

**Report of the Peer Team on the Institutional Accreditation of
Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Science
And
Late Nasaruddinbhai Panjawani Commerce College, Armori,
Distt. Gadchiroli.**

Section 1 : Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi Arts and Science College was established way back in 1981. In 1995, the name of the college was re-christened as Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Science and Nasaruddinbhai Panjawani Commerce College keeping in view the great contribution made by late Shri Panjawani for the growth and development of Commerce faculty. It is a prominent college in Gadchiroli district. This college is run by Manoharbai Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Armori. The Society has a lofty aim of providing higher education to the tribal youth so that they could join the mainstream of the nation and thereby contribute to the development of the nation. The geographical situation of the district had been exceedingly bad. It was known as Andaman and Nicobar of the State of Maharashtra. The mighty Vainganga four Kms towards west and the deep Gadhavi river two Kms. to the east of it had cut it off from the world outside till the new bridges did not span across them. The college started with 45 students and 11 lecturers in 1981. However, today there are 866 students studying in the faculties of Arts, Science, Commerce and Computer courses with 32 lecturers.

The aim of this college is to provide education to the down-trodden tribal students of this backward and poor area so that this tribal area could grow and flourish. The college is affiliated to Nagpur University. It is also recognized by the University Grants Commission under sections 2(f) and 12B.

Mahatma Gandhi Arts, Science and Nasaruddinbhai Panjawani Commerce College, Armori volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council by submitting their self-study report which in turn constituted an expert committee to visit the college and validate its self-study report. The Peer Team comprises of Prof. H.S. Soch as Chairman (Former Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar), Prof. Saroj Mishra, Principal Govt. Naveen Girls College, Bilaspur Chhattisgarh and Dr. S. Bhargava, UGC Emeritus Fellow, Dept. of Mathematics, University of Mysore, Manasagangotri,

Mysore, Karnataka as members. The team visited the institution for two days i.e. from February 10 to February 11, 2004. The Peer Team carefully perused and analyzed the self-study report submitted by the institute. During institution visit, Peer Team went through the relevant documents, visited the departments and interacted with the various constituents of the institution. The academic, co-curricular, extra-curricular, sports and other facilities of the institution were visited. The Peer Team also interacted at length with the Principal, faculties, students, non-teaching staff, parents and alumni of the institution. Based on the above exercise and keeping in mind the criteria identified by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the Peer Team has taken up the assessment and accreditation of the college.

Section 2 : Criterionwise Analysis

Criterion – I : Curricular Aspects

The college is catering to the undergraduate programme in Arts, Science and Commerce faculties. The degree programmes in B.A. offers English Literature, Marathi Literature, History, Sociology, Economics, Political Science, Geography and Home Economics, out of which, a student is required to opt for three subjects. In addition, he has to study two compulsory languages viz., English and Marathi. In B.Com., they have to study the papers according to the Nagpur University curriculum. The optional subjects are Human Resource Development, Information Technology and Computer Application, out of which only one paper can be taken up. Likewise, in B.Sc. a candidate has to opt for three science subjects from amongst the subjects Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Zoology and Botany and Computer Science, Geology in addition to compulsory language papers.

There is no scope of horizontal or vertical mobility. However, the students of B.Sc. and B.Com. can be admitted in Arts Faculty, but they have to qualify the optional subjects according to the University rules. The students of Arts Faculty are not permitted to join the faculty of Science and Commerce for undergraduate programmes.

The courses are designed by the University with the result that the college does not have any significant role in restructuring or designing the curriculum. The teachers also in general do not take any initiative for reviewing it at the college level or ever

decided to write to the University about the changes required to be incorporated in the curriculum through the college Principal.

The college cannot introduce any kind of programme of its own unless permitted by the University and the Government of Maharashtra. The government and the University, however, encourage the colleges to go in for self-financing courses. However, the permission is granted only after the college fulfils the basic conditions.

Criterion II : Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

The teaching, learning and evaluation system adopted by the college is satisfactory. The teaching faculty of the college comprises of 37 lecturers, out of whom, 32 are permanent and 5 as contributory ones. They are highly qualified. Fifteen of them have M.Phil. degree, four teachers have submitted their thesis of Ph.D. The number of technical staff and the administrative staff members is 16 with the result that the ratio between the teaching and the non-teaching staff is 2:1.

The total number of students studying in this college is 866 including about 300 women students. The admission of students is made through their academic record and first come first serve basis. The unit cost of education is Rs. 11410/-

The conventional lecture method is followed by the teachers in the classrooms. However, the teachers are organizing seminars, discussions, etc. The students are also taken to different work places, like industries, factories, bird-sanctuaries, etc. The college has overhead projector. The teachers, however, prepare teaching plans for individual subjects at the beginning of academic session.

The college prepares academic calendar in the light of the university guidelines. Time table and classes are allocated right in the beginning of the session. The Heads hold the meeting of their departments where the details of the curriculum completion are finalized. The Principal ensures the implementation of the academic calendar. The college holds class / house tests, monthly tests, quarterly tests in order to ensure that students continue to study properly. The annual examinations are conducted by the University on the basis of the syllabi conveyed to the college every year. The degrees are also awarded by the University. It was heartening to note that the academic calendar is followed in letter and spirit.

The teachers are recruited through a committee constituted according to the rules of the University and State Government. The selection committee comprises of the Chairman of the Governing Body or his Nominee, Principal of the college, Head of the concerned Department, two Nominees of the Vice-Chancellor (subject experts), two Management Council's Nominees (subject experts) and a Government Nominee. The approval of the selection by the committee has to be obtained from the Govt. of Maharashtra and the University. The Principal and Management can appoint temporary teachers on purely adhoc basis or contributory staff on the clock-hour basis. The Management bears the expenses of salaries of such teachers. The college presently does not provide any bridge or remedial courses to the educationally disadvantaged students. However, the brilliant students are identified on the basis of their performance in the college tests and are guided by the teachers.

The teachers are encouraged to participate in seminars, workshops, orientation refresher Courses etc.. Some of them have been members of the of the University academic bodies from time to time. Presently, two teachers are members of the boards of studies and the Principal is a member of the Senate.

There is no well-defined system of appraisal of teachers. The college follows the self-appraisal method whereby teachers evaluate their own performance on the strength of the actual work done by them. These are examined by the Principal who, in turn, suggests improvements

Criterion III : Research, Consultancy and Extension

The college is a recognized centre of undergraduate studies, with the result that it is not sensitized to the research activities. However, the college authorities encourage the teachers to go in for the improvement of their qualification. Presently, thirteen teachers are registered as part-time research scholars, out of whom four have already submitted their thesis for evaluation. The college is willing to provide necessary assistance to the teachers to go in for research work. Presently, there is no on-going research project with the college. The college is not catering to any kind of consultancy services both at the honorary and at payment level.

The extension programme is carried out by the college with a view to help the tribal society around the college. One teacher has been given the additional charge of these extension activities. The programmes, like community development, health and hygiene awareness, adult education and literacy, AIDS awareness, social work, blood donation camps, environment awareness, etc. are carried out. The college rightly claims that the extension work is an important limb of its organisation. The thrust area is community development. Social works like conservation of water, cutting roads for the villages, digging drains etc. are undertaken.

The tribal people are normally very superstitious. So, the college is making every effort to inform the residents of the bad effects of superstitions on their health, etc. Needless to say, the college has made excellent efforts to involve the various non-government and government organizations in catering to the extension services and, thus, has been able to maintain a close relationship with the society.

Criterion IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college buildings are spread-over an area of more than three acres of land. There is a main building, a double-storeyed Vignyan Bhawan. The main building houses the classrooms, library, the staff room, laboratories in the subjects of Geology, Geography and Home Economics. This bhavan also houses science laboratories and the computer centre. The administrative section of the college is also attached to this building. The office building of Manoharbai Shikshan Prasark Mandal is also housing Gymnasium and the sports room.

There is a big ground for general assembly and for sports and games. The college has playgrounds for handball, basketball, volleyball, Kabaddi, Kho-Kho etc . The classrooms are old but quite spacious. It is proposed to construct another building which would accommodate library, auditorium and some more classrooms. The rooms are sufficient for teaching work. In addition, there is a room for NSS, common room for women students, canteen, gymnasium, etc.

The Management from its own resources carries out the maintenance of the buildings. The Management spends money for modernising the laboratories, for purchasing furniture and for other infrastructure and building programmes.

The college library is housed in the main building. It is a small one comprising 7130 books, 15 magazines, periodicals and 7 newspapers. There are no computer or reprography facilities in the library. There is an Advisory Committee, which meets from time to time to decide on the books to be purchased. The book bank facility in library right now is not available. The college proposes to start the same from next session. Last year, almost eighty thousand rupees were spent towards purchase of books. The library remains open from 7.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. It is closed only on Sundays and Gazetted Holidays. The library services are yet to be computerized.

The college computer centre remains open from 7.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. . Presently, there are five computers. These are maintained in a properly furnished room and are manned by qualified lecturers. The maintenance work of these computers is given to a local firm on contract basis. The internet facility is available in the college computer center.

There is no regular health centre in the college but the private practitioners, who are in the neighbourhood of the college, are invited to conduct the medical check up of the students.

There is a hostel on the college campus built by the Department of Social Welfare. The tribal students studying in different institutions run by this management are accommodated.

Criterion V : Students' Support and Progression

The college publishes its updated prospectus every year. It contains the details about the courses , rules and regulations of the admission, the details of the fee structure, the college calendar of the year, the availability of scholarships, admission rules for college hostel, the various services available on the college Campus and guidelines for admission. It is quite a comprehensive document and enlightens every student of the rules and regulations of the college. The details of financial aid and concessions available as per rules of the Central Government and State Government are mentioned. In addition, they have some scholarships

provided by certain organizations and donors. About 300 students received the scholarships including the ones belonging to SC, ST, SBC, VJ and NT .

The college provides many recreational facilities like indoor games. Cultural programmes and various competitions are held. The students are also taken to the field work and educational tours. The college has a Nature club of is also quite active.

The percentage of students appearing for the qualifying examination is 48% and the drop out rate is 52%.

The Alumni of the college holds prominent positions in all walks of life such as principals, headmasters, teachers, lecturers, lawyers, bank managers, government employees, etc. Many of them are serving in military and para-military forces including the State police. Some of the students also hold positions in social and political organizations.

The college has taken efforts to collect feed back from the students regularly. The students of final year before the examinations fill up a questionnaire. Likewise, the students are also given chance to express opinion about their experiences on the campus. A suggestion box is also kept in the library to collect feedback from the students. The Students' Union is also quite active by way of expressing their grievances and suggestions.

The college has an Alumni Association which was formed two years before. It holds regular meetings and interacts with the students on the campus. It has given grants to the NSS Campers, T-shirts, files and pens, etc.

Criterion VI : Organization and Management

The Governing Body of Manoharbai Shikshan Prasarak Mandal which manages several institutions guides the college on policy matters. The local Managing Committee is constituted under Section 85 of Maharashtra University Act, 1994, comprising of ten members, viz. the President, the Secretary, three local members nominated by the Management, three teachers elected by the college teachers, one non-teaching employee elected by non-teaching employees and Principal as Member Secretary. This committee prepares budget and financial statement, advises the Principal regarding the working of the college and also recommends to the Management for the creation of new posts and improvement of the standards of

education, etc. The government and the University have also issued circulars regarding constitution of Statutory Committees such as Local Management Committee, Examination Committee, Provident Fund Committee etc. to assist the Principal in the management of different activities in the college in day-to-day work.

There is a grievance redressal cell in the college constituted as per guidelines of the Govt. of Maharashtra and University circulars. However, prior to that, the college at its own level tries to redress the grievances through conciliatory measures.

The college generally has a deficit budget which is made good by the Management. There is also a system of internal audit and external audit. It is gratifying to see that there are virtually no objections in their audit reports. The minor objections, if any, are rectified by the college. The finances of the college are judiciously allotted and effectively utilized to make its programmes and functioning cost effective. There are some welfare schemes by the college for the economically disadvantaged students to pay fee in instalments.

Criterion VII : Other Healthy Practices

The faculty in the college is striving towards realizing the goal of imparting higher education and for which many healthy practices have been established.

- The college has constituted the statutory and non-statutory committees for looking after various activities of the college.
- It is creditable for the college that in spite of financial constraints, building and construction activities are being carried on by the college.
- The college is providing excellent extension services covering all the areas which is helpful the tribal students. In this way, it has established a close rapport with the society.
- The college is trying to impart value-based education. In this way, it has been able to accomplish its lofty aim of providing quality higher education.
- The college encourages inter-faith religious celebrations at-least once in a year.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The college which was established way back in 1981 with 45 students on its roll, today has grown into a full-fledged college with three faculties where 866 students are studying.

No doubt, the college does not have a role in the designing and restructuring of its own courses but it follows the University calendar in letter and spirit. The college teachers continue to rely on the lecture method, but the realization to shift to new methodology of teaching is quite strong in their minds and accordingly, they have started using teaching aids.

The college is functioning smoothly with the help of Statutory and non-Statutory committees for the purpose of management of the college and also for its smooth functioning and effective working. The condition of the teaching staff is satisfactory. They are well qualified and most of them hold permanent positions. The college has been recently granted recognition by the University Grants Commission under 2(f) and 12 (B) which now enables it to apply for various grants from the University Grants Commission. On the whole, it can be safely said that the college is striving hard to achieve its objectives and it is successful to a good extent in creating conducive academic climate for.

The Peer Team is appreciative of the following:

- The environment of the institution towards its social responsibilities.
- The dedication and commitment of the teaching and non-teaching staff
- The discipline which prevails on the campus.
- High counts of the teaching days.
- Provision of regular assessment of the students.
- The extra-curricular activities of the students
- The social service rendered by the students and teachers to the neighbouring villages and towns and to the tribal population
- The concern of the students, parents and the alumni regarding the relevance of the curriculum towards solving the socio-economic problems prevailing in their neighbourhood.
- Frankness, self-confidence and candidness the students during interaction.

Suggestions

- The college may constitute subject sub-committees to recommend the changes in the course curriculum so that these could be forwarded to the University for consideration.
- The college authorities should take necessary steps to introduce i) Sericulture, Microbiology, Fashion Designing at UG level, some Post Graduate programmes, ii) a coaching center for the benefit of students taking competitive examinations such as UPSC and MPSC examinations iii) NCC unit. The college has the necessary infrastructure, the human resource and the faculty required for meeting these requirements.
- The teaching departments should participate in programmes like COSIP/COHSSIP/COSIST with the assistance of UGC.
- The college is advised to establish Language Laboratories.
- The college will do well in developing self-financing courses like home appliances repairing, farm machine repairs, Office Administration, Entrepreneurship. These courses will provide vocation for the students as well as resources for the development of the institution. The college should also ensure that it starts some vocational, and I.T. courses including Computer Application, Tax Procedures and Practices, and Biotechnology, etc. so that job opportunities for students are enhanced.
- The office must have its own computer so that the office work, including the accounts of the college, is computerized.
- Multi-Media projection facilities could be used by the teachers to improve upon their teaching.
- The remedial coaching classes for the educationally disadvantaged and a well-defined structured programme for the advance learners should be properly provided.
- The college may approach Sports Authority of India for financing the college by way of better playgrounds and for the construction of a multipurpose gymnasium hall. The coaches for the different games be provided.

- A well-structured communication channel should be established for collecting feedback from academic peers and employers which can be utilized for enhancing functional efficiency of the college.
- The library system needs to be upgraded. The library should be connected to other libraries through the internet. The library also should start using the computer for cataloging and other library services. The college should subscribe standard journals and periodicals for its library.
- Employment Cell and Placement Cell should be established.
- Taking into purview the fact that it is a co-education college, due care has to be taken in respect of the common room facilities provided to the women students.
- The college should take steps to implement the suggestions offered by the students, parents, and the alumni.
- The members of the Peer Team would like to place on record their sincere thanks to the Management, Principal, faculty, non-teaching staff, students, parents of the students and alumni for their unqualified support and assistance during the visit of NAAC Peer Team.

Names and Signatures of the Peer Team members

1. Prof. H.S. Soch
(Chairman)
2. Prof. Saroj Kumar Mishra
(Member)
3. Prof. S. Bhargava,
(Member)

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

Principal

**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
BANGLORE 560010**

REPORT

**PEER TEAM VISIT
FEBRUARY 10-11, 2004**

**MAHATMA GANDHI ARTS, SCIENCE AND
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