

REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL PEER TEAM OF IQAC

G. S. COLLEGE OF COMMERCE & ECONOMICS, NAGPUR (AUTONOMOUS)

Civil Lines, Amravati Road, Nagpur-440 001

Report for the Session: 2020-21

CONSTITUTION OF THE EXTERNAL PEER TEAM

Sr. No.	Name	Designation	Capacity
1.	Dr Dipti Christian	Ex-Principal, Hislop College, Civil Lines, Nagpur (A NAAC reaccredited A-grade religious minority multi-faculty institution)	Chairman
2.	Dr K.T. Thomas	Principal, SFS College, Seminary Hills, Nagpur (A NAAC reaccredited A-grade religious minority multi-faculty institution)	Member
3.	Dr Akhilesh Peshwe	Principal, Dharampeth Science College, Ambazari, Nagpur (A NAAC reaccredited A- grade institution)	Member

We were invited by G. S. College of Commerce & Economics, Nagpur (autonomous) as EXTERNAL PEER TEAM members on its IQAC in July 2019.

Subsequently, we visited the College on 09.11.2020 at the college's invitation to attend its IQAC meeting and also to perform our duties as External Peers for assessing the performance of the college in the first two years as an autonomous college and have already submitted to the college our External Peer Team's Report for the session 2018-19 and 2019-20.

We were again invited by the college on 18.09.2021 for its external evaluation for the session 2020-21. Accordingly, we visited the College on 18.09.2021 at 3.30 p.m. and visited various facilities and interacted with Principal, IQAC Coordinator, and faculty members. We also went through the various related documents presented before us.

On the basis of the above, we are now pleased to submit the following Report regarding the performance of the college as an autonomous college for the session 2020-21.

For the sake of proper assessment we have tried to categorize various areas of assessment as per the NAAC criteria of Assessment and Accreditation. However, we also realize the restrictions and limitations under which the college performed under the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic which prevented all institutions of education from performing as per their fullest possible potential.

REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL PEER TEAM FOR THE SESSION 2019-20

G. S. College of Commerce & Economics, Nagpur was granted academic autonomy by the UGC for a period of 10 years w.e.f. 2018-19. In our earlier reports we have already noted with satisfaction that the College has successfully implemented autonomy on various parameters in both letter and spirit and in compliance of the various provisions as stated in the UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures for Maintenance of Standards

in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2018 (hereafter referred to as Autonomy Regulations, 2018).

In its third year of autonomy as well, the college has improved upon its past performances, despite performing under restricted conditions forced by the Covid-19 pandemic, as under:

A. CURRICULAR ASPECTS:

1. The College started two new UG programmes of B.Com. (Honours) and B.Com. (Finance & Accountancy) from the session 2020-21. Both the programmes have been introduced in the RTM Nagpur University and also the whole of Central India for the first time.
2. The College advertised the two new programmes on its website and in both local and national newspapers and received applications from different parts of country. For B.Com. (Honours), the College got 71 admissions against the intake of 120 while for B.Com. (F & A), it received 82 admissions. Both the programmes, especially, B.Com. (Honours) received admissions from the various parts of the country which shows the College's pan-India presence.
3. The College published Academic Regulations for the new programmes.
4. Thus the college is now offering 5 UG and 2 PG programmes and a Ph.D. programme, all in the Faculty of Commerce & Management.
5. "Deeksharambh", a UGC-mandated Students Induction Programme (SIP) was conducted online for all the FY students of all programmes.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *B.Com. (Honours) and B.Com. (Finance & Accountancy) started for the first time in RTM Nagpur University and adjoining Universities, and the whole of Central India.*
- *13 students figured in the University Merit Lists (S-2020) (Non-autonomous courses) as per the following break-up:*
 1. *B.Com. (Computer Application): 07 merits (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 9th & 9th)*
 2. *B.Com.: 04 merits (4th, 5th, 6th & 9th).*
 3. *B.B.A.: 02 merits (1st & 4th)*
- *5 M.Com. students cleared NET/SET from college's NET-SET Guidance Centre.*

B. TEACHING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION:

1. All the teaching-learning activity was conducted online for all the programmes.
2. The College conducted its T/L activity as per its own Academic Calendars.
3. In order to ensure the completion of entire coursework in the curtailed session of 60-65 days (instead of the usual 90 days/15 weeks and 75 lectures of 48 minutes @ 5 lectures per week) and further to ensure that there was no academic loss, and also to ensure that students did not face any hardship due to online teaching, which is a new experience for them, all teachers conducted minimum 60 lectures of full one hour duration for minimum 60 days @ 6 lectures per week (which is equivalent of 75 lectures of 48 minutes @ 5 lectures per week for 15 weeks/90 days).

4. All teachers have acquired new skills of online teaching to enrich their T/L methods profile.
5. Various departments organized on line Guest lectures for the students of their departments.
6. Students assigned Summer Internship Projects.
7. The College framed its own Admission Policy/Admission Rules etc vide its Direction No. 2/2020.
8. The College revised its Internal Assessment mechanism and included the performance in Preliminary Examination in I/A Mechanism.
9. The College conducted its stipulated internal and external examinations online but dispensed with the MCQ/Objective pattern of examinations as adopted by the parent University. Instead, it issued a special Directions (2 of 2021) vide which it conducted through online mode its W/2020 and S/2021 examinations for all UG and PG programmes in order to ensure the required standards of both internal and external assessment.
10. The College conducted physical spot evaluation/moderation etc. of physical answer-books (downloaded printouts of online answer-books) and declared the results in stipulated time.
11. Drafts of degrees to be issued by the University were sent to the University for approval.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *The College successfully conducted online its S/2020, W/2020 and S/2021 examinations.*
- *The College followed all the UGC Guidelines issued from time to time in conducting its examinations during the Covid-19 period.*
- *The College issued special directions for the conduct of its various examinations for different programmes and different semesters to streamline evaluation strategies.*
- *The college has sent to the University all the data, including the templates of various degrees, required for issuance of the degrees by the University.*
- *The College has boldly departed from the general trend of conducting online examinations with MCQ pattern and conducted its W/2020 and S/2021 examinations for all programmes in online mode but with full-length descriptive questions pattern as stipulated in the Academic Regulations. The students have whole-heartedly welcomed this move of the college as is evident by the attendance percentage in examinations.*
- *The College conducted the proper spot valuation of the downloaded answer books (Printouts of answer-books submitted online by students) and declared results in time and thus ensured the credibility of evaluation system even in the difficult times of Covid-19.*

C. RESEARCH & EXTENSION:

1. The College is recognized as a "Place of Higher Learning and Research" by the parent RTM Nagpur University.
2. In 2020-21, the college had 05 Ph.D. supervisors registered with its Research Centre and 04 students are doing Ph.D. under them.
3. In 2020-21, 01 teacher started working on an ICSSR-sponsored Minor Research Project.
4. The following is the cumulative research output of the College for the session 2020-21:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Number

1.	Research Papers in UGC approved Journals	01
2.	Research Papers in Peer-reviewed Journals	21
3.	Research Papers published in Conferences Proceedings with ISBN	01
4.	Books published with ISBN	01
5.	Chapters contributed in books	02
6.	Any Other	-

5. IQAC and Research Cell organized a series of webinars on different topics; over 26 of them. Each teacher is mandated to present a webinar. Some 26 odd seminars are going to be organized in 2021-22.

EXTENSION:

1. The College has very active NSS/NCC Units.
2. The College has adopted a nearby village of Nagazari (Hingna Tehsil) for its extension activity. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, no activity could be conducted in the adopted village.
3. However, the NSSS/NCC cadets have still managed to deliver substantial extension output during Covid-19 period as under:

Sr. No.	Activity	UNIT	Students involved
1.	Online Covid-19 Awareness Campaigns thorough posters/ banners/videos etc.	NSS	200
2.	Arogya Setu App downloading campaign; over 6000 beneficiaries	NSS	250
3.	Distribution of masks among the poor sections of society	NSS	250
4.	Participation in Spit-Free India (National Level) Sambadh Foundation Delhi and Govt. of Maharashtra collaboration	NSS	250
5.	Online HIV-AIDS Day programme	NSS	250
6.	Online Mazi Vasundhara Programme (A Govt. of Maharashtra event; certificates awarded)	NSS	200
7.	Online ' Food Planet Health' programme by Vegan Outreach Society (NGO)	NSS	190
8.	Online Environment Conservation programme	NSS	75
9.	Distribution of sanitizers among the poor sections of society (in Physical presence)	NSS	20
10.	Distribution of grains and other goods at the Fair Price Shop in collaboration with District Administration (in Physical presence)	NSS	07
11.	Distribution of food for the needy people under Community Kitchen Scheme of the RTM Nagpur University and some NGOs (in Physical presence)	NSS	04
12.	Tree Plantation Drive "Ek Ghar Ek Vruksh"	NCC	108
13.	Online Promotion of Atmanirbhar Bharat	NCC	108
14.	Blood Donation	NCC	23
15.	Corona Warriors-Help to District Administration	NCC	25

	for Containment Areas		
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EXTENSION HIGHLIGHTS:

- *NSS/NCC students participated in various COVID-19- related campaigns; both online and offline; some of the students have been felicitated as “Corona Warriors”.*
- *One student has won the “Covid-19 Yodhdha” award and was felicitated by the Hon’ble Uday Samant, Minister of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra.*

D. INFRASTRUCTURE:

The college has a very good infrastructure in the form of buildings, IT infrastructure, Equipment and other facilities as under:

Buildings	IT Infrastructure		Software	Equipment	
Heritage Building	Computers	337	CMS	45 KV Generator	01
Library Building	DLP	39	Libman	Inverters	02
No Grant Building	Smart Boards	25	English Lab	Photocopiers	11
Bajaj Bhavan	Printers	48	SPSS	Air conditioners	37
Gymnasium	Scanners	16		Water Coolers	10
Boys Hostel	Computer labs	03	E-Resources	Air Coolers	10
Seminar Halls	Eng Lab	01	N-List	TV monitors	04
Canteen	Computer Zones	03	J-Gate	P/A system	02
Under Construction	Internet	40 MB PS		CCTV	25
Women’s Hostel (UGC)				Biometric Attendance	01
RUSA Building				Solar Heating	01
Other Facilities				Solar Lights	12
Paved Parking				Housekeeping Machines	02
Play Grounds				Grass-cutters	01
				Water pumps	02

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *The College has been allotted a grant of Rs. Two Crore by RUSA for infrastructural development under which the college has started construction of a separate Academic Block and the renovation of its old building which it called the Heritage Building.*
- *The College is in the process of creating 24 smart classrooms for which necessary equipment have already been purchased.*
- *The College has also purchased the SPSS software for its Research Cell/Place of Higher Learning and Research.*

E. STUDENT SUPPORT:

The College has a very robust Student Support mechanism in the following areas:

1. The College's Management conducted a Special Vaccination Drive for all its students above the age of 18. The Vaccination Drive has been sponsored by the Bajaj Group. Nearly 50% students have taken advantage of the Drive.
2. Student Mentorship and Counselling.
3. The College has constituted a Special Committee for psychological counselling of students during lockdown.
4. Financial Assistance to needy students through Government Scholarships/Freeships and sponsored scholarships/Management's assistance.
5. Installment facility was provided to students for payment of fees.
6. Students were allowed in examinations without insistence of clearing dues/ fees.
7. The mandatory criterion of minimum 75% attendance was relaxed in order to enable students to appear for examinations.
8. The College has set up a separate Grievance Cell for examination related grievances of students.
9. Grievance Redressal Mechanism
10. Anti-Ragging Mechanism
11. Anti Caste-discrimination mechanism
12. Women's Cell/Gender Sensitization Mechanism
13. Students Council
14. Career Guidance Cells and Campus Placement Network
15. Competitive Examinations Cell in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra
16. Host of co-curricular and extra-curricular/Cultural activities for all-round development
17. Department-wise Activities like welcome-farewell programmes, quiz competitions etc.
18. Film Society, Clubs, Subject Forums etc. for organizing several extra-curricular activities
19. NSS/NCC/Sports facilities.

However, most of the above systems/activities could not take place physically because of Covid-19 situation. Some activities were conducted online.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *The College's Management has conducted a Special Vaccination Drive for all its students above the age of 18. The Vaccination Drive has been sponsored by the Bajaj Group. Nearly 50% students have taken advantage of the Drive.*
- *07 placements in 2020-21 through online mode.*

- *Online training programmes/Workshops for placement/competitive examinations etc. organized by the Career Guidance & Placement Cell.*
- *Online internships were introduced for students of B.Com. (Honours).*
- *Students of various departments won prizes in online national/University level competitions.*
- *Sport Department conducted online various activities like International Yoga Day, National Sport Day, Sports Quiz Competition etc.*
- *Online events were organized under Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Scheme.*

F. PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT/QUALITY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES

1. The college promotes decentralized and participative management.
2. Each teacher is exposed to leadership role by being made a convener of some College Committee and a team role by being made a member of some Committees.
3. Faculty Developments programmes are conducted for in-house teachers.
4. Teachers are sent by the College to attend Orientation/Refresher/Short Term Courses and Faculty Development Programmes/ Workshops/Conferences/Seminars etc. as under:

Sr. No.	Particulars	Number
1	Conferences/ Seminars (International) attended	-
2	Conferences/ Seminars (National) attended	01
3	Conferences/ Seminars (State Level) attended	-
4	Faculty Development Programmes attended	-
5	Refresher Courses attended (online)	01
6	Orientation Courses attended	00
7	Short-term Courses attended	-
8	ARPIT/SWAYAM/MOOC etc. registered/completed	08
9	Any Other	-

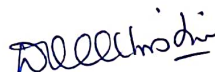
5. The college has several welfare schemes for its teachers and staff members.
6. *The College's Management has recently conducted a Special Vaccination Drive for all its teachers and staff members. Now all the staff members are either fully or partially vaccinated.*

G. INSTITUTIONAL VALUES & BEST PRACTICES

1. The Institution professes to follow Gandhian Principles and universal values, nationalism, humanism, tolerance etc. and conducts various programmes to mark special occasions/days to celebrate these values like National Days, International Non-Violence Day (Gandhiji's Birth Anniversary), Ekta Diwas (31st October; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Birth Anniversary), Teacher's Day (Dr Radhakrishnan's Birth Anniversary), National Youth Day (12th January; Swami Vivekanand's Birth Anniversary), Vachan Prerana Day (15th October; Fmr. President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's Birth Anniversary), Constitution Day (26th November), Shri Jamnalal Bajaj's Anniversaries etc. Most of the above programmes were conducted online in 2020-21 session due to Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns.
2. The College is committed to all environmental measures.

3. The College has introduced quite a few best practices like introducing Film Society, Language Clubs, Yoga Club, Subject Societies, Quiz Clubs etc. which conducted some online activities for students.
4. Owing to Covid-19 restriction, the college could not organize its regular events like GS-COMNEXT and UMANG.
5. Internship Programme called GS-SUN was also kept on hold due to Covid-19 lockdowns.
6. However, online internships were offered to the students of B.Com. (Hons) as a part of their curriculum.
7. Regular Departmental activities/events, except those which could be organized online, were suspended owing to Covid-19 situation.

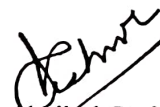
On the basis of the above observations, our interactions with Principal, IQAC members, and the record made available to us, we are happy to state that the College has been successfully implementing autonomy in keeping with the UGC Autonomy Regulations, 2018 and that the College's performance as an Autonomous College in its third year of autonomy with respect to the assessment areas as detailed above is very good.



Dr Dipti Christan
Principal,
Hislop College,
Nagpur



Dr K.T.Thomas
Principal
SFS College,
Nagpur



Dr Akhilesh Peshwe
Principal
Dharampeth Science College,
Nagpur

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