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ARYA VIDYAPEETH COLLEGE (Autonomous)
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Dated Guwahati the, 28th August, 2024

From : Dr. Pradip Kr. Bhattacharyya, M.Sc.,Ph.D.,
Principal,
Arya Vidyapeeth College,
Guwahati-16.

To : Prof. Manish R. Joshi,
Secretary,
University Grants Commission (UGC),
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110002
Email : secretary.ugc@nic.in

Sub: "Peer Team Report" on the progress of autonomous college

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, please find herewith the "Peer Team Report" on the progress of Arya Vidyapeeth College (Autonomous) for the session 1st July, 2022 – 30th June, 2023. It may be mentioned that Arya Vidyapeeth College has been granted autonomous status by UGC on 26th May, 2022 vide order no: F.22-1/2022/(AC).

With regards,

Principal,
Arya Vidyapeeth College (Autonomous)
Guwahati -781016

Principal
Arya Vidyapeeth College (Autonomous)
Guwahati-16, Assam

PEER TEAM REPORT ON THE
PROGRESS
OF AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE

ACADEMIC YEAR: 2022 – 23 (1st July, 2022 – 30th June, 2023)



ARYA VIDYAPEETH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
GUWAHATI

Members of the team

1. Professor R C Deka, Vice Chancellor, Cotton University
2. Professor Sukanya Sharma, IITG
3. Dr. Biren Das, Registrar, Tezpur University
4. Dr. Hiren Deka, Controller of Examinations, Cotton University

Principal : Dr. Pradip Kumar Bhattacharya

IQAC Coordinator: Dr. Anupama Devi

Date of visit: 15th June, 2024

About the College:

Arya Vidyapeeth College (Autonomous) was established on 29th July, 1958. It is one of the pioneer higher education institutions of Assam becoming a beacon of learning and a symbol of aspirations for the common people of Assam. Arya Vidyapeeth College has been identified by the University Grants Commission (UGC) as an institution with potential for excellence. The grant of “*College with Potential for Excellence*” (CPE) has become instrumental in its scaling of greater heights of excellence. It may be mentioned that six departments of the college have been selected by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology under “*Star College Scheme*”.

The college has been granted autonomous status by UGC on 26th May, 2022 for ten years from the session 2022 – 23 vide Letter No.F.22-1/2022(AC)) for all programs run under auspices of UGC. Subsequent to the approval by UGC, Gauhati University declared the autonomous status of the college vide letter no: GU/AFF/2022/5066-69, dated: 23rd June, 2022.

The VISION of the college:

The vision of the college has been defined as “to cater to the need for higher education and to tap the intellectual potential of the youth of Assam in particular and the entire North East India in general”. Through the vision, the College aspires to uphold the national policies on higher education which is to mould and prepare the young minds to meet contemporary challenges with special focus on the underprivileged students. Guided by the principles of inclusiveness, integrity, innovation, creativity and quality, the College has a vision to create an environment that is responsive to the needs of students and society at large.

The MISSION:

The College since its inception has committed itself to the realization of the ideals reflected in the vision of the College. The missions of the College are:

- To enrich and empower the young generation through quality education.
- To achieve academic brilliance and prepare students to play a positive and meaningful role in nation building.
- To develop a vibrant academic ambience for research and higher studies.

- To organize vibrant development programmes and services to help students identify educational and career goals and set realistic career paths.
- To make higher education accessible to the underprivileged section of the society.
- To introduce innovative techniques to make the teaching-learning process more effective.
- To prepare individuals for productive contribution to society.
- To develop the potential of the students in co- curricular and extracurricular fields through participation in literary, cultural, sports, and extension activities.
- To sensitise students towards social concerns like gender and environmental issues, human rights, ethical and patriotic values.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

For the fruitful realization of Vision and Mission, certain goals and objectives have been chalked out by the college:

- Encourage students to identify their latent talent and potential;
- Produce high stratum outputs from the low inputs;
- Cater to the needs of academically disadvantaged students;
- Equip the students with some value added courses;
- Promote co-curricular activities amongst the students to develop healthy habits;
- Mould students into ideal citizens and thereby fulfill social obligations; and
- Promote and develop research culture among the faculty members.

On the basis of set vision, Mission and goals and objectives, the Team reviewed the progress of the college in respect of Academic Activities, Research Activities, Administrative Activities, Extension Activities and Financial Management as detailed below.

Academic activities:

An Academic Council has been constituted as per the UGC Guidelines. During the period of review, one meeting of the Academic Council took place.

In the first academic year (2022 – 23) the college had adopted the syllabus of Gauhati University for both Undergraduate and Post Graduate Courses with due permission from Gauhati University.

As the Govt. of Assam announced that NEP 2020 shall be implemented from the academic session 2023 – 24, the college initiated the process of framing course curricula as per NEP 2020 as follows:

- The college has implemented four-year undergraduate course curriculum with single major under NEP2020 from the academic session 2023 – 24 complying with the provisions of National Credit Framework . The minimum credit a student has to acquire to get a degree (Honours/Honours with research) under FYUGP is 160 while to get a degree after three years, the minimum credit requirement has been framed as 120. The credits are equally distributed with 20 credits in each semester. The college has followed the UGC regulations regarding “Credit distribution matrix under FYUGP (single major)”. This distribution matrix has been approved by the Academic Council vide resolution no: AC – 01/2023/03(a) dated: 31 – 03 – 2023.

The College has offered barrier less subject pool. The subject pools, course codes and subject codes have been approved by the Academic Council vide resolution no: AC – 01/2023/03(b) dated: 31 – 03 – 2023.

- The college has also adopted “Multiple Entry and Multiple Exit” as per NEP2020 recommendations.
- The college has already registered at ABC through NAD.
- The syllabus of each course offered by the college for each level has been prepared in such a manner so that the learners fulfil the learning requirements or outcomes as given in NHEQF
- All the departments of the college have obtained approval of BoS for the syllabi of various course components viz. Core, Minor, AEC, SEC, VAC/FC and MDC/IDC for first two semesters.
- The Sanskrit Department of the college has developed a course “Ancient Indian Studies” under Value Added Course Component.

- If a student desires to change his core (major) subject, provisions have been made to allow such transition in 3rd semester only subject to availability of seats and condition laid down by the concerned department.
- The change of minor subject is allowed in 3rd, 5th and 7th semester.
- A Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has already been established with the existing faculty members. The department co-ordinates with external agencies/institute/industry for resource sharing to impart skill based/vocational courses. It has already conducted 30 + hours of skill development courses on Financial Literacy, Personality Development & Spoken English, Basics of Remote Sensing & GIS and their applications and Plant Tissue Culture.
- Both the Governing Body and Academic Council of the college have approved the establishment of the Departments of Data Science, Sociology, Psychology, Computer Science and Disability Studies. The Department of Disability studies has already conducted one certificate course.
- The college has initiated the process to offer P.G and Ph.D programmes in different departments in a phased manner.
- The number of teaching days (90 days) per semester adopted by the college is as per “National Credit Framework” and accordingly an Academic Calendar of the college has been framed.
- The college has devised its own assessment and evaluation guidelines. The ratio of formative and summative assessment adopted at present is 30:70 which shall be increased to 40:60.
- Subject to approval of Academic Council, guidelines for assessment of Course Learning Outcome Attainment Levels have been framed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. All academic regulations/ Guidelines as notified by UGC from time to time should be adopted by the Academic Council and GB.
2. Vetting/ endorsement of the DRAFT course curricula for new/ revision of programme/ courses by external expert is advised.
3. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation be followed enhancing formative and summative assessment ratio in a phase manner.

4. Question paper setting and evaluation of Answer Script be done at institutional level. Involvement of External Experts for Setting and Evaluation may be phased out. This would help in declaration of results on time.
5. Percentage of students who have got their ABC IDs need to be mentioned
6. Courses on sign language can be introduced.

Research Activities:

With a view to encourage and facilitate more research, the college established an active Research and Developmental Cell as per the guidelines of UGC. To promote excellence in research in the college, each year, faculty members are supported to meet their requirements for individual research in specialized areas through the Institutional Research Grant. During the year of reference, eight(8) faculty members both from Arts and Science streams were awarded seed money as Research Grant.

The Research and Development cell also conducts counselling sessions to motivate students for research. Research is also promoted at the department level through curriculum-based research projects under mentorship of teachers. The College also has a North-East study centre which promotes research among students.

There are five departments having research projects funded by Government and Non-Government agencies during the year and 7 students have registered under Ph.D programme in different departments. 36 numbers of research papers were published by the faculty members in UGC-CARE listed journals in the academic year 2022 – 23. Number of books and chapters in edited volumes / books published per teacher during the year is 24. Total number of citations in Scopus this year is 1369 and h-index is 127

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. More than 25% teachers are without PhD qualification. These teachers may be encouraged for pursuing PhD as part-time scholar.
2. Number of Extra-mural Research Projects is low. Teachers may approach funding agencies with research proposals.
3. Publishing and filing of patents by students and teachers may be encouraged through awareness sessions by inviting Experts.

4. Policy on Evaluation of PhD theses by two External Experts may be adopted – if not already in the college regulations

Administrative activities

The college has constituted the Governing Body as per the UGC guidelines for Autonomous College 2023. Before the formation of this body, the Governing body as per affiliated college structure was functioning.

During the period, five (05) nos of Governing Body meetings were held. The first meeting of the Governing Body under autonomous status was held on 02 – 07 – 22.

The minutes of the GB are maintained properly.

SUGGESTION:

To confirm if Action Taken Report on the GB Resolutions are placed in successive meeting of GB or not

Finance Committee:

RECOMMENDATION AND OBSERVATIONS:

A Finance Committee has been constituted as per UGC Guideline. However, the Finance Committee does not have any external member. An External Member may be nominated on the Finance Committee under Section 12.6(b) of UGC Regulations on Autonomous Colleges 2023. The College may enlist Special Invitee for FC meetings as per specific need.

During the period of review three (03) meetings of the Finance Committee were held.

The Finance committee has taken the Financial activities in to consideration and recommended the general budget to the G.B of the college for final approval.

Board of Studies:

The college has constituted twenty one (21) Board of Studies including an interdisciplinary Board of Studies in faculty of Arts, Science and Commerce as per the structure given in UGC guidelines for Autonomous Colleges, 2023. The Board of studies have approved the syllabi of respective arts, science and commerce discipline for various programmes in offer.

The interdisciplinary Board of Studies has approved the syllabi of interdisciplinary subjects like Environmental Studies, Data Science and Disability studies.

Examination Committee:

The college has constituted an Examination Committee to monitor and guide all examination related matters which are brought into notice by the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

Examination Cell:

The College has established the Examination Cell for the conduction of examinations. The cell is responsible for conduction of examinations both internal and external, evaluation, publication and preparation of results. It maintains all the records of the students evaluations and examinations for all UGC approved courses offered by the college which falls under the purview of Autonomy.

The College has appointed Controller of Examinations along with other Officers in the Examination Cell. The Office of the Controller of Examinations conducted examinations for both odd and even semesters for the period 1st July, 2022 to 30th June, 2023. The printing of all question papers, Answer Booklets, etc. are done in-house by the Office of the Controller of Examinations.

It is worth mentioning that the results of end semester examinations conducted under autonomous status was declared within 45 days from the last day of the examinations.

Committees and Cells:

For the smooth functioning of the different activities, both academic and extra-curricular, several committees and cells like Academic and NEP cell, disciplinary committee, Women Cell, Internal Complaints Committee, Grievance Redressal Cell, Career Counselling cell, Committee for Academic and Personal Counselling, Yoga Cell, Science Club, Eco Club etc have been formed.

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To file RTI and ICC returns as per GoI/ UGC guidelines
2. The college has a very high teacher- student ratio which is about 1:40. The college may approach the Government for sanction of more faculty positions.

IQAC:

The college has an active IQAC which was reconstituted on 1st January, 2023 as per NAAC guidelines. The IQAC in association with “ NEP implementation cell” has framed the “Credit distribution matrix”, course code etc of FYUGP. The IQAC has prepared and submitted the “Institutional Development Plan” of the college.

The IQAC has also facilitated of consultancy services through MoUs with J.N. College, Boko and Jagiroad College for the following consultancy services:

- Preparation of IDP
- Preparation of SSR
- Preparation for the proposal for applying autonomous status to UGC.

The Cell has conducted a three-day “Capacity building workshop on designing Question Paper” in collaboration with the Office of the Controller of Examinations. The IQAC has also organized various programmes on the themes suggested by Ministry of Culture, Govt. of Assam as a part of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” Celebration.

Extension activities:

The college prioritizes holistic education combining academic excellence with extensive engagement in socio-cultural, economic, and environmental contexts through various dedicated cells as evident from various extension activities taken during the review period. The College has adopted Garbhanga village in the periphery of Guwahati city and adopted the only lower primary school of the village. The teachers of the College are actively engaged in empowering the students of the said village in terms of education and social responsibility. Pamohi has been adopted by the NSS unit of the College. The NSS unit of the College organizes various camps in the village on regular basis. The college also has conducted “eye camp” and other community services at adopted village. Most of the departments have adopted nearby schools as a part of extension activity of the faculty members. 60 Assam Girls' BN NCC and 1 Assam BN NCC of the college also carries out various extension activities and awareness programmes on AIDS, pollution, road safety, Yoga etc. It also conducts self-defense class.

Financial report:

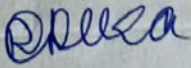

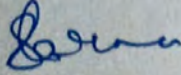
As submitted by the Principal, following is the Financial Report of the college for Financial Year 2022-23.

Item	Unutilized Grant available from Previous year (2021 - 22)	Resources generated through fees and other sources (2022 - 23)	Grant received from UGC and other funding agencies during the year (2022 - 23)	Expenditure during the year (2022 - 23)	Unspent balance (2022 -23)	Remarks
1	Rs. 527810.10 (RUSA)	Rs.38120823.00	Rs. 6984161.00 (RUSA)	Rs.7106204.00 (RUSA) Rs.27423033.00 (Fees and other Sources)	Rs. 405767.10 (RUSA) Rs.10697790.00 (Fees and other Sources)	

Observations and recommendations:

1. The college has been able to avail benefits of various govt schemes for infrastructure development.
2. The accounts are audited by CA on regular basis. Conduct of Audit by Local Audit authority as per Govt. rules may be taken up.
3. Increase in IRG by Alumni contribution and Philanthropic funding may be explored.

Signatures:

1. R. C. DEKA 
2. Biren Das 
3. Subhaya Sharma 
4. Hiren Deua 