

POST ACCREDITATION INITIATIVES 2008 - 2013

The college in its quest for excellence has been constantly reinventing itself to sustain and promote excellent standards in education, with a shared focus on fostering human values and social commitment among students. NAAC Accreditation in 2008 has given great impetus for the growth and development of the college. It has not only affirmed the best practices of the college by according it an A grade, but also through its recommendations clearly outlined a road map for further development. Hence Peer-Team Recommendations along with the core values of NAAC - **Contributing to National Development, Fostering Global Competencies, Inculcating A Value System Among The Students, Promoting Use Of Technology And Quest For Excellence** - served as indicators for planning and executing quality academic programmes and extension activities in the post accreditation phase.

The College has made great strides in many aspects such as curricular design and development, quality enhancement in teaching- learning process, acquisition of equipments, enhancement in infrastructural facilities, encouraging research temper in the staff and students, providing more student support services, building good rapport with alumni, parents, employers, industry experts and community along with continuous participation in outreach and community involvement programmes.

In the last five years, the college has seen a tremendous rise in Admissions– UG enrollments increased by 93% while PG increased by 222%.

The Honorable Peer team that visited the college in 2008 in their report mentioned the following suggestions and recommendations:

1. Diversify curriculum to increase academic flexibility
2. College has the potential to start course in Bioinformatics
3. Encourage to use virtual learning resources
4. Promote research activities especially by obtaining grants from extramural funding agencies
5. Organize Science Exhibitions periodically to promote scientific temper and scientific ways for solving societal problems.
6. Improve the college website for interaction and learning
7. Provide transport facilities for the students
8. Frequent parent teacher meetings.
9. Greater interaction, optimal utilization of Alumni resources
10. Student representation in various committees
11. Seek Autonomous status

PEER TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Diversify curriculum to increase academic flexibility

Curriculum aspects: After attaining Autonomy the institution diversified the curriculum by introducing various interdisciplinary and emerging programmes to enhance the academic flexibility. The curriculum designed and developed by the institution seeks to address the needs of society, and have relevance to regional and national development needs. The institution ensures that the curriculum bears a definite thrust on regional/national development through emphasis on right knowledge, attitude and skills among the students. The following new courses under Autonomy have been started:

- Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) – 2011
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A) (Mass Communications & Journalism) – 2011
- B.A(Journalism, Psychology, English Literature) - 2012
- B.Com (Professionals) – 2012
- B.Sc (Networking Hardware, Applied Engineering, Mathematics) – 2012
- Masters of Communication & Journalism (MCJ)– 2012

Apart from the above new courses, Interdisciplinary papers and 18 Certificate programmes were also introduced to promote employability and integrated learning. Wide varieties of Elective options are provided in B.Com and B.Sc courses. The existing programmes have been strengthened by need based topics to enhance the employability skills and also to provide knowledge about advanced technologies.

2. The College has the potential to start course in Bioinformatics:

The need analysis for the course indicated poor employment opportunities. This discouraged the college from taking the initiative to begin the course. However to validate our claim to having made adequate efforts to diversify the science courses, we can cite the instance of introducing B.Sc (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry) and B.Sc (Networking & Hardware, Applied Electronics, Mathematics). However B.Sc (MPC) though formally approved and introduced, could not take off because of poor response. Even B.Sc (NHAEM) though successfully introduced has been facing teething problems, with poor admissions.

3. Encourage to use virtual learning resources

MOODLE (Modular Object Oriented Dynamic learning environment) which offers a set of Teaching – learning tools designed to enhance student learning experience was introduced. It facilitates posting of e-content, assignments etc. Open Educational Resources (OERs) like National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) which offer ICT teaching aids such as Lecture videos, simulations/animations, demonstrations is used to make the teaching- learning effective. The College encourages ICT backed teaching – learning practices to promote innovation and effective learning with the following facilitators:

- Prompt access to e- learning resources is ensured through free high speed internet connectivity (50 Mbps), Wi-Fi connectivity and intranet facility.
- Adequate number of internet enabled systems is made available in the libraries, departments, labs and classrooms for the easy access to e-learning resources.
- INFLIBNET , DELNET facilitate access to e-journals
- Multi-media learning is facilitated through an Audio-Visual room with an LCD television, speakers and projectors.
- Students are informed about available open e-resources like MIT, NPTEL, and NMEICT etc to widen the access to virtual class rooms.
- The Department of Computer Science conducts workshops for the faculty in using computers for e-content development.
- Staff is also sent on refresher courses on the use of new technology.
- The College has ICT Centre for capturing, creating, sharing and storage of IT - based knowledge for the benefit of the organization and its stakeholders.
- Adequate and trained lab technicians are appointed.

4. Promote research activities especially by obtaining grants from extramural funding agencies

The College being self financed has financial constraints in obtaining grants. However the attainment of 2(f), and 12 (B) status points to the efforts made by the college in this direction. Research is one of the identified strategic areas of focus. Hence the academic year 2012-2013 was declared as the year of research. Other efforts made by the college to promote research include:

- Motivating the faculty to register for M.Phil/Ph.D
- Providing seed money, study leave and research incentives.
- Research facilities like SPSS (Research facilitator software), free Internet, INFLIBNET, DEL NET, research journals.
- Flexible time table and financial assistance to attend and participate in seminars/workshops/conferences etc at the regional /state level.
- Eminent resource person are invited to conduct workshops/seminars/guest lectures on topics of research interest.
- Faculty members with Doctorate degree are encouraged to take up the role of internal guides to their peers pursuing research and publications.
- College rewards the faculty with BEST TEACHER AWARD department wise taking into consideration their contribution towards research.
- Research culture among the student body is cultivated through academic programmes which promote research aptitude. Thus a project is made a mandatory criterion for course completion. Projects are so identified that they inculcate a scientific temperament in them.

The College has 7 PhD Holders, 25 M.Phils, and 25 faculty pursuing PhDs. During the last four years the faculty presented 62 papers in various international, national and regional level seminars and also published 32 books, apart from attending conferences/workshops/seminars.

5. Organize science exhibitions periodically to promote scientific temper and scientific ways for solving societal problems

To promote scientific temperament and social consciousness among students the college has made project work an integral part of the curriculum. The students are encouraged to make live models like Fire Alarm, Smoke Alarm, Heat Sensor with Cooling Fan, Sound Alarm, Street Light Automatic on and off using LDR, Ultra Sonic Sensor, Unmanned Railway level Crossing System, Electronic Voting System using Embedded System etc., which are exhibited in a Science exhibition organized by faculty and students of the Department of Physics and Electronics. Added to this students are engaged in lab to land programme wherein they exhibit/demonstrate concepts of science to students from neighboring Telugu medium schools. Thus scientific temperament is integrated with social consciousness.

C.V.Raman's birthday is celebrated on 9th Nov as Science Day where students participate in events like poster/model presentations, power point presentations on **Science and Everyday** as well as **Eco-consciousness**. To promote community – neighborhood network, Exhibitions on a larger scale are conducted for Telugu medium schools in the neighborhood.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Apollo -11 Mission, the students of the Science club organized an exhibition with the theme Apollo -11 Mission. Posters /Models and power point presentations were exhibited on Milky Way, universe black holes and Apollo-11 mission.

Informatics Exhib – A computer Fair, tracing the origins and growth of Information Technology is conducted every year with exhibits/demonstrations of hardware computer components by students for promoting awareness of evolving technologies among their peers.

6. Improve the college website for interaction and learning

The college has an adequately developed website for showcasing the institutional information about Departments, courses offered, course structure, events, Handbook, Prospectus etc., The content is informative and user friendly as classified information is provided under distinct tabs and icons. The extra features added over the last four years include facility to download application forms/brochures; access to online examinations results (under Autonomy) and a forum for the students to post their feedback & suggestions.

7. Provide transport facilities for the students

The college has not felt the need to provide transport facilities as the college is centrally located and has easy access to public transport system. Further, most of the students commute on their own vehicles.

8. Frequent parent teacher meetings.

The College started the tradition of Interface Day in the year 2012 to encourage increased parental involvement and guidance. The platform gives an opportunity for the parents to state their expectation from the college and they in turn are informed about the Vision, Mission, Examination System, Curricular and Extension activities, Rules and Regulations of the Institution. Apart from this, the mentors regularly interact with the parents to share information about their ward's regularity, academic progress and other disciplinary issues. Course – wise parent teacher meetings are held where feedback about the Curriculum and institution is gathered.

9. Greater interaction, optimal utilization of Alumni resources

Alumni: The Institution has an alumni network well maintained through Alumni Meetings, their visits to the college and college website. Feedback of alumni is sought on the relevance of the curriculum to the industry needs and the suggestions are considered while designing curriculum, inter-disciplinary courses, certificate courses; internships and projects. The alumni representative on the regulatory bodies like the BOS, Academic Council make significant contributions to the proceedings on the curriculum design and development.

The College also follows the practices of obtaining feedback from freshly graduated students at the exit level to address issues related to course work, teaching practices and other student support services. Feedback/suggestions from graduates pursuing higher studies at premier institutions in India and Abroad are obtained to promote effective vertical mobility. We have a proactive alumni who make valuable contribution to campus placements through Placement referrals and promoting awareness among students through guest lectures on the market trends and corporate expectations to the current batch of students.

10. Student representation in various committees.

Most of the activities of the campus are made student centric to give students an opportunity to take up leadership roles, right from planning to organizing , getting sponsorships, publicity, handling media, stage management , discipline etc. Departmental events like seminars, conferences and workshops also see the students playing dynamic roles. Celebrations/Events like Teacher's Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, College Annual Day, Cinevolution, Josephiesta etc., are organized entirely by students. Students under the guidance of faculty coordinator take active initiation in organizing field visits/industrial visits.

Student representation in governance is seen in SQAC, Departmental Clubs, Sports Committee, Cultural Committee, Anti-Ragging Committee, Discipline Committee Annual Day Committee, Cinevolution Committee, etc. Student Quality Assurance Cell (SQAC) constituted by Student representatives addresses all student related issues.

11. Peer Team Recommendation: Seek Autonomous status

AUTONOMY has been the most significance Post Accreditation initiative taken up by the College. The College applied for UG Autonomy in May 2009 and the University Grants Commission visited us in February 2011 and conferred the status of Autonomy in March 2011. It was implemented immediately for the academic year 2011-2012. The college applied for PG Autonomy in December 2012. The College Development Council (CDC), Osmania University conducted a sixteen member team Assessment comprising Heads and Deans of OU on 20th June 2013 for conferring PG autonomy. The extension of autonomy to PG Courses was accorded by Osmania University on 9th October 2013.

Post Accreditation Initiatives

- M.Com course was introduced in the year 2009- 2010.
- Going beyond the existing conventional UG courses new job oriented courses like B.Sc (NHAEM), B.Com (Professional), BA – Mass Communication & Journalism, BA(Journalism, Psychology, English Literature), BBA and MCJ were introduced under autonomy
- Post Autonomy all existing UG courses were re-introduced with newly designed curriculum
- Unique papers were introduced in emerging areas viz. ‘AVR Micro Controller in Embedded System’ in BSc (Electronics); ‘Event Management’ in BBA; ‘Corporate Governance, ‘Right To Information’, ‘Inflation Accounting’, ‘Management Reporting’, ‘Cost Audit’ etc., in B.Com course. Practical component were introduced in some of the theory papers in Commerce.
- Certificate courses on wide ranging topics from Speed Typing to Numerical Ability were introduced to promote global competencies, employability and skill development. Interdisciplinary papers were also introduced to promote integrated learning and job potential among students.
- With the advent of Autonomy the college has adopted the policy of establishing the statutory bodies viz Boards of Studies, Academic Council, Finance Committee and Governing Body along with following the relevant procedures.
- Through value education classes and motivational talks/orientation sessions on goal setting, time management etc., the college inculcates essential life skills that help to promote social harmony, family relationships, religious tolerance and individual well-being.
- Value education paper is integrated into the curriculum.
- Use of open resources like NPTEL has paved way for exploring new realms in innovative teaching.
- Projects are made mandatory to instil research spirit among students.
- To promote research among the faculty seed money for research was granted for 8 faculty and an appreciation award was given to a faculty for completing Ph.D. Principal was felicitated by the Chairman for completing his second Ph.D.

- To promote quality research among students and faculty, the institution has invited resource persons of International eminence like Prof. Patrick Jaska from Mary Hardin- Baylor, Texas, USA & Prof. Tony Lobo, Swineburne University, Australia and Prof. Ravi Seethamraju from University of Sydney, Australia
- Having declared 2012 -2013 as year of research, there has been a significant rise in research output with increased number of publications and paper presentations
- To promote and reward excellence in teaching, the college initiated the practice of Best Teacher Award in the year 2012
- Increased access to Free internet , INFLIBNET and other Library e- resources
- Expanding the scope of language lab
- Language cell was setup for counselling students on common errors in English, resume building, tips on interviews etc.
- Experiential learning is promoted through internships and increased field visits/industrial visits etc.,
- With the advent of autonomy an Examination branch with a strong room and adequate equipment was setup
- Pre-Autonomy where the examination system was governed by Osmania University, the scope for continuous assessment, though not mandatory, was created through slips tests, two term exams and a Pre-final examination.
- Shift from Year Wise Scheme to Semester System gave scope for Continuous Internal Assessments
- Under Autonomy major examination reforms were introduced in the college, predominantly seen in a shift from paper-based tests to skill -based tests which are graded on basis of innovative assignments to gauge multiple intelligences of students.
- Online results
- The College promotes College-neighborhood network through Lab to Land and community oriented research projects.
- To promote social conscious and community engagement the college has encouraged the students to conduct 5K run, Street plays, documentary fest on themes of social issues.
- As part of corporate social responsibility towards the disadvantaged, the college repaired and refurnished a Hall with audio/Video equipment in St. Joseph's Telugu Medium School (Girls) Gunfoundry on 25th Feb 2013, incurring an expenditure of Rs 1,50,000.
- To promote social consciousness and community engagement the college has encouraged the students to conduct 5 K run, street plays, documentary fest on themes of social issues
- EZ School software was implemented to computerize student attendance and admissions
- Installation of Bio metric system, Id Card printer, Currency Counting Machine and Fake note detector.

- Increase in the number of ICT enabled classrooms, LCDs and Wi-Fi campus have promoted extensive use of ICT and use of Open E-learning resources for innovative teaching.
- Statistical Package for Social Sciences(SPSS) Lab was set up with 20 systems
- State – of- the – Art Mass Communication studio with advanced production unit and publication software was set up.
- Psychology lab was set up with necessary equipments.
- To encourage and acknowledge academic excellence, Gold medals have been instituted to felicitate meritorious students.
- To promote safety Fire alarm and Extinguishers have been installed
- Campus was extended with an additional block in the neighborhood
- Canteen was renovated with improved services and extended area of operation
- The position of Dean Commerce was created in the year 2012 for the effective administration.
- Student Quality Assurance Cell was set up in the year 2013 to promote student involvement and leadership.
- MOUs with premier Institutes like iGATE and Deloitte have been entered to enhance placements
- Campus recruitment training programmes are being taken up as a part of pre-placement help
- The College started the tradition of an Interface Day in the year 2012, to encourage increased parental involvement and guidance.
- The tradition of hosting Annual Academic and cultural fest Josephista and annual short film making festival Cinevolution began in the years 2011 and 2012 respectively.
- Through the intake of foreign students the institution has diversified its student profile and promoted cosmopolitan culture.
- International Student Cell has been setup to cater to the needs of the international students on the campus so that they harmoniously blend into the college environment.
- Students of Mass Communication have brought out a college magazine titled Joseph Heights along with maintaining wall magazine.
- The college hosted an International Academic and Cultural exchange event for students from Duke University to promote a healthy dialogue between the youth of East and West.
- Entrepreneurship development cell was set up to promote to awareness among students to equip them with required knowledge of available funds for setting up business initiatives

Quality Sustenance:

- Value add-on courses like Science and Civilization and Environmental Science, along with Value Education Paper sensitizes the students to environmental, ethical, social, regional and national issues.

- Lectures and workshops for the faculty are arranged with eminent scholars from India and abroad to help them to keep track of recent developments in the subject and explore innovative practices in teaching and evaluation of the new curriculum.
- The institution follows standardized to make the faculty pro-active and innovative in facilitating learning through mentoring, interactive sessions and seminars.
- Teaching is made student centric by introducing project work, group discussions, student presentations, seminars and peer learning
- Increase in number of ICT enabled Classrooms, LCDs and Wi-Fi campus have promoted extensive use of ICT.
- Continuous staff training and development through refresher courses and other FDPs
- Excellence in administrative culture is maintained through a transparent, participative and decentralised administrative system.