

**PEER GROUP ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR
Mrs. A.V.N COLLEGE, VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH**

28 – 30 March, 2007

**National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
P.O.Box.No.1075, Nagarbhavi, Bangalore – 560 072. Inida**

SECTION 1; PREFACE

Mrs. A.V.N.College Visakhapatnam is the oldest college in the area. It had its genesis in the form of a Vernacular School, which was founded in 1860 by the then Inspector of Schools Sir. Alexander Grant. Later as the demand for education grew, several rich philanthropists contributed money and the school was upgraded to a High School. Later in the year 1878, the management committee of the school appealed to the people, in general, to donate money and with generous subscriptions received from the public, a Second Grade College named Hindu College, was established and affiliated to Madras University. The college crossed another milestone, when in 1892 ,Sri A.V.Narsingha Row, then Deputy Collector of Visakhapatnam, bequeathed 11 acres of land with a palatial building(now a heritage building), a lakh of rupees and building fund of Rs.15,000 for establishing a college in the name of his wife to be known as "Mrs. A.V.N.Narsighna Row College". The members of the management committee were also named in his Will. The new management committee took over from the erstwhile committee of the Hindu College in 1897, and establishment of the present college was formalized.

In 1944, the college was raised to First Grade when BA course was started. Later in 1949, B.Com and B.Sc courses in physics and chemistry were started. Further development took place when, for the benefit of employees, these traditional courses were moved to the second shift. With technological developments and changing needs of industry and society, new courses in electronics, zoology, fisheries were introduced in 1984 and in 1991 computer science was offered as an optional subject. Further during the last one decade several new courses in the emerging areas of bio-technology, biochemistry and microbiology were added and a self financed PG course (M.Com) was also introduced. A few career-oriented courses sponsored and funded by UGC were also initiated.

The goals and objectives of the college were well defined during the initial stages of its establishment and the main endeavor of the college has been to provide education to weaker and hitherto neglected sections of society.


20/07/27

The college has a chequered history, and several distinguished luminaries like Sir C.V.Raman- a noble laureate, Dr. C.R.Rao an internationally known statistician- among others have received their early education in this college.

It is now an aided college affiliated to Andhra University and has currently 1438 students in UG courses and 26 students in PG courses. The enrolment in self funded UG and Certificate courses are 422 and 18 respectively. On the whole, approximately one-fifths of students are females.

As per the requirement of NAAC for the Higher Education Institutions in India, the college volunteered itself for the process of accreditation and submitted the Self Study Report in 2006. The NAAC appointed a peer team consisting of Professor Ashis Ray (Former Vice Chancellor Kalyani University) as Chairman, Prof. Jagdish C. Bhatia (Formerly Professor & Chairman Research & Publications, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore) as Member Co-coordinator and Dr. Arun Adsool (Principal Vidya Pratishthan's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Vidyanagari, Baramati, Pune) as Member. The team visited all the academic, administrative and support service units of the college and effectively interacted with the principal, management committee, departmental heads, non-teaching staff, parents, students, alumni among others. The peer team also clarified all aspects of accreditation requirements and verified records, wherever necessary.

Based on the above exercise, inputs provided before and during the visit, and after a careful study of records, the Peer Team has prepared the following Report, keeping in mind the methodology of accreditation as specified by NAAC for assessing the college in its efforts to develop core value as per the changing context of higher education in India.

The criterion-wise report of Peer Team is given below:


3/1/07

SECTION 2: CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS

Criterion 1: Curricular Aspects

(a) Goal Orientation

The vision and mission of the college was enunciated in the Will of its principal donor Mr. A.V.Narsingha Row, which broadly indicates that a college be established in the town of Vishakapatnam for the benefit of the public. The most colleges in the area, which were established during that period, were either started by the government or the missionaries. This college received strong financial support from the landed gentry and donations from the general public. The main orientation of the college, thus, was to provide education to all those living in the area. After the independence, there was a change in the government policy and the college responded to existing needs and realities. It followed the government's vision, mission and objectives by providing reservation in admissions to weaker sections of society. Even today the college has the lowest fee structure, because of its commitment to carry education to the grass root level. While, earlier objective was to provide liberal education, later technological developments in India and abroad prompted it to start new courses in science and technology to meet needs of the society and train the student to be professionally competent to face the challenges ahead. The unique feature of the college is that it has been patronized by entire families and the siblings from these families have studied in the college. They have been instrumental in spreading the goals and objectives of the college far and wide.

(b) Curriculum Development

The college is affiliated to Andhra University and do not have freedom or autonomy to develop its own curriculum for the various courses. It follows the pattern decided by the university. However, some faculty members of the college are nominated by rotation to Board of Studies for various subjects/disciplines, and are in a position to influence the development of curriculum, though to a limited extent.

Andhra
30/10/07

(c) Programme options


At the undergraduate level, the college has 24 programme options in B.A; B.Sc and B.Com. The students can select different combinations depending upon their aptitude and future career plan. . At the post graduate (M.Com) level, the students have only one option. The subjects taught at the college are: English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Telegu, Commerce, Economics, History, Political Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Bio-chemistry, Bio-Technology, Micro-Biology, Fisheries, Electronics, Computer Science, Science and Civilization, Environment Science, Information and Communication Technology. . In addition, there are job oriented certificate/diploma courses like A.V.Films, Hospital Waste and Disposal Management, Statistics Training, Tally and Photoshop. The college receives a special grant from UGC for running these courses. A few UG and PG (M.com) programme are run on self-finance basis.

(d) Academic Flexibility

As per the university norms, the college is following annual system for UG courses and semester system for PG (M.Com) course. The students have, however, wide choice of selecting various combinations at the UG level. No formal remedial or bridge courses have been designed for slow learners, though it is indicated that these students are given counseling by their teachers outside official class timings.

(e) Feedback Mechanism

The college does not have a formal system of obtaining feedback from the students and the employers' It has, however, devised its own methods of obtaining feedback from students, employers, alumnae and subject experts, on an informal basis. These feedbacks are mostly used to change the combination and groups for UG courses. The syllabus revisions are recommended by the university and are adopted by the college.


20/3/07

Criterion II: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

(a) Admission Process


The admission to UG courses are made on the basis of marks obtained in the qualifying examination. There is only one PG programme (M.Com) and admission is made on the basis of rank obtained in the common entrance test conducted by Andhra University. For disadvantaged sections and physically challenged persons, the norms of the UGC and State government are followed. Some preference in admission is given to those who have distinguished in sports at the regional, state, national and international levels. However, there is no relaxation in admission for economically weaker sections of society and women. The college appoints an admission committee and the convener with other members plans and executes the admission procedure. The process of admission starts with the sale of application form along with the prospectus, which contains all relevant information about the college and its activities. The short listed candidates are called for interview and counseling is given with regard to the selection of courses and their combinations. The demand ratio for UG courses is in most cases 1:1.

(b) Catering to Diverse Needs

The diagnostic tests to identify slow learners are not formalized. The knowledge, skills and needs of the students are assessed informally by the teachers, primarily based on the marks obtained in the qualifying examination. It is indicated that there is no provision for tutorial classes in the hours allotted to each subject, but the college claims that tutorial classes are conducted for all UG courses on an informal basis. However, these tutorials are neither structured nor systematically documented. The institution provides both bridge courses and remedial courses for the disadvantaged.

(c) Teaching-Learning Process

The academic council of the college prepares the master time table and circulates it to all departments before the closing of the college for the summer vacation. Based on this, the teachers prepare individual class-wise time table and teaching plan. Every


30/07/07
5


teacher is required to maintain a diary in which details of the syllabus covered monthwise are recorded. The total number of teaching days is 219 out of 223 working days. While teaching in B.A, B.Com and B.Sc is mainly through lecture method, practical classes are conducted for B.Sc and B.Com (computer) courses. In addition to lecture methods, group discussions, seminars and quiz competitions are also conducted to make the learning process student centric.

(d) Teacher Quality

The rules laid down by the UGC and the State government for recruitment of teachers are followed. In the aided programme 74 out of 104 sanctioned positions are filled. Further out of 83 non-teaching and technical positions sanctioned, 55 are filled. Approximately one-fourths of teachers are female. All the teachers are qualified and 18% and 31% of them have PhD and M.Phil. qualifications respectively. In addition, there are 70 teachers who have been appointed by the Management under the self-financed programme, out of which 28 are females. The teacher student ratio is 1:20. All the teachers are recruited from within the state. Only a few teachers have availed of the faculty development programmes during the last five years. The college encourages teachers to avail of leave for pursuing higher studies at M.Phil. and Ph.D. level and a couple of teachers have availed of this facility.

(e) Evaluation of teaching

The performance of teachers is evaluated by the college Management, Principal and Heads of Departments through informal interactions with the students and teachers themselves. In addition, self-appraisal forms are collected periodically and reviewed by the Principal. The principal discusses the feedback of each teacher individually and gives suggestions for improvement. The performance of teachers is also reported to the Management Committee by the Principal and reviewed by it. However, there is a need to structure the entire process of teacher evaluation.


36/8/07

(f) Evaluation of Learning

The college does not have much say in the evaluation of learning by the students. The university conducts annual examination for UG courses and semester examination for PG course. However, the college monitors the progress of the students through monthly and half yearly class tests. As per the university norms, or the, continuous assessment is followed for PG students for which 15% weightage for each paper of study under the semester system is allowed. However, there is no provision for internal assessment for UG students. The answer scripts are returned to the students and if there are any grievances, these are discussed with the teacher concerned. The evaluation methods followed by the university are communicated to the students at the beginning of each course. The results of the final examinations are directly communicated to the students by the university.


Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Evaluation

(a) Promotion of Research

The main focus of the college is to conduct mostly U.G programmes and only one P.G.Programme. The library, laboratories and equipment are by and large adequate for U.G programmes, but should be further strengthened to carry out research at the higher level. Furthermore, the college subscribes to very few research journals. However, the college does encourage faculty members to carry out research by pursuing studies at PhD and M.Phil level outside the college, preferably at Andhra University. The teachers are also encouraged to submit proposals to UGC for minor projects. A committee has been formed at the college to provide necessary assistance in this direction.

(b) Research output

During the last five years, the UGC has sanctioned five research project to the college faculty with a total funding of Rs.1,95,700/-. Three of these projects have been completed and two are in progress. The faculty members have a large number of journal publications, text books, theses, abstracts to their credit. But most of these


20/3/07

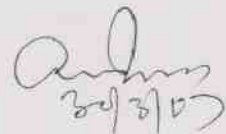
publications are very old and reflect life long contributions of the faculty, particularly those who have Ph.D. qualifications. However, during the last 5 years, the contribution of the faculty in research publications are as: International journals (5), National journals (27), Books (38), Abstracts (4), Proceedings of seminar (7) and Theses (1).

(c) Consultancy

The College offers consultancy services by way of providing infrastructure and faculty to the School of Distance Education, Andhra University. Such facilities are also extended to some of the affiliated colleges, such as B.R.R.Collge, Vasavi Degree College, NES College of Technology, etc. The Department of Statistics also extends consultancy services both remunerative and non-remunerative – like schedule preparation, data collection, data processing and analysis of the data. Also the institution is assisting Rotary Netra Eye Hospital, etc, in carrying out field studies. During the year 2002-03 the institution earned from such services Rs.40,950/- . Such receipts during 2005-06, increased to Rs.1,03,274/-.

(d) Extension Activities

The faculty members have organized several socially oriented programmes like Janmabhoomi sponsored by district administration, National Adult Education Programme, Rotary Eye Hospital etc. Students actively participated in these programmes. Further the college has very active NSS and two NCC units - one exclusively for the girls. The volunteers and cadets participate in a large number of community welfare activities. The NSS has adopted a slum area, where health camps are held to create awareness among the population about various health programmes. Further the faculty members and the college are playing a leading role in the activities of Heritage Club and Red Ribbon Club. A faculty member is a resource person for implementation of AIDS programme at the state level under the auspices of Red Ribbon Club.


20/3/07

(e) Linkages

The college has limited linkage with the university for research and extension. Being affiliated to Andhra University, faculty members can avail of the benefit of pursuing research under FDP and UGC programmes. Further, NSS activities are conducted under the State Coordinator. Informal contacts have also been established with a couple of local industrial units to explore the possibility of getting some of the students employed.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

(a) Physical facilities

The college occupies an area of 8 acres of land. The class rooms are large and well ventilated. The administrative block and 15 class rooms are located in a century old heritage building. In all there are 43 class rooms. A seminar hall with a seating capacity of 300 has also been built recently in the administrative building. The science departments have well equipped laboratories to impart necessary practical skills to the students. A laboratory under the English Department has also been recently set up to improve communicative skills of the students.

(b) Maintenance of Infrastructure

The amount required for the maintenance of land, buildings, furniture, equipment etc. are collected from the students with the fees and is adequate for the maintenance of basic infrastructure. Efforts are made for optimum utilization of the amount so collected and expenditure from the fund is authorized by the Principal in consultation with the Vice Chairman & Correspondent. Several persons such as electrician, plumber, gardener, cleaners etc. are appointed for the maintenance of physical infrastructure.

(c) Library as a Learning Resource

The library has an advisory committee which meets regularly, reviews the functioning of the library and gives suggestions for further improvement. The total carpet area of

Andhra
34/10/07

