

REPORT OF
THE EXTERNAL ACADEMIC AUDIT COMMITTEE – 2019-20
JSS COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE
OOTY ROAD, MYSURU – 570 025

Introduction

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science, Ooty Road, Mysuru which started in 1964, is among more than 350 institutions run by JSS Mahavidyapeetha. The autonomous status was accorded in 2005. The college is re-accredited by NAAC with "A" Grade with CGPA of 3.21 (4th Cycle). UGC has recognized the college as 'College with Potential for Excellence'. The college has Biotechnology Skill Enhancement Programme (BiSEP) sanctioned by the Government of Karnataka. UGC has sanctioned DeenDayalUpadhyay KAUSHAL Kendra to the college to run skill integrated programmes. The college has completed 50 years and in 2015-16 its Golden Jubilee Celebrated. The college has received the status of 'Research Centre' in 2019-20 by University of Mysore and functioning with the recognised 09 departments of the college, namely, Social Work, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Kannada, English and Commerce.

The College is situated on a sprawling 7.08 acres plot with a spacious building and a women's hostel in a picturesque surrounding at the foot of Chamundi Hills. The women's hostel exists in the college premises with the capacity of 277. The college has excellent infrastructure required for the pursuit of academic excellence. Because of its multifaceted growth, the college has won encomium from all corners. Apart from Science, Arts and Commerce courses, the institution offers inter-disciplinary courses in Business Management, Animation, Electronics, Computer Science, Computer Maintenance, Instrumentation, Biochemistry, Biotechnology and Microbiology. Totally 55 programmes are offered in the college and they are 10 in BSc, 11 in BA, 5 in B Com, BCA, BBA, B Voc, 8 in MSc (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology), M Com, 2 in MA (English, Kannada), MSW, 2 in M Voc (Food Processing & Engineering, Software Development), 9 in Ph D (Kannada, English, Social Work, Commerce, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) in addition to 2 Advanced Diploma programmes (Animation & Multimedia and Retail Management) and PG Diploma in Protein Scale up and Expression [sanctioned by Government of Karnataka under BiSEP]. Besides, COCs and PG Diploma Programmes are also offered. CBCS and CAGP has been introduced for PG programmes from the year 2010-11 and for UG Programmes in the year 2017-18.

The college has highly qualified and dedicated teaching & non teaching staff. Nearly 3255 students, including foreign students and research scholars, are pursuing education in various disciplines. There are 27 research scholars pursuing studies for PhD degree and 10 are in BiSEP programme. It has an enviable academic record as students secure ranks and honours almost every year in the examinations. Many Alumni of the College are successful researchers, litterateurs, politicians, administrators and bureaucrats. They are still nostalgic and maintain emotional attachment with the institution. The college also has a conducive atmosphere for sports and cultural activities. It has a well maintained sports field and well equipped national level Basketball Court. Students' have brought laurels to the college in Sports, Debate, Drama and Music at Inter-College, University, State, National and International levels competitions. The volunteers of NCC & NSS units have participated in state and national level camps and Republic Day Parades. Besides Youth Red Cross Unit, a number of student centric clubs are also functioning. The college has successfully organized National and State Level Seminars, Workshops and Symposia. Curriculum development and examination reforms are being implemented on a continuous basis.

Although there is no statutory requirement for the conduct of academic audit of the college by an external audit committee, it is highly appreciable to know the self assuring effort on the part of the management to periodically get the academic programmes evaluated by an external peer committee for the purpose of strengthening the various curricular and co-curricular activities of the institution. The external academic audit also helps in ascertaining the quality and performance of the academic activities of the college in addition to augmenting the vision, mission and objectives of the college. The desire to constitute an external academic audit committee is a clear indication of the commitment on the part of the management towards maintenance of quality in higher education.

With the above in view, the JSS Mahavidyapeetha has constituted the following external Academic Audit Committee to review the academic activities of the college for the years 2019-2020:

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| 1. Prof. P. Venkataramaiah
Former Vice-Chancellor
Kuvempu University | Chairperson |
| 2. Dr. Kotreshwar
DOS in Commerce
University of Mysore | Member |
| 3. Dr. Raveesha
Prof. & Head
Department of Water and Health, Faculty of Life Sciences
JSS AHER, Mysuru | Member |

REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

The audit committee visited the college on 19-04-2020 and met at the Principal's chamber at 9.00am. Prof. M. Mahadevappa, the Principal welcomed the panel members and made an elaborate presentation on the activities of the college initiated in the academic years 2019-20 including the facilities created during the period of audit. It is found that the college has enough number of class rooms, spacious sports ground and well equipped laboratories. The postgraduate programmes are offered exclusively on the third floor of the building with no interference from other programmes being offered in the college. All the departments are very neatly planned for both teaching and research. Many major equipment for research have been procured through research grants from funding agencies. A well equipped and spacious auditorium that can house more than 600 persons is available in the third floor.

The college has installed a lift making the college challenged friendly. The institution is administratively managed by the Principal, supervised by the Chief Executive who is a senior academician.

Governing Body:

The Governing Body has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri SriShivarathriDeshikendraSwamiji, the President of JSS Mahavidyapeetha. The composition of the body is broad based with the inclusion of several eminent academicians.

Student Profile:

The total student strength in the college for the academic year 2019-20 is 3292 that includes 2254 UG, 1001 PG students and, 27 PhD students and 10 BiSEP students. The college has a limited diversity of students with 03 foreign students and 09 students from other states of India pursuing their education in the college during these academic years. It is interesting to know that 60% of the students are from rural background. The college has adopted an innovative method of attracting students to the college. The system of the college faculty visiting neighbouring institutions to disseminate the information about the types of courses and also the facilities available in the college in addition to certain special features of the college is highly appreciable.

Quality of Faculty:

Through the presentation, it is understood that the college has good number of qualified and experienced staff members. The strength of the faculty members is quite impressive. The total staff strength is 187 and out of these, the number of persons having PhD is 44 and 13 of them have M Phil and a large number of the remaining faculty members are pursuing doctorate degree. Among the faculty, 08 persons have cleared NET and 10 of them have cleared SLET/KSET examinations. One faculty has qualified through TET.

The committee went through the Internal Academic Audit Report submitted by the college. The committee observed the constitution of various statutory bodies required under the provision of the UGC guidelines/rules/statutes for an autonomous college. Statutory bodies like Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies and the Finance Committee have been duly constituted. The college has also constituted non-statutory 28 different committees during the year 2019-20 for smooth execution of various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the college.

Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning:

The college possesses excellent infrastructure facilities for teaching and learning for the UG and PG programmes. There are 71 spacious lecture halls, 01 seminar hall, 01 auditorium with Air Conditioning facility and 48 laboratories. Couple of laboratories have been established in Botany and Zoology for postgraduate programmes. Seminar Halls, Room for Research Students and Computer labs are also established for the overall development of the students. The college has sufficient number of ICT enabled classrooms. The college has created a unique "Mathematics Laboratory" for effective teaching of mathematics.

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 college has hostels for women accommodating 277 girl students in addition to a canteen and well maintained garden.

Teaching-Learning:

Many departments have been using the ICT in their teaching-learning activity. Most of the teachers prepare PPT in the teaching programme providing scope for students to involve in discussion. Many departments have the practice of sharing their PPT and notes with the

students through email. The faculty members have uploaded these in the college website with the link to the respective departments. The practice of uploading the PPT presentations and notes will help the students to browse the same early and come prepared to the class for effective participation in the discussion during the class hours. The teachers of each department also found creating repository of video lectures delivered by eminent scholars available in the internet to help the students to get an opportunity to listen to those lectures which are available on Swayam portal, NPTEL and EDX platforms and can easily be downloaded. It is important to note that these video lectures are available even on subjects under social sciences and humanities like literature and social work.

During the year, the teachers have attended refresher courses, served as resource persons in various academic platforms, completed Swayam/MOOC courses, two teachers awarded Ph D degree at 100th convocation of University of Mysore and 21 teachers have published 27 research papers in national and international indexed journals and 26 teachers have presented 36 papers in the national and internal conferences.

Research Activity:

Affiliating University of Mysore has recognized nine departments of the college as Research Centres and 13 faculty members as research guides. At present 27 research scholars are working in the college towards their doctoral degree and one from Social work department have awarded with Ph D degree. The teachers are working on 01 major project. During the year 2019-20, the college has organized 01 workshop, 7 seminars, 13 special lectures, 03 awareness programmes, 03 extension activities inviting eminent scholars for the benefit of the students and faculty and 04 educational tours also been organised.

Research Facility:

The college has established excellent research and training facilities for biological sciences. The facilities created in the department of Chemistry are also good. The department of Physics is slowly improving its research facilities. The college is proactive in getting the funds from DBT, UGC and Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST). The Biotechnology and Biochemistry departments have established good linkages with industries which helped in skill development, job-oriented training and placement of students.

Empowerment of Teachers:

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 make them get experience both in academic as

well as administrative aspects. Further, as part of Faculty Development programme, teachers were deputed to various orientation programmes, refresher courses, seminars and workshops at different places at state, national and international levels.

The college is making constant efforts to improve the academic profile of the teachers by encouraging them to involve in research activities by encouraging them to submit proposals of research projects, both minor and major, to the national funding agencies, to present the research papers in conferences and to publish the same work in reputed international and national journals and to publish books.

Research & Extension Activity:

It is noticed that during 2019-20, as many as 04 teachers have attended Orientation/Refresher programmes, 02 teachers have served as resource persons in various academic platforms and 02 teachers have got awarded Ph D from University of Mysore. 04 teachers from PG departments have served in 05 International/National Journals/ Periodicals as members of Editorial Board / Review Board, 27 research papers are published and 36 Research Papers/Posters have been presented in various International/national Conferences.

13 Teachers are recognised as research Guides, 01 Teacher have authored 03 books during this academic year.

To extend research activities and to empower teachers and students in the line, 09 departments of the college have been recognized as research centres through which 13 teachers are serving as guides guiding 27 research scholars. It is very appreciable factor to know that the college is encouraging some of the PG students to attend seminars and present papers at different places.

Extension:

Extension activity is another important dimension that determines the quality of higher education offered by the college. Although constant efforts are made by the college, number of extension activities conducted does not commensurate with faculty strength and number of departments that exist. It also helps develop skills to carry out activities, evaluate, and report the experience. During this period, the students have conducted survey and prepared reports that helps in augmenting their capacity to learn and analyze the data and present their findings. This amounts to exposing the students to acquire research culture. The system of having interaction with 08 NGOs that have different focus in their activities with the students

of Social Work prevails in the college. This gives an excellent exposure to the students of MSW to get good orientation for the course.

Through NSS several social service camps have been organized in the rural areas. During these camps blood donation, tree plantation and health and environmental awareness programmes are organized. There are many opportunities to the college to undertake result oriented extension activities that need to be initiated by the college.

It is recommended to plan result oriented extension activities wherein the interested students can be involved in. This would result in sensitization of youths towards social issues and to help them plan for initiation of the remedial measures.

Student Support:

Being a government aided institution, large number of students get 'student concession' in the form of scholarship. Scholarships are also given through many endowments established in addition to management offering a few scholarships to the economically weak students. Efforts are there to strengthen the Alumni Association with a view 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.

Students' activities and performances:

Two students from PG Department of Commerce have presented papers in the International level Conference. One student from PG Department of Kannada has qualified for NET. Good number of students have attended national/international conferences/seminar.

The students of the college have participated in many inter-collegiate sports at city level, university level as well as national level also. Good number of prizes also obtained by them. The equivalent 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 strength of the students in the college.

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 the needy 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 recruitment. This has put an onerous responsibility on the college management through Placement cell to initiate more training activities to improve the placement.

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 followed which 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 college library has 76301 books, 134 Journals and 54 general periodicals in addition to e-journals and also e-books. It has a section 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. Average annual growth of the book collection in the library is 13.6%. The library needs to develop a repository of the research publications of the faculty members of the College.

Library has INFLIBNET facility provided by UGC and it has enhanced scope for the beneficiaries to access more than 5000 e-journals and 51,000 e-books. The college needs to develop a section with Braille scripts for the benefit of visually challenged students for future contingency.

Performance Evaluation of Teachers:

Quality of teachers in the Institutions offering 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 need to be made proactive towards the improvement of faculty performance and accountability.

The college has to take self appraisal reports from the teachers and get them evaluated on the agreed system of weightage. 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.

General Observations:

The Committee had an extensive discussion and interaction with the Principal, CEO, IQAC coordinator, faculty members of both UG and PG departments, Librarian, Director of Physical education and Editor of Internal Audit Report. Based on the input from all the groups and individuals the Committee makes the following observations:

1. Disciplined and dedicated faculty across all the Departments-both PG & UG
2. An excellent academic ambience with state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities
3. Excellent track record of growth in terms of academic courses/programmes including PG Dept. of studies
4. The college has received 'Research Centre' status from University of Mysore
5. Enhanced research contribution of the institution with the addition of more research centres and supervisors
6. Several Departments have achieved an excellent placement performance
7. Student enrolment for science programs has been exceptionally good
8. Physical Education Department found to be very efficient in promoting sports activities
9. CBCS pedagogy with LTP model has been implemented for all the PG programmes from 2011-12 and UG programmes effective from 2017-18
10. PG Department of Biochemistry found involved in a project sponsored by DRDO
11. The student evaluation processes followed inside the laboratories are good
12. The virtual classroom with Audio visual effect and also reading section in Library are good

The college has adopted self evaluation system through both internal and external academic auditing so 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 move in the direction to achieve excellence, so that the autonomous college will ultimately get the status of a University. Hence the Committee makes the following suggestions.

Suggestions:

1. Teachers need to be motivated to write more number of proposals seeking grants to undertake minor as well as major research projects.
2. 360 degree appraisal system has to be adopted where in the feedback from all the dimensions will be communicated to the teacher.
3. The teachers may undertake to create their own video lectures on the topics they teach in the class rooms and add them to the repository created by down loading the videos from NPTEL and EDX. This will enhance the scope of teaching learning process. Some of the general lectures that would be useful to the Social Sciences are available in TED talks. It is also suggested to create a repository of such TED talks.
4. The Career Guidance and Placement Cell of the college should organize the lectures by inviting those who have achieved through Central Service Examination in order to motivate the students for competitive examinations.
5. The instruction material prepared by the faculty members may be uploaded in the college website so as to help the students come prepared to the class room for an effective participation in the discussion.
6. There is a need to encourage all those faculty members not having PhD qualification to acquire the same at an early period.
7. There is enough talent among the faculty members of many departments especially science and the same needs to be exploited for initiating interdisciplinary research which is absent at present.
8. Faculty members who do not have research projects may associate themselves with concerned university department or sister institution and prepare joint research major projects.
9. Since the number of research publications have decreased comparatively, the teachers should concentrate on publishing the research papers in journals with good impact factor maintaining high quality.
10. Additional Diploma and P.G. Diploma courses in banking and insurance needs to be started.
11. Project work should be made compulsory for both B.Com and M.Com courses.

12. A separate cell may be established under the leadership of a senior teacher to provide for industry interface- organizing industry visits and special lecture programme by industry experts on a regular basis.
13. The placement record of the college is very poor. Existing Career Guidance Centre to be restructured as Personality development and Training centre to enhance the employment capability of students.
14. Teaching methodology across all faculties needs to focus on group/ individual seminar and submission of synopsis on assigned topics.
15. The college may adopt result oriented extension activities to understand the impact of extension work.
16. The college may initiate monthly colloquia involving all science departments on one day and involving all social science and humanities departments on a second day on rotation basis to promote interdisciplinary research.
17. A separate research lab is to be created which could be used by all the natural science students. The cell culture facilities should be Air conditioned. A technician may be appointed and trained to handle and maintain equipment.
18. The students should be encouraged and trained to get through competitive examinations like Central Entrance Examination for Biotechnology Programmes (CEEBS) conducted by JNU, CSIR-UGC-Fellowship/NET, KSET, GATE, Ph.D. qualifying examinations etc.
19. It should be possible to create different schools, so that the students could get the subject experts for imparting the knowledge as well the resources could be used optimally.
20. The placement of students shall be documented for future reference.
21. Department of Economics has to revise the syllabus to increase the skill component.
22. Extension activities to be undertaken to increase the relevance of the Economics course and encourage community engagement.
23. To implement career advancement scheme for promotion of eligible teachers on top priority.
24. To streamline the teacher appraisal system and to reward the best performing teachers.
25. To accelerate the process of establishment of research centres to recognize the qualified professors as research supervisors in science departments.

29. Steps to be initiated to form alumni association through which to tap professional and financial resources.

30. Faculty composition needs to be reviewed and add few more cadres like:

- a) Adjunct professor with industry/professional background
- b) Visiting professor (re-deployment of retired professors from reputed institutions)

31. Embarking upon e-governance project as a top priority which would not only bring in much desired efficiency in administration but also provide an interface amongst the various stakeholders on real-time basis.

32. Remedial coaching classes for slow learners are suggested. It should be reflected in the time table.

33. More importance has to be given for communication and soft skills classes.

34. There is a need to involve the student representatives in many of the Committees.

Acknowledgement:

The members of the Audit Committee would like to offer their Pranams to His Holiness Jagadguru Sri SriShivarathriDeshikendraMahaswamiji for reposing faith and nominating them to the committee. Further, the committee members express their great appreciation to the Chief Executive, the Principal, teaching staff and all the supporting staff members for the co operation and courtesy extended to the committee during their visit to the college. The members also wish to thank Dr. Kumudini Achchi for coordinating the entire visit.


Names of the Members:

Signature

1) Prof. P.Venkataramaiah


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2) Dr. G Kotreshwar


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3) Dr. K A Raveesha


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