

DRAFT REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF
BANGALORE UNIVERSITY

SECTION 1: PREAMBLE

Bangalore University was founded in the year 1964 on the model of a conventional University to meet the growing demands of higher education in the region, especially in the metropolitan city of Bangalore. Central College, which has had the distinction of producing generation of scholars was the nucleus for creation of this new University. In addition to Central College, the other colleges like University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering, University Law College and University College of Physical Education provided an initial identity and recognition to this futuristic institution in its formative stage. Within less than 4 decades of its existence Bangalore University has evolved into one of the leading centers of higher education engaged in teaching, research and extension. University is striving to carve a niche for itself in the field of higher education both at national and international level. Keeping in view the future expansion the University has acquired more than 1100 acres of land at Kengeri where the new campus Jnana Bharathi is situated.

The presence of several centres of excellence like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Indian Space Research Organization, National Law School of India University, Indian Institute of Management, National Aerospace Laboratories, etc. in Bangalore city, provide a rich academic climate and collaborative opportunity for the development of the University. To-day the University is offering a wide range of curricular options encompassing 9 faculties which include both traditional as well as modern intellectual disciplines. In the faculty of Arts the University has introduced 15 specializations which include modern liberal arts, humanities and social sciences.

Students are pursuing Commerce and Management studies in the faculty of Commerce at the city campus. Science is one of the biggest faculties in the university with a broad spectrum of 15 Departments encompassing life sciences, physical sciences and technology. University has also introduced specialization in the emerging areas like Computer Applications, Electronic Science, Environmental Studies, Microbiology and Biotechnology etc. In the case of Faculty of Engineering despite policy of Govt. to bring all Engineering colleges under the umbrella of Visvesvaraya Technological University,

Bangalore University has retained University Visvesvaraya College Engineering which provides an opportunity for the student to specialise in Architecture, Civil, Electrical, Electronics and Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering. The physical Education is the part of faculty of Education. The Faculty of Law offering courses both at UG and PG level continues to be on the city campus.

The University authorities are striving to ensure high academic standards in teaching, research and extension almost on the lines of National Institutes of Excellence that exist in Bangalore. At present more than 3,60,000 students are pursuing undergraduate programmes and 7362 students are specialising in postgraduate studies for the year 2000-2001. Although regular M.Phil programme has been discontinued during the academic year 2001-02, a large number of students i.e. 1,044 are research scholars working for Ph.D. programme in several Departments and FIP-M.Phil programme is being continued.

University has budgetary provision for recruitment 552 teaching members. Out of 468 members at present 418 teaching members are working on permanent basis. In view of embargo on further recruitment of teachers the University is hiring teachers on temporary basis in the form of Guest Faculty.

The University authorities keeping in view the developments and achievements of this University during the last 38 years expressed the need for its accreditation and submitted a Self-Study Report to NAAC. In response to this request NAAC constituted a Peer Committee consisting of Prof. M. Malla Reddy, Former Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, Hyderabad as Chairman and Prof. Mariamma A. Varghese, Former VC, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, Prof. Harish C. Narang, Chairperson, Centre of Linguistics & English School of Language, Literature & Cultural Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Prof. H. Surya Prakash Rao, Professor, Dept. of Physics, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, Prof. Kavita Pandey, Professor, Dept. of Physics, Kumaun University, Nainital, Dr. Capt. C.M. Chitale, Registrar, Pune University, Pune, as members. The Committee visited the University from 26th to 29th December 2001 and examined various academic activities, the infrastructure the overall performance of the University for validating the report. The Committee as a part of its academic exercise interacted with the various constituents of the University i.e., Vice-Chancellor, Members

of the Syndicate, Members of the Faculty, Non-teaching Staff, the Students, the Principals of the affiliated colleges. The Committee based on this empirical examination of various dimensions of the University profile has prepared the following report of the University.

SECTION 2: CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS

CRITERION I: Curricular Aspects

The University offers its academic programmes through 11 Faculties which include Arts, Commerce, Education, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Mental Health Neurosciences, Oncology, Science and Technology. These programmes are operated through 42 Postgraduate Departments and other Centres of Research and Academic support systems. Bangalore University has a special feature of having as many as 61 Postgraduate Departments in its affiliated colleges numbering about 400.

The University offers wide range of program options for the under-graduate, postgraduate, postgraduate diplomas, M.Phil, Ph.D and Certificate courses. The total number of options available are about 180. Arts and Science faculties offer more options than other faculties. The curriculum thrust is in tune with the recent advances in the emerging fields and to meet the challenges of the new millennium in view of the liberalization and globalisation. The areas of Environmental Science, Computer Science, Engineering, Sericulture, Biotechnology, Applied Genetics, Sports Science, Financial Administration, Tourism have been introduced in the emerging areas of specialisation. P.G. and research programmes in Yogic Sciences are being introduced.

The curricula are revised and updated every 3-5 years through expert committee meetings and then formalized through Boards of Studies, Faculty and Academic Council. It is observed that greater emphasis is given to UGC/CSIR (NET) syllabi in the restructuring process.

Five year integrated interdisciplinary postgraduate courses in Biotechnology and Physics are proposed to be introduced from the next academic year in collaboration with I.I.Sc., BARC, and other National Labs and major industries. Multidisciplinary approach is adopted in some semester courses like Environmental Sciences, Electronic Science and Psychology. Laboratory work, field work and projects are incorporated in each of the

programmes of study. In some postgraduate courses like Education, Environmental Sciences, Psychology, Social work, Electronic Science, Master of Finance Accounting, Sericulture, Master of Business Administration, M.Com, Master of Computer Applications and Engineering, a compulsory component of dissertation and project work are included as partial fulfillment of the degrees. Regular participatory discussion with Peer and academic luminaries in various fields is arranged for the benefit of students. Wherever, project work and dissertation are involved, attempts are being made to incorporate inter institutional/industry linkages. A Computer Application I.T paper has been introduced as a compulsory paper in all P.G. courses which is a relevance step in the days of I.T. revolution.

A number of faculties offer some electives and non-core options which provide flexibility. However, it is desirable to restructure the curriculum to give it a modular profile and multidisciplinary character to provide for more horizontal flexibility. An academic accounting audit cell is a desirable feature for the University to ensure quality of academic programmes. It needs to function on a continuous basis to assess and advise the Vice-Chancellor on quality control measures.

Considering the mission/motto of the University *Knowledge together with the Knowledge of the Supreme releases one from evils* one value based courses/heritage course, may be incorporated as an integral part of all curricula.

Criterion II: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

Admissions are made for all the courses on the basis of either an entrance examination or academic record or both. The ratio of application to the seats available for most post-graduate programs is very high and commendable.

In most courses, particularly in Humanities and Social Sciences, teaching is essentially a class room exercise. However, project work based on field studies along with report writing is compulsory for M.Com, M.B.A., M.F.A., Environmental Science, Social Work, Psychology and Post-graduate Diploma in International Business.

Internship training is planned for the M.F.A., Post-graduate Diploma in International Business, M.B.A. and M.Com courses. Most post graduate department organize special seminars by inviting experts from outside for the benefit of students and

also conducting participatory student seminar program on a regular basis. Bridge Courses are planned for students mainly for language and for placement requirements.

The number of working days is 252 out of which 180 are teaching days. Due to lack of adequate faculty in some departments, the university has introduced a system of hiring guest faculty to meet the teaching requirements. The support from non-teaching staff is adequate.

Evaluation is done predominantly by external valuation and only 10% is through continuous internal assessment in non-semester courses and in semester courses the internal assessment component is significant.

The examination board follows the procedure laid down by the Act and Central and Door valuations are carried out depending on the subjects. Reviewers are also appointed besides the examiners. It is desirable to undertake a comprehensive review of the evaluation system.

Double valuation is followed in postgraduate courses. Provision of revaluation and re-totaling are permitted in undergraduate courses only where there is single valuation. It is highly creditable that the examinations are conducted regularly and the examination results are declared in time. Challenge evaluation and providing the students with photocopy of the evaluated answer script on demand are innovative and bold steps taken by the University to ensure transparency.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

Bangalore University displays a very high reputation for conducting research work of international standard. A committee monitors research activity in the University. Over 85% of the faculty members of the University have doctoral degrees and they are actively engaged in guiding research scholars. Faculty members are eligible to guide students after 5 years of teaching and publications in peer reviewed journals. The University should encourage young faculty members with training in advanced institutions, to guide research scholars without waiting for mandatory five years of teaching requirement. According to the University rules, the recognized guides can train up to a maximum of six scholars at a time. The number of Ph.D. awarded during the past five years is about 600. There are over 1044 students currently registered for Ph.D. and

about one fifth of them are part-time Ph.D. students. The University actively encourages college teachers from affiliated institutions to carry out research in the post graduate departments. Several teachers of colleges work under Faculty Improvement Program (FIP) of the Government. About 10% of the students are NET scholars. The University offers research fellowships to one or two students a department in each academic year to promote research activity. The SC/ST Cell of the University provides financial assistance to the SC/ST students for preparation of the dissertation at postgraduate, M.Phil. and Ph.D. levels. There is one hostel exclusively for research students. In some departments there are research scholars hailing from different regions of the country and a few are from overseas. A majority of the research scholars are drawn from the jurisdiction area of the University. To make research scholar input broad based, the University may vigorously pursue recruitment of meritorious students from different parts of the state and the country.

Publications in scholarly peer reviewed journals by the faculty of the University is truly commendable. The faculty published over 1300 papers in learned journals during past five years. However, only about one third of the faculty members are publishing regularly. Publications emanating from some departments such as Mathematics, Chemistry, Botany, Geology, Zoology, Sericulture, History, Kannada and Political Science are praise worthy. There are a few outstanding faculty members in the University who have made original contributions. The fields can be identified as Fluid Mechanics (Mathematics), Organo silicon chemistry, peptide synthesis and organo-metallic chemistry (chemistry), Aquatic Biology and Fisheries (Zoology), tissue-culture techniques for rare plants (Microbiology and Botany), Petrology and Geochemistry (Geology), Highway road research (Civil Engineering), mulberry research (Sericulture), collection of rare Kannada manuscripts and cultural folklore artifacts and translation of significant works of literature from various Indian languages into Kannada ((Kannada). Similarly, original contributions have been made in the field of Oral History (History). It is worth noting that quite a few faculty members have received national and international recognition for their work. The awards include the fellowships from National Academy of Science, Indian National Science Academy, Royal Society Bursery. Scholars of the university have received young scientist awards in the last two years.

The University monitors research activity of the faculty members through annual performance appraisal reports. Publication linked incentives to the faculty in the form of reduction of teaching load and enhanced funding from the University resources may be considered.

The Department of Sericulture is involved in the extension activities by offering expertise to farmers and officials of the Government with regard to production of silk.

There is adequate space available for individual faculty members to conduct research activity. The laboratories are well equipped although with budget instruments. However, for more sophisticated equipment costing over rupees 1 crore, the faculty depend on the national level laboratories located in Bangalore. The Science faculties also regularly rely on the library facilities available in the Indian Institute of science for bibliography.

The research activity of the Departments of the University is well recognized in the form of special grants from the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Departments of Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology, Zoology, Physics and Geology are receiving special grants from UGC in the form of DRS, SAP and COSIST to the tune of Rs.2 crore for the development activities.

Several faculty members have major research projects supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), UGC, CSIR, Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources etc. The faculty was able to generate about 8 crores during the past five years. The highway road research itself generated over Rs.2 crores.

The DSA center in Fluid Mechanics of the Department of Mathematics needs special mention here. The faculty members associated with the project are conducting research work of the highest caliber in the forefront area of applied mathematics. Research work by the faculty in the center resulted in 31 publications in the past one-year in international journals. One of the faculty members associated with the center has been conferred the prestigious VV Narlikar award.

Among the liberal arts and languages Departments, Kannada is extraordinarily active in research publications and publishing of books. Besides, the department is doing a very significant work in collecting rare Kannada manuscripts and cultural artifacts. The

Department has already published an annotated directory of the manuscripts in its possession and has also set up a small museum of the various cultural items collected from different parts of Karnataka. The department is regularly offering expertise to the Government in promotion of the state language.

The Research output of the Department of Political Science is quite impressive. Department specialises among others in Human Rights, Election Studies, Civil Society, Women Empowerment in Karnataka Government in Politics and administration and has made notable contribution in these areas. The Department has been chosen to represent India in an international research project – “World Value Survey” in which 65 countries participate. Bangalore University is working as a nodal centre for Asia in this project.

The Department of History is doing notable research work in the areas of art history, Women Studies, modern history of Karnataka, freedom movement and nationalism.

The contribution from the Department of Sociology in the areas of Sociology of Women, Family and Kinship, Sociology of medicine, and Sociology of Markets is also noteworthy. The department of Social Work has carried out number of state sponsored projects and some of the findings have been adopted by the Karnataka State.

The Department of communication has a sophisticated production unit and is producing high quality program capsules for broadcasting through public channels in collaboration with Doordarshan. A full fledged studio has been set up in collaboration with Doordarshan. The University may however, encourage this activity further for production of socially relevant capsules. The Department can be made a nodal agency for the production of weekly student magazine, which can act a catalyst for student progression.

The faculty of the University published over 150 scholarly books during the past five years. Some of the books in the fields of Mathematics, Zoology, and Physical Education are regularly used by the undergraduate students of the University.

The University is promoting holding of research symposia/seminars/workshops of national and international level to advance research culture in the Departments. During the last five years, the University has the distinction of organizing about 84 conferences / seminars / workshops/ Annual meetings of the Indian National Science Congress.

The University is promoting research attitude among faculty by providing leave to pursue studies in advanced national and international institutes. About 10% of the faculty have availed themselves of this leave. The university has a provision for granting sabbatical leave to senior faculty.

The consultancy services that are offered by the post graduate departments are largely informal. One faculty member from the Department of Chemistry has an industry sponsored project. The University can have an R&D cell to coordinate consultancy services and also coordinate patenting activity. In addition, several departments such as Communications, Psychology, Statistics, Environmental Science, English, Computer Application and Geology can offer certificate courses to public as a part of extension activities and also for generating funds for the University. The city campus can be used effectively for this purpose.

Extension activities of the students of the University, both at undergraduate and post-graduate level are highly praise-worthy. They have transformed a barren land into a vibrant bio-park within one and half years. In the process, the students have acquired invaluable experience in land management for social forestry. The university, for the first time in the country constructed an NSS Bhavan to promote such activities. Faculties of the Civil Engineering, Geology, Geography, Mathematics, Zoology, Botany and Microbiology have been actively involved in making Bio-park a reality. Rain water harvesting and ground water recharging are an integral part of Bio park as also aqua culture and ornithology.

The library of the University located in the JB Campus and City Campus is very well maintained and managed. The JB campus Library has a floor area of about 6500 sq.mts. and has a collection of 3.25 lakh volumes. It subscribes to over 250 national and international journals. In addition, it also receives 50 journals as gift/on exchange basis. Reprographic facility is also available for the users.

Prasaranga is a publication unit of the University and is located at J.B. Campus. It publishes Text Books, University Journals and Periodicals. In the last 30 years it has

published 800 Textbooks and Reference books in English as well as several articles and Monographs in kannada to cater to the awareness needs of the public at large. The students of communication department bring out a news journal regularly. These activities are ably supported by the good printing press of the University which has sophisticated machinery and trained personnel.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The University has a Master Plan which covers the existing buildings and projected expansion. The institution plans to meet the need for augmenting its infrastructure to keep pace with the academic growth through the grants received from the State Govt. and the UGC, providing Consultancy Services to various industries, acquiring research funds and finance generated from co-operative endeavors and collaboration with industries. The optimum use of the infrastructure is achieved through usage of class-room during off time for conducting special coaching classes. Laboratory facilities are extended to other researchers, evening courses are conducted at both the campuses and sports grounds are used by schools and other institutions.

The Inter-Library exchange facility is available between the Bangalore University and the libraries of certain other institutions located at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Bangalore etc. Computerization of the library has been done since 1992. There are 3.25 lakhs books, 172 Journals, (National-110, International- 62), 68 Magazines are regularly subscribed. The Library also provides Reprographic facility, Computers, Audio, Video Cassette, Internet and INFLIBNET PROGRAMME and Inter University loan facilities. Adequate computers / printers are provided to the various departments / administrative sections.

There is a well equipped Health Care Centre at J.B. Campus which is manned by two Resident Doctors; services of Visiting Specialized Doctors are also available. The Centre is equipped with proper medical instruments and clinical laboratory.

At J.B. Campus a well equipped multi purpose Gymnasium with facilities for indoor games, Basket Ball Courts, Kho Kho ground and Swimming Pool are also available to the students. At the Central College campus a Cricket Stadium consisting of turf wicket, Basket Ball Court, Volley Ball Court, Lawn Tennis court etc. are available to

the students. Every year around 45 inter-collegiate sports competitions are held for men and women section. Nearly 1 lakh students from 398 affiliated colleges participate in these sports events. For inter university tournaments, committees comprising of experts select the Bangalore University teams. The students are given incentives through scholarships, fellowships and fee concessions. They are also provided with placement assistance on the completion of their programmes. B.P.Ed. and M.P.Ed. students get stipend. Many sportsmen of the University have represented at the State, Regional, National and International tournament during the last few years.

The University Science Instrumentation Centre located at Sneha Bhavan at the J.B. campus looks after the maintenance and servicing of the instruments of the user departments in the University. USIC also conducts refresher courses for college teachers and training for interested students.

There are various welfare programmes initiated by the institutes like subsidized transport facility for the university staff and students, subsidized canteen facility, free medical aid and reimbursement of medical expenses including on hospitalization, loan facilities from GPF. The University stands guarantee for house building loans sanctioned by the HDFC and also all other nationalized banks and co-operative societies.

There are seven hostels on the J.B. Campus and 3 on the City campus. There are also two men's hostels at Tumkur and Kolar and one Ladies hostels at Kolar. Hostel canteens are managed by student prefects. While it is realized that there are some financial constraints the need for increasing accommodation for lady students should be given importance.

In the City Campus a Grievance Cell is attached to the Examination Wing of the University. Through the university's web-site one can seek redressal of grievance and clarification of queries pertaining to examinations. A GSCASH Committee which is mandatory should be effective in redressing the grievances of Women students and employees of the University. A central general grievance cell is planned to be established in future.

The Bio-Park is a novel idea proposed on the 600 acres of land in the J.B.Campus. Rain Water harvesting and Watershed Management are initiated by the University on the

J.B.Campus with proper objectives. The University has also a Robotics and cyber centre, a Yoga centre, and a Gandhian Studies centre.

All the departments have enough floor area to cater to the needs of teaching / research purpose. Every recognized guide is given an independent research lab. Many department buildings are well designed by taking into consideration aesthetics, architectural beauty, aeration and counters of the areas.

CRITERION V: STUDENT SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION

The University has a total of 7362 P.G. students enrolled in various programmes of study. A low drop out rate of only 2.85 percent shows the strength of the University in motivating the students from the very beginning to stay on and pursue their studies.

Again, the very high pass percentage of 98.20 is an evidence of not only the quality of teaching but also of building the sustained interest of students in goal – oriented learning.

Efforts to collect a feed back from student – although not formal and widely practised is a step in the right direction to improve constantly the teaching / learning environment.

Adequate time is devoted by the members of the various faculties and it does not include only faculties of professional lapses like management and computer applications – in counseling students about various job opportunities also career advancement also in creating a better and more meaningful rapport between teachers and students.

The University has an employment cell which is need based and helps students in finding placements. A special facility created for encouraging students to become entrepreneurs – Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC) is a unique feature of the placement efforts initiated by the University.

Over 400 students receive financial aid annually which is in addition to financial aid available to a large number of student under various schemes of the State Government for socially challenged sections of the society.

There are a number of support facilities available on the campus for making not only teaching / learning more meaningful but also the life on the campus rich and varied for all round development of the students' personalities. These facilities include a

swimming pool, infrastructure for indoor games, an auditorium for holding cultural events and these are held very regularly – an NSS Bhavan, a Yoga Centre and a bio-park. Most facilities are well maintained and used regularly by the students.

A fairly large number of awards and medals have been instituted either by the University or at its initiative to motivate the students in pursuit of their academic progression.

The instituting of bridge courses including a special course in spoken English for students from rural background is yet another evidence of the efforts of the University in providing equal opportunity for learning for all students.

The University has a good library with adequate holdings but needs to streamline the functioning by increasing the hours of functioning of the library – ideally round the clock.

The University could make do with sustained and vigorous steps to attract more NRI and foreign students whose number at present is quite low.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

The structure for the governance of the Bangalore University is similar to other universities of the country consisting of the Syndicate, the Senate and the Academic Council. After implementation of new regulation / amendments in Karnataka State Universities Act 2000 enforced from 13.9.2001, the Senate has been abolished from the authorities of the University. In addition to the Academic Council and Syndicate the Finance Committee, Faculties and Board of Studies are also authorities of the University. The powers of these authorities are given in Karnataka State University Act, 2000 and Statutes of the University.

The Syndicate is a statutory body having power of management and administration of the revenues and properties of the university and the control of its administrative affairs. Vice-Chancellor is the Chairman and the Registrar is Member Secretary of the Syndicate. There are in all 22 members of Syndicate. One Senior Dean, 4 Principals (out of which one person is woman), only one Senior Professor P.G. Studies,

2 Chancellor's nominees, 6 Government nominees, Registrar Evaluation, 5 ex-officio Govt. Officials. The Syndicate meetings are conducted at least 8 times per year.

Academic Council is the academic body and have control and general regulation of and be responsible for the maintenance of the standard of instructions, education and examination of the university. Vice-Chancellor is the Chairman and Registrar is Member- Secretary of Academic Council. It consists of total 48 members including Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Registrar Evaluation, Librarian, Director of Students Welfare, Director of College Development Council, Director of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Board, Director of Physical Education, 10 Principals of Affiliated Colleges as nominated by the Vice-Chancellor by rotation only for two years, 3 eminent persons representing industry, banking, commerce nominated by State Government, 5 Professors from PG Departments nominated by the Vice-Chancellor according to Seniority, 5 Deans nominated by the Vice-Chancellor according to Seniority, 6 students nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and Government Nominees. The Academic Council is expected to meet atleast 4 times in a year.

These authorities can constitute sub-committees. Each of the sub committee is a delegated subject for discussion and to arrive at consensus and recommend the same to be placed before the concerned authorities, the Syndicate or the Academic Council, as the case may be. In addition, there are some advisory committees that have been constituted in order to provide the functional base for management and administration of the university.

The powers of the officers of the University viz. The Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Deans, Registrar, Registrar (Evaluation), Finance Officer are well defined and determined as per various sections of the K.U. Act. Provision for arrangement of work during vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor is quite clear.

Positive efforts have been taken to improve the functioning of organisation and management of the institution. All the University bodies meet regularly as per the pre-notified annual time frame schedule to discuss listed agenda. In case of a division of opinion amongst members, the matter is resolved through majority voting. The requirement of discussion of specific issues in details is done through proper delegation

to sub- committees. Democratic decentralization is achieved through the sub-committees. Suggestions are given timely and efficient attention. Action taken reports are given due importance. Periodic meeting of Chairpersons of the departments of studies, Deans, Principals are conducted for better control and co-ordination of academic and administrative matters.

The academic calendar is prepared for the post graduate and under graduate courses of each faculty and attempts are made to follow it meticulously. Examinations are conducted on time with proper schedule of evaluation of answer sheets and declaration of results. The Examination Manual provides information on duties and responsibilities of various officers and different rules and regulations pertaining to the examination matters. Karnataka Government Civil Services rules are applicable to Non-teaching employees of the University. Reservation policy for admission is observed as per the Govt. of Karnataka and Govt. of India's guidelines. There is requirement to gear up fund raising activities. Other authorities of the University viz., the Faculties, the Board of Studies and the Finance Committee are formed as per provisions of K.U. Act.

There was no formal system of performance appraisal hitherto for non-teaching employees. However steps have been taken to introduce the system. Developmental Programmes are given due importance to enhance communication skills and personality of the employees. Fee structure has been enhanced since 1998 on an average by 4 times for every item. Internal audit mechanism is well designed to exercise controls on funds utilization.

CRITERION VII : HEALTHY PRACTICES

The University has initiated a number of healthy practices to strengthen the teaching / learning environment both within the classroom and outside.

The introduction of a compulsory paper on Computer learning for all post-graduate students of the University is one such initiative which would go a long way in not only building the self-confidence of students in a technology oriented world but will also make them computer savvy.

The University has taken a very bold initiative in making available to undergraduate students on demand photocopies of evaluated answer scripts of their respective annual examinations. This would fulfil the twin objectives of helping the students learn about the strengths and weaknesses of their answers and also to seek redressal for under-valuation if any. A positive spin off of this bold initiative would be to keep the teachers on their toes not only while teaching but also while evaluating the performance of the students. The University is computerizing the examination system and 30% of the University's financial resources are allocated to teaching, learning and evaluation.

The decision by the University to set up a bio-park on over 400 acres of land at the Jnana Bharathi Campus by planting over 500,000 saplings of about 400 varieties of plants and trees including many having medicinal value is again an initiative for improving the ecology and the physical environment on not only the campus of the University but in and around the city of Bangalore.

To set up a number of check dams to trap and conserve rain water as a part of the bio-park project is a very healthy practice of optimal resource management of a commodity fast becoming scarce– water.

Involving thousands of students – NSS volunteers – from affiliated colleges in clearing the ground, planting of saplings and periodically looking after them is again another healthy practice initiated by the University in involving the students in improving the environment on the campus as also sensitising them about the need for preserving precious resources of nature – flora, fauna and water. The encouragement of the Forest and Environment Department of the State Govt. is appreciable. Similarly the support of the Central Water Ministry to the integrated water management scheme under taken by the University is laudable.

The University has introduced several welfare schemes for teaching and Non-teaching staff, a Pensioners association and has an adequate representation of students in its various bodies. All these help in creating a congenial environment for its teachers, students and also for the retired personnel. There is a healthy and constructive

cooperation among the various sections of the University community particularly teaching and non-teaching staff and the University administration.

Holding of two HRD training programmes – for Chairmen and Professors of different departments of Bangalore University and Principals of affiliated colleges – was once again a bold initiative. It was appreciated by both teachers of the University and the Principals of the affiliated colleges, as is evident from an evaluation by the participants of their level of satisfaction. Feel Emphasis HRD programme to all the P.G. students has succeeded in building self-confidence of the students. The Academic Staff College of the University is continuously holding Orientation and Refresher courses for the benefit of college teachers and the non-teaching staff.

The initiative taken by the University in asking the Women's Centre to run the University Canteen – Kasturi – at the Jnana Bharathi Campus – is again a very welcome and bold move to provide women with an opportunity to show their entrepreneurial skills as also improve the social environment in the Canteen. The University has taken the initiative to setup Bangalore University Women Employees Association (BUWENA) which is doing significant work for empowerment of women on the campus.

Finally, the construction of an NSS Bhavan a modern structure with a number of facilities including an open air theatre, students' dorms and conference rooms is a step towards providing the students with adequate infrastructure for holding region and national level social and cultural events.

Faculty strength is fairly adequate in all departments. However, some of the new departments are deficient of adequate staff Strength. Rationalisation of staff for various departments are to be given enough attention. 70% of the faculty have at least one step higher qualification than the mandatory minimum level: Probably a little more focus on staff development is required for the rest of the faculty in terms of acquiring further degree.

Faculty members regularly participate in subject seminars/workshops and conferences, which promotes peer interaction and faculty development. A few have participated in faculty improvement programmes of the U.G.C. as well as UGC Refresher courses. Almost 40% of the faculty participated in Seminars/Conferences and 22% of

the faculty were resource persons for various seminars. The University has organised 12 programmes for faculty development and other agencies have done 4 for which the University faculty participated.

Many faculty members have equipped themselves with Computer competence. The University has provided Internet and online facility in the main library to update their knowledge. One day Interaction programme followed by a 10 days training was conducted at Indian Institute of Science for the benefit of the faculty who will teach the courses on Computer Applications.

Teachers have a self-appraisal form which is used by the administration for promotional purposes. Student evaluation is not done so far, but the proposal is in the offing.

Several staff members have been awarded recognition nationally and internationally which is creditable.

The University has created several structures like University-Industry Interaction Cell, Center for Academic Planning and Participation and a Convention Center which help strengthen the academic ambience.

The Central College building where a number of departments and administrative units are located is a part of the National Heritage. The University has undertaken a number of steps to preserve the structure in a manner befitting its significance and glorious past.

SECTION 3 : OVER ALL ANALYSIS

Bangalore University was founded on the model of conventional University to extend higher educational opportunities to men and women in the region. It offers a wide range of curricular options. Under the active of supervision and academic guidance of highly qualified and competent faculty. Currently, the University is offering 42 disciplines encompassing 9 faculties. Within less than four decades of its existence the University has emerged as a major centre of excellence and produced thousands of scholars occupying many important positions in different walks of life. The University has made immense contributions for improving the quality of the people and for the socio-economic development of the region.

The University which was originally started in the metropolitan city of Bangalore which Central College as its nucleus, has acquired a new Campus – Jnanabharathi which extends over an area of 1100 acres. The University is undergoing radical transformation with many rapid changes especially at new Campus. Jnanabharathi provides an exceptional vibrant academic ambiance and eco-friendly environment and with extensive landscaping. Successive Vice-Chancellors and enlightened leaders who are associated with this futuristic University have played a crucial role in carving a niche for this portal of learning. The academic programmes of the University are offered at two Campuses i.e., main Campus Jnanabharathi where 32 departments are situated and City Campus where ten departments are functioning. The University has also established two P.G. Centres one at Tumkur and another at Kolar for the benefit of rural students.

The University has its academic jurisdiction over three revenue districts of Karnataka namely, Rural Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur, in addition to metropolitan area of Bangalore city. The University with its nearly 400 affiliated colleges under its academic jurisdiction is able to extend higher educational opportunities to nearly 4 lakh students men and women. The phenomenal expansion of the University over the years and explosion of affiliated colleges have contributed to an elusive dilemma with reference to quality, quantity, equality; the three major objectives of higher education. Indeed, the massification of higher education on account of expansion of Bangalore University has contributed significantly for the upward social mobility of the oppressed communities and for the creation of new leadership in the region.

The University has introduced several innovative programmes at the cutting edge of modern technology. The courses offered in the areas of Computer Science, Management, Biotechnology, Information Technology, Genetics and Applied Genetics, Indology, Financial Administration and a Course on Computer Education in all the PG Departments, has transformed the entire intellectual climate at this centre of higher learning. Despite, the growing importance of certain areas of specialization the especially job oriented courses like MCA, MBA, Biotechnology, Information and Communication, the earlier conventional programmes both in Sciences and Social Sciences like History, Sociology and Political Science, Mathematics, Physics, chemistry

and Life Sciences continued to be very strong with large number of students opting for the pursuit of these courses which is commendable.

In general the faculty is a forward looking academic community with progressive outlook and profound scholarship. On account of their dedication and commitment, there is an high degree of discipline among the students. In fact, life on the campus revolves around exchange of ideas organized Seminars, Conferences and friendly peer interaction a significant achievement.

In addition, to mandating curricular activities in 42 departments leading to cognitive expansion and development, the University has also created many additional learning opportunities for holistic development of student's personality with a special focus on affective sphere of educative process. The establishment of a special Centres for Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Studies, Gandhian Studies, Yoga, Adult and Continuing Education, Computer Training, Psycho dynamic counselling etc substantiate the above.

The research portfolio of the University ranges from short term operational research to long term applied and basic research undertaken in the form of projects. University has receiving substantial grants from several funding agencies like National Council Centres and Public sector.

Prasaranga an innovative concept introduced in almost all the Universities in Karnataka is actively engaged in extension and Publication activities at Bangalore University. It is gratifying to note that the Bangalore University, is able to translate its mission statements through multi dimensional programmes encompassing teaching research and extension.

The University initiated attempts to modernise and Computerise the University administration and Examination system has trained its employees in Computer Application. Renovations like Challenge evaluation, Semester-cum-Choice-Based Credit System are commendable steps. In the opinion of the Peer Team, Bangalore University is striving to translate its mission with a sense of commitment and

accountability. However, the Peer Team would like to offer the following recommendations for formulating the strategic master plan for its future development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to note that this report carries many specific and context oriented in built recommendations, however, the following broad points for continuous reconstruction of the University are made for academic debate and implementation wherever feasible. The University has already initiated steps in this regard but need to be strengthened.

1. The Peer Team is of the view that some serious thoughts should be given to restructuring of academic developments in the University. In the emergent context of modern University the process of identifying and to strengthening linkages between various disciplines is imperative. It is often said that one pursues any intellectual disciplines to its frontier levels one witnesses the underlining unity in the diversity of intellectual disciplines. Our perspective and knowledge of the present system of Higher Education calls for an indepth analysis of the present disciplinary approach and the need for new structural relationship between one department and other departments preferably merging several departments into one broad area of inter disciplinary intellectual pursuit. In view of this Bangalore University should strive to achieve an optimal balance between restructuring academic disciplines to facilitate intellectual experience of unity on one hand, the divisions required for administrative and pedagogic convenience on the other. In view of this the Peer Team recommended that the Bangalore University can move in the direction of heightening integration.

2. Another recommendations pertains to methods of economisation of resources in the University by employing technique of collaborative resource sharing. It is redundant for two different departments to acquire the very same resource when two or three departments can share a common pool of resources. Collaborative research, infrastructure sharing, teaching resources sharing, technology sharing, sharing even the class room can reduce costs of education by huge margins. During our visit to several departments, we have noted that many departments can be brought into a one faculty or a broad based school system. Bangalore University may look upon this issue of collaborative sharing

both internal as well as external. The sharing also involves establishing linkages with industries, NGOs, and Government. In order to achieve these economies of this scale it is absolutely necessary to depend on better processes through reengineering of our academic programmes. Bangalore University has all the resources to begin this new approach to undertake this radical change and sustain it.

3. Another concern of the Peer group may be noted with reference to the nature of relationship that the University maintains with its affiliated colleges. Understandably all the affiliated colleges work under common framework of cohesiveness in terms of norms and regulations. However we recommend that the existing relationships of academic and administrative control and exercise of authority to ensure rule conformity and standardization should be supplemented with adequate academic and intellectual support as well. It is not sufficient to create a framework alone. We should also help them in building a vision. This can happen best when linkages of intellectual support strengthened. The University can indeed share many of its resources with affiliated colleges. Similarly the University may also benefit from the excellence of these affiliated colleges.

4. Yet another recommendation deals with the major issues of curriculum and curriculum reform. The Peer Team strongly advocates that a system of continuous reform as against the present practice of one time academic exercise is necessary in the context of changing courses of relevance. Relevance is a dynamic concept and therefore continuous reconstruction curriculum is an imperative obligation. While some part of the curriculum has to remain invariant. It is necessary to ensure other part of the curriculum has to change with regard to changes in the society. Since this change is continuous it is absolutely necessary that curriculum also changes continuously. Some of the points to be considered in this regard are :

- ❖ Increase faculty freedom to design curriculum.
- ❖ Structure quality checks to makes this increase in freedom more accountable.
- ❖ A quality index may be formulated to assess these curriculum changes

5 The Peer group wish reflect broadly on the processes of accountability that may be incorporated, to make the University conform to the most contemporary standards of governance. One of the Chief components of good governance is transparency of

information and decisional reasoning. Disclosure practices along the lines of corporate world need to be adopted by the University. In the case of Corporate world accountability is to the shareholders whereas in the case of University accountability to a stakeholder i.e. the society itself. Accountability in the field of education includes the following components :

- Curriculum accountability
- Financial accountability
- Accountability evaluation of students performance

Accountability in the enlarged sense for our purposes reduces the costs of education and simultaneously increases prestige of the institutions.

6. It is almost common place to see that Universities must have stronger linkages with the industry. Infact we find that internal accountability has a bearing on how well the external environment particularly the industry reacts to the University. However in the case of linkages between Bangalore University and the phenomenal industrial environment, that finds happily around the University can be substantially beneficial. Apart from raising financial resources the industry is a tremendous source of intellect and knowledge. In fact if we believe in the dictum that “the learning while doing” we appreciate the point that the industry teaches much more than any University anywhere in the world. Given this sobering realization it becomes even more imperative that Bangalore University should develop strong linkages with industries around. Some of the points for linking up with the industry are :

- Financing research;
- Financing market pertaining to training.
- Sensitivity to emergent technologies such as biotechnology, information technology etc.
- Establishing tangible milestones and achieving them with a time frame work.

7. While paying attention to academic environment in centres of excellence like Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, National Law School, Indian Institute of Management, National Aeronautical Laboratories etc, Bangalore University may emulate these models and try to achieve similar intellectual environment created

in these institutions. Some of the points that one may wish to consider in this regard are

- higher degree of autonomy,
- independent resource pools,
- specialised research and teaching agenda,
- accountability measure through research outputs and industry linkages.

The Bangalore University is one of the leading Universities in the country to-day on account of the contributions of several outstanding academicians, Vice-Chancellors, and public men. The University has made great strides in the recent past under the dynamic leadership of the present Vice Chancellor Prof. K.Siddappa. But for his vision and bold initiatives, the major developments on the campus, especially the establishment of the Bio-park would not have been possible. He and his dedicated faculty are equally responsible for promoting highly cordial human relations on the campus and for ensuring a participatory and democratic environment.

The Peer Team would therefore like to place its deep appreciation for the immense contribution made by the Vice-Chancellor and his dedicated faculty.

***THE PEER TEAM WISHES THE UNIVERSITY ALL THE BEST IN ITS
FUTURE ENDEAVOURS***

Signature of the Peer Team Members

Signature of the Vice-Chancellor
with Seal

(K. SIDDAPPA)

Prof. M. Malla Reddy
Chairman

Prof. Mariamma A. Varghese
Member

Prof. Harish C. Narang
Member

Prof. H. Surya Prakash Rao
Member

Prof. Kavita Pandey
Member

Dr. C.M. Chitale

Member