. Further, 02 faculty have been awarded with Ph D degree.

The study of Internal Academic Audit Report submitted by the college made the Committee to come to the opinion that the Statutory bodies like Governing Body, Academic Council. Board of Studies and the Finance Committee have been duly constituted as per the guidelines of the UGC and others. The college has also constituted a total of 36 committees, out of which 05 are statutory. Through these various committees the smooth execution of various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the college is being managed. The IQAC is proactively functioning as a quality monitoring wing.

The classrooms are equipped with ICT facilities to facilitate teaching and learning activities. Teachers actively develop e-content, including presentations, videos, and study materials, aimed at enhancing student learning experiences. Several departments have curated libraries of video lectures sourced from platforms like NPTEL, TED Talks, and EDX, significantly broadening learning horizons of the students. This diversified e-content and study materials are readily accessible to students through various channels such as the Learning Management System (LMS), Email and Whatsapp. A number of educators of the college have even established YouTube channels, offering self-created video lectures to augment learning resources. Many teachers demonstrate proficiency in managing the teaching, learning, and evaluation processes using diverse learning management platforms like Moodle, Canvas Instructure, Teachmint, Google Classroom, and others.

The college is diligently preparing to fully integrate an in-house LMS, and master trainers along with selected faculty members who are actively engaged in this process, ensuring a seamless transition and effective utilization of these resources.

During the year, a few teachers have attended faculty development programmes (FDP), undertaken and completed Swayam/MOOCs. Some have served as resource persons in various

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academic platforms of high repute. To give exposure to the students on the hands on training. industrial visits are organized periodically.

The college is using the talent and expertise of the teachers to its best possible extent by involving them in various committees so as to provide them an experience both in academic as well as administrative aspects. Further, as part of Faculty Development Programme, teachers were deputed to various seminars and workshops at different places. It is also noticed that some of the teachers have served as resource persons in various platforms. The teaching faculty have attended 68 seminars/webinars/conferences organised by other institutions.

The college is making constant efforts to improve the academic profile of the teachers by encouraging them to involve in research activities by providing guidance to submit research project proposals to the different funding agencies, to present the research papers in conferences and to publish the work in reputed international and national journals of good impact factor and also to publish books/ book chapters. However the number of projects obtained during the period of audit appears very small.

Performance Evaluation of Teachers:

The teaching, learning and evaluation process through teachers is effectively assessed by the college. One significant way practiced is collecting the opinions from students. The IQAC of the college takes care of conducting Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) on Teaching, Learning and Evaluation process, at the end of each academic year, by using the questionnaire prescribed by NAAC with possible customisation.

The IQAC recently conducted an online Student Satisfaction Survey (SSS) to gather insights regarding teaching-learning process throughout the year. The responses received from the students were meticulously analyzed, consolidating their opinions and observations. As per the survey analysis, approximately 84% of the students have expressed satisfaction with the current teaching methods at the college. While acknowledging the positive feedback, it is

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suggested to the college and its faculty that further efforts are warranted to improve and aim for a perfect score of 100%. The aim is to ensure that every student, including the remaining 16%. experience a highly fulfilling and conducive learning environment at the college.

It is a known and established fact that the quality of teachers in Higher Education always reflects the quality of education provided to the students. Hence, the performance appraisal of teachers becomes an important component in the functioning of the college. The college has been adopting the practice of obtaining the students' feedback about the performance of the teachers on a five point scale. The present practice of analyzing the students' feedback on teachers needs to be made proactive towards improving the faculty performance and accountability of the faculty.

The college has to take self appraisal reports from the teachers and get them evaluated on the agreed system of weightage. This evaluation needs to done externally. In addition to this, it is also essential to introduce 360 degree appraisal system including peer appraisal. If the college wishes to enhance its reputation as an Institution of Excellence it is essential to be innovative in assessing the performance of teaching faculty where a very good performer is rewarded and a poor performer is given one or two opportunities for improvement through intensive faculty improvement programmes. This will also bring in the concept of accountability among the teachers

Promotion of Research and Facilities

In the College research leading to PhD degree has been undertaken in nine subjects, namely, Social Work, Kannada, English, Commerce, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biochemistry and Biotechnology. There are 20 teachers who have been recognised as Guides for PhD and under their supervision a total of 47 research scholars pursuing their PhD degree. It is noticed that the May Hunder teachers are working on 02 major projects.

Research Publication and Awards:

Put together, 41 teachers have published 78 research papers in recognised international/national journals and books. 28 teachers have made Seminar presentations out of which 02 in State level platforms, 11 in National level and 15 at International platforms.

During the year, 03 different books have been authored by the teachers and 06 are serving in Editorial Boards of 17 various regional, national and international Journals. It is witnessed that the teachers have actively participated in 68 knowledge sharing platforms organised by external institutes along with the events organised by the college. In acknowledgment of their contributions to research in the college, Ms. Pramila, a dedicated research scholar and faculty member in Chemistry, along with Dr. Ramyashree, the Head of the PG Department of Zoology, were honored with the prestigious awards for Best Research Scholar and Best Women Scientist of the year 2022-23. These accolades were presented by the Nature Science Foundation (NSF) of Coimbatore as part of the college's distinguished awards ceremony.

Extension Activity:

Another important dimension that determines the quality of Higher Education is extension activity. The college has made significant efforts in hosting the extension activities, but the number of activities could have been higher in relation to the number of departments and also the strength of the faculty. Extension activities help to gain skills in terms of organization, evaluation and the experience. Students of PG Social Work have interacted with 10 NGOs working in different fields. This gives an excellent exposure to the students of MSW to get good orientation for the course. The De-addiction Camps are been conducted by the department periodically.

The NSS unit of the college has actively organised several social service camps in rural areas. These initiatives encompass a range of events including painting government schools, cleaning lakes and rivers, visiting old age homes, and conducting various awareness programs. The remarkable leadership and dedication of Mr. Santhosh Kumar N, the NSS Officer of the

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college, were acknowledged and honored with the prestigious Best Social Worker Award of the college for the year 2022-23 by the NSF of Coimbatore.

Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning:

Physical Facilities

The college boasts of exceptional infrastructure designed to facilitate teaching and learning across its undergraduate (UG), postgraduate (PG) and PhD programs. Notably, the institution takes pride in its designation as a Green Campus. This distinction was further validated as the college received the esteemed award for the 'Best Green College Campus for Students' from the NSF of Coimbatore. The campus houses 71 spacious lecture halls, along with a seminar hall and an air-conditioned auditorium, catering to various academic needs. Additionally, the college provides 39 laboratories, ensuring ample research facilities for both faculty members and researchers. ICT-enabled classrooms are readily available to enhance the learning experience. Further, enriching the educational environment, the college features specialized facilities such as a Math-lab, Language Lab, Incubation Center, Board Rooms and an Internet Center within the Library, offering students and staff an array of additional resources and spaces for diverse academic pursuits.

The college has established excellent research and training facilities for biological, chemical and physical sciences. It's essential to highlight the presence of sophisticated equipment within the college, such as spectrofluorimeters, UV-visible spectrometers, liquid and gas chromatographs, electropherographs, lyophilizers, furnaces, higher end computers, laptops, and more. These advanced instrumentation facilities created in the PG Departments of Biochemistry. Biotechnology Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Kaushala Kendra and others will significantly contribute to the academic and research endeavors within the institution.

The creation of sports facilities with spacious play grounds, indoor game facilities and multi gym speaks of the importance given by the college towards extracurricular activities. The

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college has a Hostel for Women accommodating 277 girl students. A Canteen and a well-maintained garden add to the infrastructural facility of the college.

The Community Radio Station 'JSS Radio 91.2 I'M' is a very rarely bestowed facility to be present in institutions. It has to be utilised constructively to the best of the benefits to the college from the community.

This commitment is evidenced through various initiatives, such as the installation of 232 Solar Rooftop Panels (SRTPS), collectively generating around 180 kW of renessable energy. Complementing this effort, the campus features rainwater harvesting facilities, maintaining a perennially lush and green environment that supports diverse flora and fauna. The institution prioritizes clean and sustainable resource conservation within the campus. To ensure the continual enhancement of its environmental status, the college routinely undergoes Energy. Environmental, and Green Audits, conducted by nationally and internationally recognized authorities. These audits serve as a robust evaluation of the institution's eco-friendly practices and further solidify its dedication to environmental sustainability.

Library

The college library is housed in a large area of 14,400 sq. ft. with a seating arrangement for 150 students. A spacious reading room facility has been provided for students and teachers with a seating capacity of 200. Library is completely computerized and the open accession system (OPAC) is followed and it is highly students' friendly. The library also has an old book bank facility created with the assistance of UGC for the benefit of the students.

The library of the college is rich having 76808 books with 47922 titles, 97000+ e-books (NLIST), 108 National and 07 International Journals, 6000+ e-journals (NLIST), 422 AV Materials and 54general periodicals. These resources, more particularly, through INFLIBNET facility need to be made more useful for students, teachers and research scholars.

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The library has a section with an adequate number of book collection that meets the requirement of students aspiring to attend competitive examinations. A small book bank facility is also available in the library. The library needs to develop a repository of the research publications of the faculty members of the College.

Student Support:

It is observed that the college is providing Uniforms for sports, NSS and NCC students. Students are allowed to pay the Admission Fee in Instalments. Efforts need to be made to help the institution in establishing more scholarships to the students under the banner of Alumni Association and also help the deserving students in vocational placements. It is noteworthy that the college provides recognition to students excelling in curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular domains. Notably, Mr. Shreyas, an MSc Physics student, was bestowed with the distinguished title of Best College Student for the year 2022-23 by the NSF of Coimbatore. Such acknowledgments and engagements are believed to serve as catalysts, uplifting and encouraging students to enhance and improve their performance levels across various academic pursuits.

Students' activities and performances:

Two students from PG Department of Commerce have made paper presentations in an International Conference. Good numbers of students have attended national/international conferences/seminar.

The students of the college have participated in many inter-collegiate sports in the city, university and national levels and some of them have won prizes. Adequate opportunities have also been given to the cultural activities where in students have secured many prizes in different competitions. However, the number of such activities appears small compared to the total My Stude strength of the students in the college.

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The results of examinations are impressive. The college has made earnest efforts to improve the system of evaluation in order to make it more error free, efficient and transparent. The system of quick announcement of results is laudable.

Career Guidance and Placement:

The college is responsible in educating and empowering the students to choose their career by providing opportunities to understand the methods of training, availabilities of opportunities and also to face the interviews. These are important areas for making students' career stronger and the college has conducted supportive programmes in this regard. Good number of Campus Interviews were organised by the Career Guidance and Placement Cell inviting reputed organizations to visit the college. But there is scope for increasing the number of recruitments. A Placement Officer has been appointed to work exclusively for Campus Drives for Jobs and Training of students. It is felt that, such initiatives will yield the fruitful results from the forthcoming year. This important responsibility of the college management through Placement cell to initiate more training activities to improve the placement should be taken on priority.

Administration of Financial transactions

Financial administration in the college involves a multifaceted approach to managing monetary transactions. The implemented online banking facilities for fee payments streamlined the process, ensuring efficiency and convenience for students. In addition, the institute has adhered to stringent financial protocols and standards, undergoing annual audits conducted by Chartered Accountants. These audits serve as a comprehensive evaluation, ensuring compliance with financial regulations and the transparent handling of funds. Moreover, financial management extends to budget allocation for various academic and non-academic activities. monitoring expenses, and strategizing for sustainable financial growth, ensuring the effective utilization of resources for the institution's continuous development and academic excellence.

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General Observations:

The Committee had an extensive discussion and interaction with the Principal. CEO. IQAC Coordinator, Controller of Examinations, faculty members of both UG and PG departments, Librarian, Director of Physical education and Editor of Internal Audit Report Based on the inputs from the above interactions, the Committee makes the following observations:

The Green Initiatives of the College with the installed solar power capacity of more than its requirements along with water harvesting initiative is praiseworthy. The college has adopted self evaluation system through both internal and external academic audit to ensure that all the existing activities stand the test of scrutiny. In spite of the efforts made by the college on several fronts, the Committee is of the opinion that additional efforts are needed by the Institution to achieve excellence, so that the autonomous college will ultimately get the status of a University in the years to come.

Suggestions:

The committee members after thorough discussion with the Chief Executive. Principal and IQAC Co-ordinator have the following suggestions:

The committee members noted with a concern that in spite of the many unique achievements which were highlighted during the departmental presentations, the college has been accredited with A Grade (3.21) as the highest.

The college has a set of unique attributes such as,

- a. Community Radio Station
- b. Green Energy Initiatives with rainwater harvesting and solarisation of the campus, herbarium, Plant garden, vermin compost
- c. Vocational programmes at Bachelor and Master's level in Food Processing and Engineering War Shr
- d. CoC Programmes

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The College needs to provide information regarding Yoga Initiatives, registered Alumni
Association, alumni participation and Geo tagged evidences for all initiative and
achievements during the assessment period.

 A common template prepared on the lines of AQAR be circulated to all UG/PG departments who should be directed to submit it within the specified deadline to the IQAC office for further processing.

During interaction with UG departments, the Committee learnt that in general, there has been a significant decrease in the number of students getting admitted to the UG programmes, particularly after the onset of NEP 2020. It was felt that one of the reasons to this was that there has been a misconception among students that all degree programmes are of 4 year duration. The college has to take steps to inform the students that there can be an exit after 3 years with the relevant degree and after 4 years the student gets an honours' degree in the concerned subject. This may aid in improving the admissions.

Prof. T.K. Umesh Former Vice Chancellor (I/C)

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