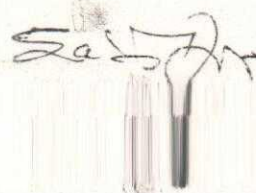


Peer team Report
on
Assessment & Accreditation
of
Department of Education of Vasanta College for Women,
Varanasi

Section 1: Preface

The Department of Education is one of the major parts of the Vasanta College. Established in 1973 the Department has been training pre-service secondary teachers by strictly following the norms of the apex agencies with a view to maintaining quality and standards. As per the institutional objectives the Department is religiously following the philosophy and ideals of J. Krishnamurti. The scenic beauty of the place where the department is housed on the banks of river Ganges in the city of Varanasi is praiseworthy. There are certain facilities available for the Department specifically like Psychology laboratory, Science laboratory, Audio-Visual Laboratory etc. However, some of the facilities like health centre, playground for sports activities, hostel for girls, Open air Theatre and Guesthouse etc are shared with Arts and commerce departments in the college. The functioning of the department is managed and monitored by Krishnamurti Foundation India and a senior most teacher heads the department. However the principal of the college is a person from education discipline and contributes to the department whole-heartedly. There are three secondary schools out of which two are run by sister institutions that work as practicing schools for the training of teachers. For various other facilities and functions the department banks upon the college. The department admits 70 students every year to B.Ed through Banaras Hindu University to which the college is affiliated. The curricular and co-curricular activities in the B.Ed course are followed as prescribed



by the affiliating university. Every effort is made by the Department to follow the norms of NCTE as well of affiliating University.

There are 7 teachers recruited as permanent teachers in the Department. All these teachers possess post graduation in different disciplines along with desired qualification for being teacher-educators and it takes care of organizing teaching for different teaching subjects in B.Ed. Out of the total strength of teachers, 6 hold Ph.D degree in education. The affiliating University admits students to the Department by holding all India entrance test. Out of the total students getting admission in the college nearly 70 percent belong to the State of Uttar Pradesh and nearly 30 percent belong to other states. Students of the Department avail hostel facility of the college where nearly one hundred twenty five women students can be accommodated. Being an institution devoted to the cause of education of women the Department shows an inclination to social service in preference to other considerations.

The Department submitted its self-study report and the NAAC constituted a peer team comprising of Prof. S.D. Tripathi, former Vice chancellor Rani Durgawati University, Jabalpur (Chairman), Dr. Radhika Raman Sahay, Professor of Philosophy, Patna University and Dr. S.P.Malhotra Professor of Education, Kurukshetra University as Members. The team visited the Department as a part of the visit for assessment and accreditation of Vasanta College for Women during November 14-15, 2003 and looked in to physical and infrastructure facilities, interacted with the Principal, Head of the department of education, Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents and Alumni. The team verified the documents for further clarifications. Deputy Adviser NAAC Dr. G. Srinivas coordinated the peer team during visit.

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Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curriculum Design and Planning

The Department follows the curricular activities prescribed by the University to which it is affiliated. The theory and practical part of the B.Ed course are run as per the university norms. The faculty makes every effort that the students understand various concepts in Education. The students are exposed to lesson notes prepared by teacher-educators and the question papers set in the BHU in the previous years. One can feel that most of the college time and efforts are spent in pursuing the theoretical aspects of the prescribed courses of the affiliating University with a prime motive to pass the university examination. Another good feature is that the whole teaching learning process rests on the philosophy of Krishnamurti that pervades on an inquiry into the significance of human living. Following of strict framework of course curriculum does bring forth deeper understanding of the process of teaching, but if it could be supplemented with exposure to more practical work the student teachers will become skilful and effective teachers. There is a need for giving more space in timetable to practicals apart from those prescribed in University curriculum.

Students are made to participate in the debates, declamations, poetic recitations, musical competitions, etc. Some emphasis is placed on the development of communication skills in the students. However, a little more effort on the part of faculty can make students adaptive market requirements in the communication skills and effective teachers.

One of the good features of the college is that it organizes community development programmes for the upliftment and awareness of the students about community with respect to economic inequality and religious fundamentalism. The service rendered by the college students, though as part of requirement of the B.Ed course, to reach out the



unreached particularly the village community during various community services programmes is admirable.

The college offers different teaching subject options to the students at the B.Ed level. The students from Arts, Social Sciences, Mathematics, Home Science and Science streams are offered options of teaching subjects of their choice. Efforts are being made by the college to equip the student teachers to teach in varied school teaching situations.

There is a need to introduce inbuilt feedback mechanism for developing skills in students so that they are adjusted to the job market in the schools. Since the Management has its own schools some mechanism can be devised that student-teachers are exposed to vagaries of school functioning like maintenance of records, interacting with the parents of students, organizing various activities for school students etc.

Efforts are being initiated by the Department to expose student-teachers to Computer applications in different aspects of secondary school functioning. It is good effort on the part of the college. It is felt that though every effort is made that B.Ed course is in conformity with the University prescribed courses and syllabi, there is a need that the students are given awareness programmes in Information Technology and Computers.

The college teaching staff encourages students to participate in various activities. Further these activities being part of the NCTE curriculum, the college is under obligation to follow all these. In spite of these directions initiative of the teaching faculty to organize such activities deserves appreciation. However, in order to have good interaction with the students and to promote healthy competition the department may adopt House System. Inter House and Intra House interactions will help the student-teachers to adapt to the need of the school system. It will be good if the B.Ed students are encouraged to display wall magazines, thematic bulletin boards etc.

Criterion II: Curriculum Transaction and Evaluation

As already mentioned students are admitted to B.Ed. course through the University centralized admission committee as per the instructions of the State Government. University conducts all India entrance test for the students seeking admission in the B.Ed course and those who get first few positions are admitted to the course. Major objective of the entrance test is to judge teaching aptitude of the students. Once the students are admitted to the college they are not put further to any scrutiny at the college level. However, remedial coaching is held for the target group viz. weak and disadvantaged students after they are admitted to the college.

The Department of Education in the College is meant for teacher training and it does provide training to its students in using audio visual aids to make the lessons interesting and effective. There is good laboratory for the purpose. The teacher-educators themselves need to use teaching aids to supplement their usual teaching. Examples of teaching set by the teacher educators will have a long lasting effect on chiseling the skills of student teachers.

The teaching learning is being supplemented with usual discussions, seminars, assignments and questioning classes. Brainstorming sessions are held to have good interaction with the students-teachers. It is good that the teacher educators are engaged in developing question bank in various subjects of Education discipline so as to help the student-teachers in getting expertise in framing questions. The exercise shows the involvement of teacher educators in the discipline of teacher training. However, it will further help in development of their professional expertise in various aspects of Education if they can develop different types of learning material in teacher education.

Another good aspect of the college is arranging co-curricular activities as a part of the college programmes. Since students have to be

trained in preparing teaching aids as per requirement of the NCTE norms, efforts need be made by the Department to provide opportunities to the students in developing required teaching and communication skills. Exposure to students in language laboratories will help in pronunciation and correct use of languages.

The Department organizes 40 lessons in real teaching to provide exposure to student-teachers in attaining teaching skills. It is being done as per prescribes syllabus of the university. However, there is need to provide greater opportunities to student-teacher in acquiring teaching skills in laboratory situation by organizing micro-teaching cycles and simulation lessons. It is essential as per the norms of the NCTE and demands of the professional course.

One of the very good features of the college is that it functions for 280 days, out of which 240 days are teaching days. Every teaching day is of six hours duration. Though it is the requirement of the NCTE (as per norms), still to be able to maintain teaching days with large number of holidays is a Herculean task.

College follows both internal as well as external assessments. The ratio of internal assessments and external assessment is 25:75. Internal assessment is based on the scores obtained in the monthly and terminal house tests, participation in the seminars, preparing assignments and other co-curricular activities etc. Efforts are being made to make Internal assessment transparent. House tests are conducted purely as a replica of the external testing procedure adopted by the University (to which the College is affiliated). The peer team is of the opinion that there is scope in view of its dedicated cadre to use innovative procedures of evaluation even if the college has to function according to the procedure laid by the affiliating University.

As already mentioned, the faculty of the department is good in research as all of them hold Ph.D degree. There is need that the

department imparts skills of research to the student-teachers also. The department may plan and organizes action research projects to train student-teachers in Action Research programme.

The faculty is recruited by advertising in the leading newspapers. The college recruits the permanent faculty by holding interviews through properly constituted interview committee. College has a freedom to appoint temporary/adhoc teachers. After receiving the applications for the advertised posts the selections are made by the university approved selection committee after interviewing the candidates. The University has set norms for selection committee to be followed by the college. This aspect is being well adhered to by the college.

The teacher evaluation is done by self-appraisal system. Appraisal forms are given at the end of each session, though not frequently discussed among the members of the staff or management.

The teachers are encouraged to participate in the national and international seminars and conferences. Most of the teachers of the department have participated in the seminars and conferences. The teachers have also been attending refresher courses regularly. Since the principal of the college herself belong to the discipline of education, extra care is being taken for the development quality teacher education programme. One very good aspect of the college functioning is that college itself organizes large number of seminars and conferences of national and international levels. The contribution of the teachers of Education department is praiseworthy in this endeavour. The teachers in the department have been playing a leading role in revising and updating the B.Ed. syllabi as per NCTE norms. This speaks of the aptitude of the faculty of the Department about their academic and professional development.

The college has linkages with Karlstad University Sweden and other such institutes in the area of teacher training. Some teachers have

availed of the facility of teacher exchange programme. One teacher from Karlstad University in teaching of History was present at the time of visit of the Peer Team. This exchange programme is good for the professional development of the faculty as well as students. The college hopes to organize teacher exchange programme with other universities. However, the Department should also explore the possibility of such teacher exchange programmes with the BHU.

Criterion III: Research, Development & Extension

The college is devoted to the cause of training of pre-service women teachers. Since all the time the teachers are engaged in developing teaching skills in their students, a little time is left with them for pursuing research. But contribution of research acumen in updating teaching cannot be negated. There is a need that the Department explores the possibility of planning research projects and getting these funded from various apex agencies. The exercise will help in developing a research atmosphere with the available expertise and infrastructure. Above all it will help in retaining the expertise of the teachers that they gained while pursuing their Ph.D. One good thing is that some teachers are engaged in guiding and helping Ph.D scholars of the BHU unofficially. This speaks of research aptitude of teachers of the Department. The College management on its own encourages teachers to do research work. They are given academic leave for the purpose.

There is much scope for utilizing consultancy services available with the Department. The potential lying with the Department about development of learning packages and managing educational institutions may be fully utilized for providing consultancy services for educational management of the schools and colleges in the city. Also the college prospectus needs publicize the expertise available with the faculty of the Department of Education in different communication skills.

The Department participates in various extension activities as per their regular feature. Both teachers and the students participate in the extension activities. The extension work mainly includes community development, health and hygiene awareness, adult literacy, teaching the children from economically disadvantaged section of society, orphans etc.

A praiseworthy feature about the Department is that the students regularly provide basic education to the children of adjoining rural areas.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The Department is housed in one of the good buildings of the college and has sound infrastructure facilities. It has the entire infrastructure as per the norms of the NCTE for admitting 70 B.Ed students. Apart from required teaching rooms and laboratories for the students of education, the college is engaged in establishing computer lab to provide computer awareness to students.

The said infrastructure is maintained by the college through grants received from the apex agencies like UGC and fees collected from the students for the purpose. Every effort is made by the college to maintain the building and other infrastructure through self-service and other missionary functions as per the philosophy of the institution. Apart from the employees engaged for the purpose, students participate in the maintenance programme for developing moral values.

The college organizes regularly beautification campaigns to keep campus clean and pollution free. Students under the mission and vision of self-help and self-service do all this for their personality development. There is need to introduce House System in planning and organizing such tasks to make the students more responsible and develop cooperation amongst themselves.

The college has a good library with 31,224 books including 5100 books on education. There are sufficient number of books and journals for the education students. Every year college adds to the stock of books. The

library opens for all the working hours of the college on all working days of the session. It goes to the credit of the college that the activities of the library like lending of the books; stock verification, purchase of the books etc. are being organized annually.

Since the college is organizing teaching learning activities, self-learning packages can be the part of the curriculum transaction. Also there is ample scope for reaching the source of knowledge through Internet to plan good projects in education. The computer facility will help in developing research aptitude amongst students.

The Department has been easily availing of the health facilities of the College. The college has an emergency medical help facility for the benefit of the students. Similarly sport facilities of the College are available to the students of the Department. The college has good sports facilities for various types of sports along with sports room. Playgrounds are available for playing games like hockey, Basketball and badminton. The college has good facilities for gymnasium. Equipment is available for the students. However, optimum utilization of the equipment is desired.

The Department utilizes the hostel facilities available with the college wherein 125 female students are accommodated. There is good mess facility for the hostel students. The bathrooms have geysers and other facilities are available. In order to contain load shedding the college has put in Generator set in the hostel. The hostlers are provided with the facilities of indoor games. The hostels are clean and well maintained. Maintenance of clean hostel rooms is redeeming feature part of the institution. The college has good guesthouse. It is well maintained.

The students of the Department participate in different functions being organized for the students in the college and outside the college. They have been winning various prizes in sports and cultural programmes. The students have been making their mark and creating an impact in

different co-curricular activities sponsored by the various agencies like University and other such bodies.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

All students of B.Ed and other liberal courses appear in the University examination. Dropout rate is nearly nil. Many students of the Department get top positions in the University. There is a need that the department organises a formal placement and guidance cell to help the students getting a place in the job market.

The college provides financial help to the students through merit scholarships and other financial aid received from the government. Also there is a need to establish Alumni association in the Department so as to get academic and financial support for professional development. No doubt the teachers of the department provide personal and academic counseling to the students informally, there is need to formally institutionalize this function. Since the student teacher ratio is quite logical and rational, the teachers in the Department maintain personal contact with every student. Students do consult teachers for their personal, academic and vocational problems. It will be good if the college starts having tutorials to have small group interactions.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management.

The college has well-organized management system. Since the Principal of the College belongs to the discipline of Education special attention is being paid to the development of Education Department of the College.. However, head of the education department does have limited autonomy to organize various curricular and cocurricular activities in the department. The financial and academic advice of the Principal from time to time is invariably available. An inspection team from the University after every three years visits the Department for the maintenance of standards. The committee of the NCTE has also been visiting the Department for maintenance of the norms for the professional

programmes. The intention of the college management to provide quality education to the students is quite apparent from the fact that college has been voluntarily inviting visiting committees from the NCTE and the University for the academic, social and administrative auditing. During the past few years such committees have invariably visited the Department for improvement of the B.Ed programmes.

The teaching staff for the Department is recruited as per the norms prescribed by the University and the NCTE. The recruitment is made through open selection. The staff recruitment depends on the needs of the institution. The College is committed to follow NCTE norms regarding staff structure. However, the approval of the government is required for the recruitment of new staff in the institution. The non-teaching staff provided to the department by the college.

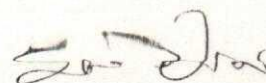
Performance appraisal of the teaching staff is done by self-appraisal performa. The appraisal of the non-teaching staff is done by annual confidential report written by the principal of the college.

Various welfare schemes for the students are available in the college. Special welfare schemes for the students as per recent developments need to be added. The grievances redressal cell needs to be added to college management and administration.

There is good budgeting and auditing procedure in the college. Most of the grant for the staff salaries comes from the government as well as UGC. The major resource of the college is fee collected from the students. The annual tuition fee given by each student in case of B.Ed is nearly Rs. 2,000/- including all other charges.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The general impression, we gained after our visit, is that due to the conscious efforts on the part of the management and the staff, the academic and professional climate has been generated in the Department for producing good teachers with excellent human behaviour for future



growth and development. The discussion and external evaluation by the Peer team clearly stipulates that the Department has a band of dedicated workers fulfilling the vision of Aniee Basant and J.Krishnamurti by bringing the uniqueness of this institution into light. In sum and substance, the college operates on sound educational, professional principles. The institution is rendering valuable service in the most populated city of Varanasi by exposing the women student-teachers to clean and healthy environment. It is heartening to note that this Department of Education of College of Women in varanasi has taken a lead by applying for assessment and accreditation by NAAC. Innovative practices in practice teaching and reaching out to the unreached in the social service sector is worth emulation by other teacher education institutions of the geographical area.

Commendations

1. All the teachers in the Department have Ph.D degree and have good orientation in research. The Principal of the college of which Department is a part is a person from the discipline of education and her contribution to the development of professional expertise in the student teachers is praiseworthy.
2. The institution is working with a mission and the functioning of the Department to produce teachers with required expertise helps in attaining the objectives of the institution.
3. Value-based education is given to the student teachers that will help these future teachers in incorporating desired values in their students.
4. The norms established by NCTE and the University are seriously followed. Apart from the norms the Department is conscious to provide Quality teacher education programme.
5. Efforts are afoot to train the students professionally and equip them with latest skills in the field of teaching.
6. The track record of the Department in community participation and reaching out to the unreached in the social service sector is excellent.
7. The Principal of the college is quite dynamic and has been a good teacher educator. She maintains a good link with the teaching faculty of University Department of Education. She has been able to organize various prestigious conferences in the area of Education. The peer team

notes with great deal of satisfaction the leadership role played by Dr. Vijay Shivpuri Principal of the College.

In the end the peer team would like to make the following recommendations for the consideration of College authorities and the faculty of the Department:


- i. The Department need to utilize the expertise available with the teachers in preparing good learning packages in teacher education.
- ii. The teachers educators themselves should make use of more teaching aids to set an example before the student teachers.
- iii. The research acumen of teachers may be strengthened by having more research publications. There is a need to organize small action research projects with the help of student-teachers.
- iv. House systems need to be introduced in the Department to carry out most of the co-curricular activities to help students learn the process of functioning of good school systems in the State in particular and the country in general.
- v. More space need to be provided to the Department of Education in the college for better functioning of the faculty and the student-teachers.
- vi. Research projects may be undertaken by teachers in different areas of education to provide an empirical basis for various innovations in teaching.
- vii. Computer facilities in the college may be added for automating various functions in the department and providing computer literacy to the B.Ed students. They should be encouraged to develop Computer Assisted Instructions in their teaching subjects.
- viii. The practice teaching programme should be made more systematic by introducing Microteaching and Simulation exercises. These should supplement the real practice programme.
- ix. Practice teaching in real situation be carried out in some English medium schools and the schools run under CBSE to help students getting wider job opportunities in centrally managed school systems and good privately managed schools.
- x. The student teachers be exposed to the functioning of the school in a more organized fashion so that they learn various routine functions of the secondary school system.
- xi. Students be exposed to the lessons of good teachers in the city so that they learn the skills of effective teachers.
- xii. The internal assessment needs to be made more transparent.
- xiii. Some encouragement needs to be given to the student-teachers that excel in preparing good teaching aids.

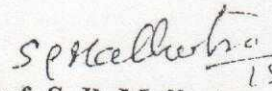
- xiv. Some infrastructure facilities like telephone services in the shape of STD need to be further strengthened and facilities like Cyber café need to be urgently introduced.
- xv. Efforts need to be made to utilize the competence of the teachers for providing consultancy services to the nearby schools and colleges. Their expertise in developing learning packages can be well made use of by the other departments of the college.

The peer team is thankful for the cooperation courtesy and support extended by the college Managing committee, Principal, Faculty, staff and students of the college in the conducting the assessment of the college. The Vasanta College is the first college of Uttar Pradesh that came forward for getting assessed and accredited its Department of Education.

The peer team wishes the college to grow into an important centre of Teacher Education for women in the country with emphasis on producing Effective teachers.

Name and signature for the peer team members

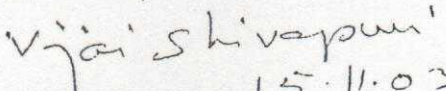

 Prof. S.D. Tripathi 15.11.03
 Chairman


 Prof. S. P. Malhotra 15/11/03
 Member


 Prof. Radhika Rangan Sahay 15/11/03
 Member

I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the peer team in this report.

Name & Signature of the Head of the Institution

seen the report

 Dr. Vijay Shivpuri 15.11.03
 Principal