

NAAC Peer Team Visit- IV Cycle

NAAC Peer Team Visit was conducted on 26th & 27th August 2019.

NAAC has assessed and accredited our Institution at A⁺⁺ Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4 in IV cycle.

The following were the members of the NAAC Peer Team who visited our college on 26th & 27th August 2019.

Prof. Mohd Muzammil

Chairperson

Former Vice Chancellor,
Dr Br Ambedkar University
Agra.

Prof. Rajendra Sonkawad

Member Co-ordinator

Professor Department of Physics,
Shivaji University Kolhapur
Maharashtra.

Dr. Kashmir Singh

Member

Principal,
Mata Gujri College,
Fatehgarh Sahib
Punjab.

The report of the NAAC Peer Team is presented here.

Three major features in the institutional Context

1. Very old Christian co-education grant in aid Autonomous college having Potential of Excellence situated in semi urban area.
2. About 60 percent of students are from first generation learners and most of them belongs to poor and middle-class families.
3. College is having rich historical standing and reputation in the region.

Criterion1 - Curricular Aspects

The St. Xavier College (Autonomous) which started in 1923 offers 55 programs consisting of 20 UG, 16 PG, 7 M. Phil. and 12 Ph.D. programs. Being an autonomous college, the curriculum is designed by the respective Board of Studies of the college and periodically revised as per the needs of the industry and global requirements. Academic flexibility exists because of the autonomous status of the college.

While designing the curriculum cross cutting issues like gender, environment sustainability, human values and professional ethics have been given due importance and different courses are included in the various programs. CBCS is being followed by the college for all the courses even before the affiliating University. The college has evolved an excellent system to ensure effective implementation of the curriculum. Robust feedback mechanism exists. At the end of each semester, a schedule is administered to students to assess the curriculum delivery and effectiveness of teaching.

Criterion2 - Teaching-learning and Evaluation

There is a steady growth in the student intake pattern due to the utility and diversification of courses offered by the college. The college follows government reservation policy for 50 percent of intake from the society and rest 50 percent is left to the management for minority quota. The students belonging to socio economically weaker section and first-generation learners are given priority in admission. The college identifies the slow learners and advanced learners on the basis of their score in the qualifying examinations and a diagnostic test is also conducted for the said purpose. It encourages the advance learners through incentives and guides them for further advancement through enrichment classes which is commendable. As a result, several pass outs of the college have opted for higher studies in this college and other institutions. The slow learners are helped through remedial teaching, handouts and materials are provided for easy study and extra coaching and guidance are provided. Lecture method dominates over other strategies in the classroom.

The college has filled all the sanctioned teaching posts adhering to the prescribed qualifications. Most of the teachers possess Ph.D. and NET/SLET eligibility. There are all together 121 doctorates and 1 D.Lit, in total 176 faculty members. The college has different cells to redress the student's related grievances like anti ragging, sexual harassment, grievances redressal cells etc. The overall academic performance of the student is appreciable and pass percentage is also good.

Criterion3 - Research, Innovations and Extension

The college is equipped with good infrastructure for undertaking research. 40 books, 995 research papers and 10 proceedings were published during the last five years by the faculty of the college; Seed money is given to the teachers who publish papers in refereed journals.

During the last five years, two departments were upgraded as research departments by the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. In all, 101 teachers have been approved as research guides. There are 36 ongoing/completed major/minor projects for the allocated amount Rs. 6 crores and 47 lakhs.

The Peer Team appreciates STAND outreach program which is carried out on a grand scale. 8 village visits and one camp are compulsory for UG students; 4 village visits and 1 camp are compulsory for PG students. All the year around students and teachers remain actively involved in STAND outreach program. N.S.S. volunteers perform extension activities under the guidance of program officers. Women students actively participate in extension activities as N.S.S. volunteers and N.C.C. cadets. The college provides conducive environment and requisite infrastructure for innovations. Presently the college has some incubation Centers but is making efforts to provide an ecosystem by developing more. Provision of consultancy services is limited to few faculties which needs further strengthening.

Criterion4 - Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The Institution has a sprawling clean & green campus spread over 58 acres of land. Learning spaces with 60 spacious well ventilated class

rooms of which 60 have LCD facilities and 13 smart classrooms with effective audio-visual aid learning is available in the campus.

The campus has a functional Wi-Fi facility freely available to the students and faculty members including hostel inmates. College has good Zoology Museum and aquarium which exhibits rare species. A very well-maintained Botanical garden with Herbarium, Tissue culture lab and molecular lab are unique features of the college. Besides, the Centre for Aquaculture Research and Extension (CARE) with excellent infrastructure facilities is available which add value to the college in a big way. Folklore museum is excellent with good collection of literature, audio and video sources. One of the college hostel has two auditoriums including bio gas plant, 657 trees and provision of rain water harvesting.

Criterion5 - Student Support and Progression

Placement cell of the college is fairly active; several students secured employments in state government and private companies. Placement Cell requires strengthening for providing better opportunities for employment. Career counselling cell has trained personnel to provide guidance/counselling to students in the campus. There is an active elected students' council in the college.

Adequate representations of students have been given in various academic and administrative bodies of the College. There is a good harmony between student's council, faculty and management. An alumni and Parents Teacher association is functional in the college. The alumnae association is a registered body and is significantly contributing in the growth and development of the college. The

Alumnae association often conducts meeting in the campus to discuss issues pertaining to the improvement in the facilities for the students, placement opportunities, and introduction/ addition of new courses. In the meeting with the peer team it was noticed the alumnae is keen to support the college and many illustrious personalities are the alumni of this college.

Criterion6 - Governance, Leadership and Management

The college has a clear vision and mission statements and the management is taking appropriate steps to fulfill the same. The college has a participative management which is evident from the representation of various faculty members in administrative, other regulatory and advisory bodies of the college. Perspective plan for future development is in place and all relevant documents are maintained in the college. There is a clear organogram with the Secretary performing leadership role. The Principal of the college is the executive head responsible for effective implementation of the programmes. The review by the Peer team indicates that the institution conducts internal and external audits annually on regular basis. It is noteworthy that all the audit objections have been settled. The college has mobilized funds from UGC, State government and DST. The college has also been given the star college status of by DBT, GOI. The MHRD has selected college for UBA Scheme for its community development services. IQAC is quite active and has contributed significantly for the effective delivery of the curriculum and co-curricular activities. The college has made sincere attempts to implement the recommendations made by the previous NAAC team during the last five years

Criterion7 - Institutional Values and Best Practices

The college promotes institutional values and socially responsible programmes on a large scale. Common room, medical room, counselling rooms, and reading room in hostels are provided to the students. The College has evolved a good mechanism for the management of solid, liquid and e - waste. Solid wastes are converted in to manure through vermi composting. Efforts for rain water harvesting are in place and collected water is used for ground water recharging. The success of STAND (Student Training and Action for Neighborhood Development) programme has been widely acknowledged during the interaction with villagers and certainly it has brought major change in their thinking and perception. One of the best aspects of the college is to shape the students into agents of social change, preparing them for concerted social action and thus paving the way to mass movements which will bring the desired liberation among the communities.

The greenery in the campus is ensured with high diversity of trees and plants. The campus is fully plastic free and students are involved in Swachh Bharath Abhyian also. Efforts are on to convert the college in to an e-campus. The college celebrates all national festivals such as independence and republic day along with birth/death anniversaries of national leaders. Transparency in academic, financial and administrative matters is evident.

Overall Analysis

Strengths:

- Holistic education and empowerment of first generation learners drawn from socially and economically backward society and regions.
- Emphasis on moral and ethical education and enhancement of life skills
- Excellent outreach and community engagements especially through STAND
- Very Supportive management, dedicated faculty members and committed non teaching supporting staff.
- Good infrastructure for imparting education and co-curricular activities.

Weakness:

- Lack of much needed diversity in faculty and students.
- Inadequate involvement of students in research and limited consultancy.
- Inadequate industry-academia linkages..
- Inadequate certificate courses.

Opportunities:

- Creation of more competence development programme through extracurricular activities.

- Enhancement of Interface with industry and institute of national and international importance.
- Development of MOOC programmes by the faculty.
- Explore opportunities to attract students from other states.

Challenges:

- Enhancing e-learning.
- Preparing for job readiness.
- Attracting children from other states and abroad.
- Good placement for student in a restricted environment.
- Creation of viable innovation ecosystem for research and consultancy