

**Assessment Report on
Institutional Accreditation of
Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women, Periyakulam,
Tamil Nadu**

Section I: Introduction

The Jayaraj Annapackiam College, run by the sisters of St. Anne of Tiruchirapalli, was established on 5th July 1971 at Periyakulam with a primary objective to uplift and empower socially and economically backward young women in the rural area by promoting academic excellence and fostering the spirit of service with love. The trajectory of development made so far by the college matches with aims and objectives planned at the time of establishment.

The college volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and submitted its self-study Report in May -2001. NAAC appointed a Peer-team to visit the college for validating the Self-Study Report. The Peer Team consisting of Prof.S.F.Patil, Former Vice-Chancellor of North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon and presently as a Research Professor in the University of Pune as Chairperson, and Principal M.R. Kurup of V.G Vaze College of Arts, Science and Commerce college, Mithagar Road, Mulund (East) Mumbai and Principal Christine Rebello, St. Francis College for Women, Begumpet, Secunderabad, as members visited the institution on fourth and fifth October, 2001. Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Assistant Adviser of NAAC facilitated the Peer Team visit.

The college affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, has a spacious campus area of 58.74 acres and offers 16 programmes in Arts, Commerce, and Science subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels including diploma and certificate courses. The college has highly qualified

teaching staff, the strength being 97 out of which 70 are permanent and 27 are temporary. Eight faculty members have Ph.D. while sixty-two members have M.Phil. Degree. There is 53 administrative staff appointed for smooth running of the college activities.

The Peer team carefully studied and analyzed the self-study report submitted by the college. During the Institutional visit, the members examined the relevant documents, visited different departments and the various facilities provided for academic, co-curricular, extra curricular, sports and extension activities of the college and interacted with the various constituents of the institution.

The Peer Team also interacted at length with the Governing body, the Principal, Teaching and Non-teaching staff, Students, Parents and Alumnae of the Institution. Based on the above exercise, and keeping in mind the seven criteria identified by NAAC, the Peer Team assessed the institution for the quality of education. The assessment of the institution under various criteria, commendable features of the institution as well as issues of concern are presented below.

Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criteria I: Curricular Aspects

Being an affiliated college, it follows the syllabi prescribed by the University in various faculties both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. There are nine undergraduate and three postgraduate courses apart from 2 diplomas and 4 certificate courses offered to the students. Most of the courses are traditional without vocational approach. However, the vocational course in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, and self-financing certificate and diploma courses along with B.Sc. Computer Science are career oriented. It is worth noting that the certificate course of computer education is made compulsory to all the final year undergraduate students. The time schedule of the Diploma and Certificate courses enable the

students to offer them besides their regular programme. The Student-Teacher ratio is adequate in most departments.

There is a limited flexibility for the students as far as elective options are concerned. There is a need for expanding optional courses. The Alumni also felt the need for such a broad basing particularly into humanities, social sciences and commerce stream. Since the area is rural, courses relating to rural development, agro-products marketing etc. have tremendous scope.

The Department of Physics and Computer science train their students through projects. These projects have enabled the departments to establish institution-industry interface. There is good scope for expanding such interface.

There is also a plenty of scope for introducing courses in the area of Women studies, Micro-biology, Bio-technology and Environment sciences, for which even UGC /HRD funds are available.

Several supportive activities are also arranged to inculcate moral, social and spiritual values along with religious tolerance among the students. These along with self-financing courses have enabled the institution to link academic programmes with its goals.

Criterion II: Teaching -Learning and Evaluation.

The college is a minority institution, 50% of seats are reserved for the community. The admission of various undergraduate and postgraduate programmes is based on the academic performance and in accordance with the Government reservation policy. Preference is also given to economically and socially backward students, the orphans, first generation learners, physically handicapped and the daughters of destitutes for admission.

Every Department follows its own method of assessing the basic knowledge of the students in the subject concerned at the beginning of the course after admission. Academically weak students and slow learners are identified and remedial and coaching classes are arranged by all departments for the academic betterment. Bright students are given special attention by the faculty motivating them to secure University ranks.

Teaching plan is made well in advance and the master timetable is followed meticulously. The Faculty members adopt interactive teaching such as written assignments, seminars, problem solving sessions, group discussion for imparting knowledge effectively.

The college has a tutor-ward system wherein each teacher is allotted a specific number of students. Every teacher looks after the academic progress as well as personal difficulties of their students and extends the desired help at the time of need. Academic performance of the students of undergraduate programmes is monitored by unit-tests, three-monthly tests and the model examination. The college follows the semester pattern.

Progress cards of monthly test duly signed by the Head of the Department and the Principal are sent to parents. The continuous internal assessment of the postgraduate programme is carried out as per the University norms.

The College supports Sports/Games through Physical Education Department. The Volleyball and Khokho teams of the college have won the University trophies many times in the past. Various other Prizes have also been won by the College in the inter-college competitions.

It is commendable that the teachers are evaluated by the final year of undergraduate and postgraduate students every year on their teaching and work satisfaction, enabling faculty members to know their strengths and weaknesses. The teachers are encouraged by the management to avail of the faculty improvement programme of the UGC as well as to participate in the

National and International Conferences, Seminars including Refresher and Orientation courses.

There is room for improvement of examination results of major science subjects such as Chemistry and Zoology.

An important area that appears to have come in the way of quality assurance is the composition of the recruitment panel. Being a minority institution it is exempted from the requirement of including the nominees of the University or Government on the Selection Committee. It appears that only a three-member panel, consisting of the President/Secretary, Principal and the concerned HOD has been selecting teachers. There is no external expert on the panel. This has led to a significant amount of in-breeding. The Management would do well to include one or two external experts on the Selection Committee for appointing teachers.

Some of the Parents and Alumni felt that the college would do well in providing training in instrumental music.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The institution has a good faculty capable of undertaking major and minor research projects. At present there are two on-going projects. Several projects are undertaken by the students of Physics and Computer Science Departments. Only a few research papers have been published in National and International Journals. Two teachers of Department of Tamil guide M.Phil students. The faculty members possessing M.Phil. and Ph.D. degree should be encouraged to undertake minor and major research projects. The college has recently set up a research committee to motivate teachers to take up research.

At present, seventeen faculty members are working for their Ph.D., out of which 9 are full timers under F.D.P. indicating the positive and

encouraging attitude of the Management. With qualified staff in the P.G. Department, there is scope for consultancy services.

The institution has undertaken a variety of multifaceted extension programmes for women empowerment which is the goal of the Institute. The outreach programmes are carried out by the Women Cell, Adult Education Extension Programme (NAEEP), Population Education Club, NSS, NCC, Youth Red Cross Society and SARWODEP etc. in order to enhance the standard of living of the disadvantaged women in villages and at the same time to instill social consciousness and awareness in the minds of the students. The NSS and NCC of the college have done a commendable job in achieving their goals and earned reputation.

St. Anne's Rural Women Development Programme, (SARWODEP) involves the participation of Teaching faculty, Student volunteers of the college along with the St. Anne's Community College, NGOs, Banks, Government Agencies and Village Community Heads in various activities for the betterment of village women, deserted females and Balvadis for children. The programme is launched in 25 adopted villages in and around Periyakulam transforming the village life leading to the uplift of women in particular and society in general. SARWODEP programme one of its kind is worth emulating.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources.

The college has a well-planned, futuristic master plan and the infrastructure facilities are excellent. The 58.74-acre plot is strewn with buildings meant for specific purposes. The management has gradually built up over the years spacious class rooms, department-wise staff rooms provided with inter-com facility, spacious and well-equipped laboratories, a central library, the computer center, a separate administrative block, open air as well as an indoor auditorium, study halls, non-resident scholars' dining hall, a parking shed for vehicles, bank extension counter, separate hostels for staff and students, a canteen, a health centre and a chapel.

The college has a central library . A few departments also have departmental libraries. The library has a spacious reading cum reference-hall for the students and faculty. There are in all 22,880 subject titles largely text books. The Peer Team recommends the college to purchase more reference books and subscribe to national / international journals for the PG departments. The book bank, hostel and departmental libraries also need to be strengthened.

The Computer Centre is equipped with 46 terminals along with other support facilities such as UPS, printers and scanners . The center is fully air-conditioned and well maintained. Internet facility is also provided. There is one computer in the college office. Departments are yet to be provided with Computers.

The administrative block houses the offices of the administration (Secretary, Principal, Vice-Principal) common staff room and the college office. The college office is provided with necessary facilities such as computer, typewriters, electronic duplicators, centralized public address system.

The college provides transport facilities by plying 4 buses on all working days for the benefit of the day scholars. The day scholars' dining hall and canteen are the other facilities provided to them. Facilities are also available for vocational training of the students and village women in type writing and tailoring.

The area of the playground is 5 acres. The facilities include a well laid out 200 meters track and separate courts for Volleyball, Basketball, Ball Badminton, Kabadi, and Kho-Kho and an Indoor Games room.

St. Anne's Hostel has 124 rooms with an accommodation for 700 students. The hostel is provided with kitchen, dining halls, library cum reading room , visitor's room and television room. The hostel has an Infirmary with a qualified resident nurse. Staff members are provided accommodation in the staff hostel.

The Management has constructed an indoor and open auditorium and multimedia hall. They have also plans to provide additional need based infra-structural facilities as per master plan.

Criterion V: Students' Support and Progression.

The prospectus is brought out annually with adequate information regarding the courses offered, eligibility and the norms of admission, scholarships and financial assistance as well as hostel facilities.

The academic calendar is prepared well in advance enlisting the goals and objectives of the college. The college consistently maintains very good results with number of ranks in the University examinations. The dropout rate is negligible in most of the courses.

There is no formal career counseling and placement service. However, the Principal and Teachers participate in academic and career counseling. The Peer team suggests that there be a formal full-fledged set up for Career Counseling , Placement activities and a Grievance redressal cell for the students and staff.

In the field of sports the college has made a mark in Inter -university and State levels in various games. The NCC students of the college have been represented at the R.D Parade almost continuously till 1996-97. The college organizes number of programmes and cultural activities for all round development of the personality of the student. The tutor-ward system is effectively implemented in solving the problems of the students.

A notable feature of the college is that it collects the feed back from the final year students to evaluate the performance of the faculty members with regard to their teaching ability, preparation of classes, evaluation of answer papers and the involvement in academic and non academic activities. The feedback is carefully analyzed to identify the areas that need attention.

Alumni association of the college arranges get together involving various activities on the day of convocation and thus serves as a link between old students and Alma Mater.

Criterion VI - Organization and Management

The Institute adopts transparent administration. The organizational structure includes the Governing Body, Staff council, Appointment committee, Library committee and several other small committees. The committees meet periodically to discuss and plan the academic activities of the college. Internal co-ordinating and monitoring is done by the Principal and the Staff Councils of the college. The norms and guidelines formulated by the management are strictly followed for the appointment of the staff. Additional teaching and non-teaching staff is appointed by the Management from their funds for maintaining the standards.

The college has an inbuilt mechanism to check the work efficiency of the non-teaching staff. Performance appraisal of the academic and administrative work is done systematically by the Governing Body, the Principal, Heads of the Department and office superintendent.

The facility of festival advance, P.F. Loan and loans from banks and co-operative credit society are available to both teaching and non-teaching staff. There is a need for formation of Grievance redressal cell for the non-teaching staff though the Principal of the college informally attends to the grievances. The team appreciates the work culture of the teaching and Non-Teaching Staff. However, the college would do well to organize the overall personality development programmes for the non-teaching staff.

Total involvement of all the segments of the college community is ensured through periodic interaction. The overall spirit of commitment and co-operation on the campus is commendable. Finance of the college is effectively managed.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The Peer team has identified the following unique features enhancing the academic ambience of the institution:

✓ The internal quality check adopted for the academic programme is praise-worthy. The overall performance of the students is evaluated by monthly, unit and revision tests. Weak and bright students are identified and appropriate coaching is provided to bring the best out of them.

The environment in the campus is very conducive for higher learning. Programmes are arranged to inculcate moral, social and spiritual values among the students. Several outreach activities are conducted by the college in different villages nurturing the sense of social justice and concern for the upliftment of women in the minds of the students.

The ward-tutor system is a noteworthy feature of the college which establishes the bond between the student and the teacher.

A number of self-financing courses are offered to meet the need of the students. The college is actively and directly engaged in community development programmes.

The college organizes annual seminars on leadership, institutional planning & managerial skills for staff and encourages a culture of research through offering incentives such as seed money.

Value based education is imparted through the involvement of staff and students in programme meant to inculcate civic, social and spiritual values necessary for life.

✓ The management is very conscious of the founding vision of the congregation. The foundation of the congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne of Trichy was itself in response to the social evils of widowhood.

The Peer team is left with a very favorable impression about the healthy practices on the campus unifying each and every component of the system

and creating an ideal environment for achieving the goals. The college has embarked upon these initiatives from the very beginning. These efforts need to be sustained in the long term.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The Peer team, after examining thoroughly the Self-Study Report and visiting the various Academic and Physical facilities, is impressed by the progress of J.A.College, in transacting the empowerment of women which is the goal of the institution. The college has earned reputation in imparting quality education to the younger generation. As regards the infrastructure developments, the institution has made notable progress over the period of time. Most of the major facilities required in the campus have been instituted.

Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women is focused towards its clear vision and has made significant progress in academics and community development.

The Peer team would like to commend the Institution for its many good practices, in the following areas:-

- Identification of the ability of students immediately after the admission and training them through bridge and remedial courses to achieve the desired standards.
- Commitment and dedication of non-teaching and teaching staff to the cause of Women's education.
- Effective implementation of tutor-ward system.
- Implementation of the feedback system to evaluate the performances of the teachers by the final year students.

- Maintenance of strict discipline on the campus
- Inculcation of ethical and social values among the students.
- Implementation of women empowerment programme in nearby villages.
- Introduction of self-financing courses to cater the needs of the students.
- Good leadership and good human relation resulting in effective teamwork, for creation of conducive environment for teaching, learning and extension activities.

While commending the above features and practices, the Peer Team would invite the Institution to consider:

Suggestions

- The necessity of widening the range of disciplines to include more of social sciences, humanities and vocational-oriented courses at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.
- Establishing the Student-Placement Cell as well as a Counseling Service.
- Augmenting the library collections by including reference books and reputed national and international journals.
- Augmenting book bank and hostel library facilities.
- Establishing the Gymnasium for the hostel students.
- Introduction of additional job oriented diploma and certificate courses with applied components.
- Establishment of a full-fledged Grievance Redressal Cell for the teaching, non-teaching staff and students.

- Establishment of Women Studies Centre, for strengthening the activities pertaining to the empowerment of women.
- Formation of a broadbased Governing Body and Selection Committee by including external experts.

The Peer team would like to record its appreciation of the good will and co-operation extended by the institution. The team wishes the institution all success in its future endeavours.

Name and Signature for the Peer Team Members

Name of the Chairman : **Prof. S. F. Patil**

Signature :

S. F. Patil
5/10/2001

Name of the Member : Principal: **M.R. Kurup**

Signature :

M. R. Kurup
5/10/2001

Name of the Member : Principal: **Christine Rebello**

Signature :

Sr Christine Rebello
5.10.2001

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

Name and Signature of the Head of the Institution.

Sr. T. Canisius

Sr. T. Canisius
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