
Peer Team Draft Report
on
Institutional Accreditation
of

Srikishan Sarada College

Hailakandi, Assam

Peer Team Visit
on
6th & 7th October, 2004

National Assessment and Accreditation Council
Bangalore – 560 010

Institutional Accreditation of
Srikishan Sarda College

Hailakandi, Assam

Draft Report of the NAAC Peer Team

Section – I: Introduction

Srikishan Sarda College, Hailakandi was established on 18th September 1950. Earlier it was affiliated to Guwahati University. In the event of the inception of Assam University at Silchar in the year 1994, the College has come under its jurisdiction and has been affiliated to it.

The College celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the year 2000. During the period of last more than five decades, the College has produced a lot of successful students who are well-placed in the society at the state level and also at the national and international levels.

The College offers bachelor degrees in arts and science streams. In total, there are fifteen departments. All the departments have pass as well as major courses. The faculty consists of forty five teachers appointed against the sanctioned posts. Five teachers have been appointed on consolidated pay against the vacancies. Currently there are 299 students studying in the pass course and 167 students in the Honours course. The numbers of boys and girls studying in the college in the session 2004-'05 are 305 and 161 respectively.

Hailakandi is a small town in the southern part of Assam .The economy of Hailakandi is predominantly agrarian. The students, for obvious reasons, come from the rural agricultural background. Due to the vagaries of floods and other

natural calamities Hailakandi remains to be backward in spite of the fact that the people of this area are hardworking and diligent. People have high aspirations to move from the agricultural primary sector to the tertiary service sector through educational advancement. The wards of the poor farmers and backward communities get themselves admitted in the college with the ambition of moving up in the societal hierarchy. It goes without saying that Srikishan Sarma College stands tall to serve the purposes since its inception for which it was established.

The College submitted its Self Study Report to NAAC and applied for institutional accreditation. The NAAC constituted a Peer Team with Prof. A. Saha, Vice-Chancellor, IIAS International University, Bihari as the Chairman and Dr. J. Abraham, Principal, Scottish Church College, Kolkata as the Member-Coordinator and Prof. J. L. Dawar, Head, Department of History & Ethnography and Dean, School of Social Sciences, Mizoram University, Aizawl as the member, to validate the self-study report.

The Peer Team visited the College on 6th and 7th October, 2004 and interacted with all the constituencies and stakeholders. The Team met the members of the Governing Body, Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, alumni and guardians, collectively and separately. Based on its interactions with all of them, the Peer Team prepared the draft report and placed it for the consideration of the NAAC for institutional accreditation.

Section - II: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion – I: Curricular Aspects

Srikishan Sarma College, Hailakandi offers under-graduate courses leading to B.A. and B.Sc. Honours/Pass degrees through altogether fifteen departments

under two faculties. Under the faculty of Science there are six departments, *viz.*, Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Mathematics and Statistics. There are nine departments under the faculty of Arts, *viz.*, English, Bengali, Sanskrit, Manipuri, Persian, History, Economics, Political Science and Philosophy. In the courses offered, there is not much scope for horizontal mobility and elective options.

The College runs two ancillary courses. The Zoology wing of the College offers a pass course in Industrial Fish and Fisheries with a vocational content, sponsored by UGC. The department has linkages with advanced learning centers such as Zoological Survey of India and Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI).

The Computer Centre is maintained by an external agency under the supervision of the College. The Centre conducts a Certificate Course in Computer Applications (CCCA) on a self-financing basis. This is a source of income for the College Management. The Center has internet facility as well.

Whatever autonomy the College may lack in designing the syllabus, a fate it shares with other such under-graduate colleges in the University, it tries its best to prepare its students to tackle the syllabus well in their examination, as is reflected in the results of the University examinations.

Criterion - II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

Students are admitted to the various courses offered by the College through interview based on academic record in the qualifying examination. Unit tests and monthly examinations are conducted to assess students' depth of knowledge in the subject. Academically backward students are supported by tutorial and special coaching classes, during holidays and vacations.

The heads of departments allocate topics to the teachers based on their areas of specialization. Every teacher prepares the teaching plan at the beginning of the academic year. Moreover lesson plans are prepared prior to the classes. The syllabi are unitized according to the teaching schedule. Regular departmental meetings are held to review the progress of teaching and corrective measures are taken wherever needed. The classroom teaching is supplemented by seminars, symposia, project works and student-teacher interactions. Some departments conduct spot training camps to supplement the class room teaching. Departments of Zoology and Botany arrange regular field trips as well as carry out spot study. The teachers also use audio-visual equipments like multimedia instruments, OHPs, slide projectors, maps and charts and demonstration models to enhance the effectiveness of teaching. Team teaching is also adopted to supplement classroom lectures.

The College strictly follows the UGC guidelines. The number of working days of the College is 260 and teaching days 182. The total workload of the teachers also satisfies the UGC requirement. The fulltime/part-time teacher ratio is 7:1 for the last two years and ratio of teaching to the non-teaching staff is 2:1. Over 90% classes are taught by the full-time faculty of the College.

The College communicates the evaluation methods to the students at the beginning of each academic session through the academic calendar issued to them at the time of admission. The College also takes care to monitor the overall performance of the students at the beginning of each year.

There is transparency in the recruitment of teachers. Advertisements are given in national dailies and an Expert Selection Committee constituted as per the guidelines of the Department of Higher Education, Government of Assam, conducts the interview. The President of the Governing Body is the Chairman

& Commissioner of the Committee. Other members of the Committee are (1) Two members of the GB, not belonging to teaching staff, (2) Secretary to the GB, (3) three well-known educationalists and (4) two nominees of Vice Chancellor, one of whom must be an expert in the subject. Two-third majority constitutes the quorum. On extreme necessity, the College Governing Body also recruits teachers on ad-hoc basis, paid out of College fund.

No new posts were created since 1992 by the Government of Assam. However, within the last three years, as many as twenty appointments were made against retirement vacancies. The College has also appointed five teachers on a consolidated pay from the College's own resources in order to run the academic activity unhampered.

The College does give extra emphasis on self-appraisal method for evaluation in improving the overall performance of teachers. A positive development that is bound to have a far-reaching impact on the teaching-learning process of the College is the introduction of the feed-back mechanism from the meritorious students for performance rating and evaluation of the teachers through a structured questionnaire towards the end of the courses. Both teachers and students have positively responded to this programme. The College also organises remedial courses for weaker students.

The College facilitates teaching improvement of teachers through various faculty development programmes organised within the College, e.g., departmental and faculty seminars with external resource persons, interdepartmental seminars for teachers and workshops for professional improvement. Most of the departments of the College organize seminars by inviting eminent resource persons from various national institutes to enhance the knowledge base of the students. In addition, regional/inter-collegiate level seminars and symposia are also conducted for faculty development. In

December 2003, the College hosted a UGC-sponsored national seminar on “Social Transition in North-East India”.

Several teachers attended refresher courses in their disciplines in the last two years. The College also takes initiative in organising seminars and symposia in collaboration with GOs and NGOs on many socially relevant issues like AIDS, bio-diversity and cancer.

Teachers play an important role in policy-making of the institution through their representation in the College Governing Body. They also help the administration in day-to-day running of the institution, being members in various committees of the College such as admission committee, purchase committee, routine committee, discipline committee, library committee, grievance redressal cell, career counselling cell, etc.

Criterion – III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The College encourages research activity among the teachers. The teachers are given special study leave for research purpose and teaching schedule is adjusted to suit the teachers interested in research. About 20% of the teachers are engaged in active research and about 25% regularly publish research articles. Four teachers were awarded PhD during the last five years and eight teachers have already enrolled as a part-time research scholars. Five teachers already completed their MPhil. It is encouraging to note that four UGC-sponsored minor research projects have been taken up by teachers of the College since 2000 of which three are ongoing projects. The research accomplishments of the faculty members of the departments of Political Science and History are praiseworthy. The fact that many of the research activities of the department of History are self-funded is an example of the enthusiasm and dedication of the teachers of the College in pursuit of academic excellence.

The areas of extension activities undertaken by the College, in association with NGOs and GOs, include student counselling, community development, plantation, health and hygiene awareness, AIDS awareness and environmental awareness. The College has an active NSS and Science Society. The Science Society organises environment awareness programme on 5th June every year. The Science departments have created an NGO named “CARES” (Creative Association for Restoration of Environment and Society), to promote social and environmental causes in the neighbouring areas. The College, in collaboration with “The Greens”, a local NGO, organised a rally to make the public aware of health hazards like drinking and smoking as well as of the harmful effects of the misuse of plastics. It is encouraging to note that the College associates like National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Assam Science Society and similar GOs/NGOs in organising awareness programmes and seminars on socially relevant issues. Students and teachers are encouraged to participate in the extension and outreach programmes by issuing certificates. The extension activities in the College are supervised by a staff member, over and above his normal academic duties.

Some of the staff members are also engaged in extension activities on a personal level. A member of the English faculty runs a school for economically disadvantaged group of the society free of cost. Almost of all the faculty members of the College are engaged in disseminating the values of Assam Science Society, which is playing a very crucial role in inculcating as well as enhancing the scientific temperament among the people inhabiting the surrounding areas. The Department of Chemistry did a survey in the surrounding areas to estimate the arsenic level of the rivers flowing in this

region. The result of the survey is in consistence with the observations made by other established research institutes.

Criterion - IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Srikishan Sarda College has a campus of about 15 acres. The management reviews the infrastructure periodically. It is maintained and renovated from the annual budget of the College but at times in emergency cases the management also spends from its own funds so as to ensure the proper academic growth. The resources available with the College are put to maximum use. The college also encourages external agencies to utilize its resources for fostering academic environment. These external agencies are: The students of Higher Secondary Schools and venture colleges of the neighbouring areas for science laboratory; Assam Science Society, Sarva Siksha Avijan, Science Trial Organization, Community medical services etc. The teachers and students take special care in maintaining the campus area beautiful and pollution- free. The College Science Society is maintaining a Botanical Garden called “Mandira Garden”. It also performs the role of natural fencing.

The College possesses a fully-computerised central library with over 15,000 text and reference books. The library subscribes seventeen journals and one magazine and four newspapers. Book-bank facility is available to the students. However, the library has not yet been equipped with reprographic facilities. The library is kept open on all six working days of the week from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. It is opened for 260 days in a year.

All the departments are maintaining departmental libraries with a reasonable number of books. It is a unique practice that books in the departmental library have been donated by the faculty members and the students of the department. The students make use of the library facility.

The College has a central computer facility and three departments have been equipped with their own computers. The computers and their accessories are maintained through annual contract system. In some departments, teachers provide and maintain the computers for the use of students as well.

The College avails the services of a doctor who is an alumnus of the institution on a voluntary basis. Medical attention is provided to the students of the College as and when needed. The health care unit is looked after by a team of teachers of the College. Many of the Science departments keep First Aid boxes.

The College provides infrastructural facilities for indoor as well as outdoor games. In spite of the encouragement given by the College to participate in inter-college sports and inter-district sports events, no student participated in any such event last year. The College does not provide any incentive to outstation sport persons.

Presently, the College provides hostel facilities for boys only and the girls' hostel is under construction.

Criterion - V: Student Support and Progression

The Prospectus of the College is published every year at the time of admission. It contains information on the aims and objectives of the college; its location, courses and subjects offered, fees payable, college rules regarding attendance, library, admission, reservation for various categories and other facilities available. It also gives lists of faculty members, members of different committees, the college calendar and the examination schedules.

The percentage of students appearing for the qualifying examinations after the minimum period of study in the last year was 99% in the under-graduate level.

The College students belonging to various categories received financial aid from the Assam state government and Tripura Govt. worth Rs.80556.00 and Rs.2,509.00 respectively in the year 2001-'02 and from Central Govt. and ITDPS worth Rs.14,025.00 and Rs.2662.00 respectively in the year 2002-'03.

The College has been providing enough recreational facilities to its students in the form of outdoor and indoor games, students' magazine, cultural programmes and dance music competitions. Cultural and entertainment Committee, Library Committee and Students Counselling Cell are actively working for the benefit of students.

Criterion - VI: Organization and Management

The Governing Body of the college looks after the efficient internal co-ordination and monitoring of the academic and administrative aspects of the college. In this aspect it is helped by the various committees constituted by it such as: Examination Committee, Routine Committee, Purchase Committee, committee to look after the various grievances of the employees and others.

There is regular system of internal audit that ensures financial discipline and transparency in monetary transactions. The College does have concern towards professional development programmes for its non-teaching staff. However, the State Government has, at present, no provision for such programmes.

The tuition and other fee structure seem to be a rational one. The budget of the college shows revenue expenditure of about Rs.134 lakhs. It has well-defined and transparent internal audit mechanism.

The College helps the teaching and non-teaching staff in providing loans from various financial institutions. Besides, the college has S.S. College Employees Thrift and Credit Co-operative society Ltd. which is registered to the Assam

State Cooperative Society. The repayment of loans is facilitated through monthly deductions from the salary of the employees.

Criterion - VII: Healthy Practices

Over the years the college has been inculcating the various healthy practices for maintenance of quality in teaching and preaching.

Beyond its identity as an academic institution, the College seems to be an extended close family of students, teachers and non-teaching members. Due to resource crunch on the part of the government of Assam, no substantial fund for purchasing resources is forthcoming. Realizing the situation, the students and teachers come out with their own contribution to start departmental library, though small in each department. Almost all the departments have one or two almirahs, book-case and chairs and tables purchased from the contribution of students and teachers. This kind of healthy practice is highly commendable.

The teachers and the students of the college are engaged in many extra curricular activities. They are devoted to social work. One of the faculty members runs a school free for the deprived children of the weaker section of the society. The commitments of the teachers to society are omnipresent by their involvement in the activities for the uplift of the disadvantaged people of the area. There are specific instances of success stories which testify the facts that only with the help of the benevolent teachers, many families found the ways to come out the vicious circle of poverty and finally become self-employed and self-reliant. This kind of social commitment on the part of the teachers outside academic boundaries deserves to be highlighted.

The College, being a deficit grant-in-aid institution, does not have pension benefit scheme for its employees. Concerned with the post-retirement miseries, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the College established a Thrift & Credit Co-operative Society by themselves. The Society which is a registered body has at present a circulating capital of more than a staggering amount of Rs. 1.36 crores in its account. Out of this fund, the employees can avail of loan at the time of exigencies. Looking at the multipurpose nature of it, the Society seems to play a role of a mini-bank. This is an exemplary case of healthy practice.

Section - III: Overall Analysis

The College had been performing very well since its inception. However, for the last few years, there has been a progressive decline of student-strength, especially in the Honours stream. Nevertheless, it has been observed that the trend is reversing as a result of the improvements in the infrastructural facilities. Consequently, those students, who had migrated to other colleges in the adjoining areas have started to return to this institution. Also it has been noticed that more and more parents in this region now prefer this College for pursuing higher education by their children.

After carefully going through all the aspects of the College's performances and its future course of development, the Peer Team places the following recommendations for its consideration:

- The research is definitely a significant activity of the College. However, a separate Research Cell may be formed with a Research Coordinator at its head, who will coordinate all research activities in the institution. There should be a wider awareness of opportunities of receiving funds from various agencies like the UGC, DST, ICSSR, ICHR, etc.

- The facilities in the Central Library need immediate attention. Sufficient space, for both students and teachers in the reading room must be provided. Library may be well-equipped with sufficient number of latest editions of text and reference books. Reprographic facilities must be provided in the library at subsidised rates. Internet with web-site browsing facilities must also be made available in the library.
- The departments of the College must be provided with more computers and other accessories. The departments may be networked and internet facility be extended to the various departments.
- The Internet facility in the Computer Centre must be made more accessible to the staff and students. UGC may be approached for assistance and setting up Network Resource Centre in the College.
- The College must certainly think of community-oriented vocational courses. Short-term add-on courses and career-oriented courses in tune with the “Cafeteria approach” as recommended by the UGC may be introduced on a priority basis.
- Adequate space in the College canteen is to be provided.
- Extracurricular activities may be strengthened by improving facilities for sports and games.
- Health care facilities must be improved with periodic visit of a medical officer.
- The Alumni and the parents of the wards may be encouraged to improve and maintain the infrastructural facilities of the College.
- The NSS unit of the College is active. However, steps may be taken to provide necessary financial assistance from the State Government or from the College funds.
- The College may consider starting a ladies unit of the NCC in future.

The Peer Team likes to put on record its sincere appreciation for the active co-operation that it received from the Principal, the teaching and non-teaching staff members and the students of the College. The Team expresses its heartfelt gratitude to them for extending warm hospitality during its visit.

The Peer Team wishes unbounded growth and prosperity for the College in the years to come. The team has firm belief and conviction that, with the dedication and commitment of the stake-holders, the College will soon emerge out as one of the premier institutions of higher education in the southern part of Assam.

Members of the NAAC Peer Team

Prof. A. Saha (Chairman)

Dr. J. Abraham (Member Co-ordinator)

Prof. J. L. Dawar (Member)

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

Prof. A. H. Laskar (Principal)

Date: 7th October, 2004

Place: Hailakandi, Assam