

NAAC report of Madhab Choudhury College

SECTION - I

Preface:

Madhab Choudhury College, Barpeta, Assam, located in a rural setting with a beautiful campus of 15.5 acres of land was established in July 1939. The University Grants Commission has recognised the College under Section 2(f) from January 1960 and since then the College is receiving of financial assistance from UGC. The College is affiliated to Gauhati University, Assam and is a grant-in-aid institution. It is a co-educational College. The College at present is offering Arts and Science courses at the Undergraduate (UG) level. The College was established with the mission of providing higher education to the students of the locality and neighbourhood during the pre-independence days. In course of time the College has expanded its academic activities. The College was started in 1939 with only Arts faculty. Science faculty was opened in the year 1959.

The College is offering six courses in Science and ten courses in Arts. There is provision for major courses in all the six Science subjects. Major courses are also offered in seven Arts subjects. One certificate course on Computer Application is offered by the institution. There is provision for remedial classes in some subjects for the low achievers.

The strength of the teaching faculty is 76 (71 permanent, 3 temporary and 2 part-time, which includes the staff of the Higher Secondary Wing). The total strength of the non-teaching staff of the College is 41.

The temporal plan of the academic work of the College is annual. The unit cost of education is Rs.11163/-. The College possesses support services like Central Library, Computer Centre, Play Ground, Hostel, Canteen, Vehicle Parking Shed, Botanical Garden and an Auditorium which is under construction.

The College volunteered to be assessed by the NAAC and submitted its Self-Study Report in February 2003. A Peer Team consisting of Prof. Ananda Deb Mukhopadhyaya, Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Medinapore, West Bengal as Chairman and Dr. J.K. Mohapatra, Professor of Political Science, Berhampur University, Orissa as member to visit the College and validate the self-study report. The Peer Team visited the College during 27-28 October 2003. Dr. Jagannath S. Patil, Asst. Advisor, NAAC co-ordinated the Peer Team visit.

The Peer Team carefully perused and analysed the Self Study Report of the College. During the visit the Team went through all relevant documents, visited the Departments and facilities. The Peer team interacted at length with the members of the Governing Body (GB) of the College, the Principal, faculties, non-teaching staff, students, parents and alumni of the College. Based on this exercise and keeping in mind the criteria identified by NAAC, the Team has derived the valued judgement. The assessment of the College under various criteria, the commendable features of the College as well as the issues of concerns are described below.

SECTION - II

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects:

The College offers Undergraduate (UG) courses in the faculties of Arts and Science. There are 10 Departments in the Arts faculty like Anthropology, Assamese, Economics, Education, English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Philosophy and Political Science. All these Departments except the Departments of Geography, Philosophy and History are offering major courses. In the Science faculty students have the option to choose three subjects from amongst Anthropology, Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Zoology. In all these subjects major courses are offered. English and Assamese are compulsory subjects. The courses offered are in consonance with the socio-cultural and economic needs of the locality. However, to keep pace with the demands of time the management may consider to start few job-oriented courses like Bachelor in Computer Application, B.Sc. in Information Technology, Electronics, Microbiology and Environmental Science, etc.

The programmes offered by the college are designed by the Gauhati University to which the College is affiliated. Teachers of the College could not contribute much to the review and redesign of the courses as their representation in the University Board of Studies is very limited and occasional. However, the University has adopted the UGC model syllabus and the teachers have tuned themselves to teach the revised syllabus. The temporal plan of the College is annual.

The College encourages interdisciplinary academic activities. It may evolve a mechanism to get feedback from academic peers and employers.

Criterion II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation:

Admission to various courses is based on academic performance of the students in the qualifying examination. Students are admitted to a major course on the basis of merit. The UGC-sponsored remedial classes are conducted in English and Economics for the low achievers. Unit tests, class tests and terminal examinations are held to monitor the progress of the students. To make the teaching-learning process interesting and effective, use of graphs, charts, models and audio-visual aids like Computer, TV, VCR, OHP, LCD, etc. should be encouraged.

The syllabus is unitised. The teachers prepare teaching plans month-wise at the beginning of each academic session. The teaching plan is effectively implemented under the supervision of the Head of the Departments and the Principal. The syllabus is completed well before the University examinations. Students failing in unit tests are not allowed to appear for final examination. Students appear the University examination after fulfilling the laid down conditions.

Teachers are appointed by duly constituted selection committees as per the norms of the Government and University. The Governing Body (GB) has the power to appoint temporary and part-time teachers and their salary is paid by the College. The management has appointed 3 teachers on temporary basis and 2 teachers on part-time basis. The teaching days are as per UGC norms. The management encourages teachers to participate in Refresher Courses and Seminars. Four teachers of the College have participated in National Seminars during the last two years and 17 have attended Refresher/Orientation Courses. The College has organised few national and state level seminars.

The Department of Economics and Zoology has jointly organised a seminar in November 2000. In February 2002 with financial assistance from Indian Council of Philosophical Research, the Philosophy Department has organised a regional seminar. The College has a tradition of organising guest lectures on different topics to expose the students to modern trends in different disciplines. There is a self-appraisal mechanism to evaluate the performance of the faculties.

Further the College has developed a system of getting students' feedback on the academic programme and teaching in the College. Teachers of the College may be encouraged to take membership of professional bodies in their discipline. Teachers are hardworking, duty conscious and committed towards the mission of the College and have helped in the academic development of the institution.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension Activities:

Out of the 76 teachers, 9 teachers have Ph.D. degrees and 5 teachers have completed their M.Phil. degree. Seven teachers are pursuing their research as part-time scholars. One teacher of the Department of Mathematics has published two books and two teachers of the dept. of Chemistry have co authored text books.. Teachers of the Department of Mathematics, Physics, Zoology, Anthropology and English have published research articles in refereed journals and edited volumes. One teacher of the Department of Physics has undertaken collaborative research work with a Professor of Kyushu University, Japan. One teacher of the Department of Zoology has attended an International Conference. Four teachers of the College have completed UGC-funded minor research projects. One teacher of the Department of Physics is a recognised Research Guide and has successfully supervised the Ph. D. work of a scholar. However, there is a need for a research committee to usher research culture in the College.

The college is yet to develop expertise to offer consultancy services.

Teachers of the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography and Economics may be encouraged to develop expertise to offer consultancy.

The College has extension activities in the areas of social work, health and hygiene awareness, adult education and literacy, AIDS awareness and environmental awareness. The Economics Department of the College has conducted an adult literacy programme and a few Surveys in nearby villages. All the Science teachers of the College are members of the Assam Science Society and are involved in its activities. The management may consider to encourage the NSS and NCC units of the College for full utilisation of students' potential for extension activities and outreach programmes. Students and staff may be motivated to donate blood and organise blood donation camps.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources:

The College has adequate infrastructure facilities to cater to the needs of the students and to run the academic programmes. It has adequate classrooms, laboratories, library, hostel, canteen, computer centre, sports facilities, vehicle parking shed, own source of water supply and the work of the auditorium is in progress. All the available facilities are well maintained. The classrooms are spacious and ventilated. The College has 5 computer systems in the Computer Centre and one computer system with Internet in the Physics Department. Internet facilities is available in college which needs to be made more accessible to students.

The Library is housed in a spacious building with 42486 books. It subscribes to some journals of national repute and few magazines and periodicals. The Library has qualified staff. It is managed under the

supervision of an advisory committee. The management may consider to open a book bank for the needy students and computerisation of the Library should be completed at the earliest.

The College has infrastructure facilities for sports and games. The College encourages participation of students in games and sports events.

The College has limited hostel facilities (for 21) boys. The hostel is neat and clean. The management may consider to provide hostel facilities for the girl students. The College has a canteen, which needs upgradation. It is good to see that all departments have been given separate rooms and possess small departmental libraries. The collection of books, however, needs to be increased. Emergency medical assistance is arranged by the College for the students. The management may consider providing the services of a qualified medical practitioner on part-time basis and essential medicines may be made available for the students, staff and teachers on self-financing basis. The Botanical Garden of the College contains large variety of plants. Efforts may be made to further improve it and develop a nursery. The College campus is clean and beautiful.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression:

The College admits students into different academic programmes on the basis of merit and in conformity with the rules and norms of the University and State Government. The College publishes its prospectus at the beginning of each academic session containing all required information. Students appear the University examination after fulfilling the laid down conditions. Efforts may be made to increase the percentage of pass outs. The dropout rate is on the higher side with 26.54% and is an area of concern.

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students and students of other backward castes get government funded scholarship. Needy and deserving students get tuition fee waiver from the College. The College has taken initiative in forming the alumni association. The alumni may be motivated to help the alma mater in its development. The College to its credit has produced civil servants, academics, company executives, politicians and singers of repute. The College has a designated teacher as placement officer who provides guidance to the students on employment opportunities. Teachers are involved in the academic and personal counselling of the students. The management may consider to start a full-fledged functional placement cell to give career guidance to the students on job opportunities and on self-employment.

The College encourages students in sports, games and cultural activities. Budding talents may be identified, encouraged and trained to excel in their respective fields.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management:

Being a grant-in-aid College, it is managed by a Governing Body (GB) constituted by the Government as per the Assam Non-Government College Management Rules 2001. The GB consists of the nominees of the Director Higher Education, the University, and the teaching and non-teaching staff representatives. The President of the GB is appointed by the Director, Higher Education. The Principal is the ex-officio member Secretary and the Vice-Principal is an ex-officio member. There are committees such as Academic Improvement Committee, Purchase Committee, Library Committee, Admission Committee, Examination Committee, Construction Committee and Committee for UGC and University matters. Head of the Departments and senior teachers are members of these committees.

The committees assist the Principal in running the academic and administrative activities of the College. The Vice-Principal and Head of the Departments monitor the academic activities and ensure that classes are taken regularly and examinations are conducted smoothly as per the rules of the University. The GB has appointed temporary and part-time teachers to compensate the shortfall of teaching positions and to ensure that academic activities do not suffer due to shortage of teaching staff. Teachers are recruited on the recommendation of selection committees as per UGC and Government rules. The Principal enjoys freedom in academic matters while the GB monitors the administrative and financial activities.

The College has introduced self-appraisal method to evaluate teachers' performance and to get feedback on teaching programmes. The work of the non-teaching staff is supervised by the supervisory assistant. The GB may consider constituting a committee to monitor the work efficiency of supporting staff. The College has a deficit budget. The College has succeeded in getting financial assistance to a tune of 7 lakhs from the UGC and had generated Rs.22,000/- from other sources. The unit cost of education is about Rs.11163/-. The accounts are updated and well kept. A chartered accountant as per rules audits the accounts of the College.

There are no audit objections. Computerisation of the administrative and academic activities need consideration on priority basis.

There is a grievance redressal committee to look after the grievances of students and staff. The GB may encourage the staff to start a cooperative society to extend financial assistance to the members on loan

basis on emergency and to run a cooperative store. Teaching and non-teaching staff may be encouraged to go for Group Medclaim and Janata Accident policies. Life insurance for students may also be introduced. The teaching and support staff should acquire computer basics.

There is a healthy and cooperative relation between the management and the staff. Teamwork under leadership of the Principal, for the cause of the institution is apparent. The students are disciplined and the College functions in a cordial atmosphere.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices:

The Peer Team has identified few features, which helps the College in improving quality education and achieve its aims and objectives. These are as follows:

The College has introduced the self-appraisal method of evaluation for teachers.

The College has initiated a process of getting feedback from the students on the affairs of the College and their suggestions.

The Committee for Academic Improvement, unit tests, internal assessments and terminal examinations ensure internal quality checks in the academic programmes.

The College offers a certificate course in Computer Application.

Students are made aware of the importance of Yogasana in maintaining good mental and physical strength.

Students are encouraged to display their literary talents through College magazine and wall magazines.

Student discipline is a healthy feature.

SECTION - III

Overall Analysis:

The Peer Team after going through the Self Study Report and assessing the College in its visit is happy to note that the College has done fairly well in translating its vision and goals into academic practices. Well-qualified faculty, focussed management, conducive environment and adequate infrastructure are the noteworthy features of the College. Discipline in academic activities including the conduct of examination deserves recognition. Co and extra-curricular activities are in consonance with the goals and mission of the College. However, the Peer Team wishes to give following recommendations to improve and sustain the quality of education imparted by the College.

Recommendations:

All the courses offered by the College are traditional in nature. Hence the College may introduce some professional, utility and job-oriented courses like Bachelor in Journalism and Mass Communication, Bachelor in Tourism and Travel Management, B.Sc. in Computer Science, Fisheries, Microbiology, Electronics, Bachelor in Business Administration, etc. on self-financing basis.

A communication skill development programme may be offered to improve the communication skill of the students.

The Peer Team during its interaction with the faculty emphasised the need for a research culture in the College. Hence the GB may take steps to constitute a Research Committee consisting of teachers having research aptitude to encourage and monitor research activities.

The College may take steps to strengthen its relations with the alumni and motivate them to complete the projects that they have promised which has been reflected in the Self Study Report.

The College may approach the UGC with a proposal for financial assistance to start a Yoga Centre.

A Placement Cell under the supervision of a teacher may be made functional to guide the students on job opportunities and self-employment. Literature and leading materials on avenues for higher education, job opportunities and self-employment should be made available in the cell.

A Women Cell with a lady teacher in-charge may be constituted to provide counselling to the girl students.

The GB should explore the possibility of taking more financial assistance from the MPLAD fund and MLA discretion fund for the development of the infrastructure facilities, as in case of auditorium.

The College may seek financial assistance from the UGC to develop a multi-Gym in the College.

UGC may be approached for financial assistance for the construction of a girl's hostel and a multipurpose hall for indoor games.

A Health Centre may be opened in the campus with emergency medicines and the services of a qualified medical practitioner on part-time basis may be made available on self-finance mode.

Computerisation of the Library and office may be completed on priority basis.

Bridge courses may be arranged in the subjects having poor results for the disadvantaged learners.

Central Library shall be kept open for a longer time in a day.

GB of the College may meet frequently to deliberate on academic matters.

Book bank facilities may be made available for students.

Purchase of books for Library be made on the collective recommendation of the departmental teachers

Administration may chalk out a plan for resource mobilisation and future development perspectives.

Professional PG courses may be opened in some departments.

Aquaculture practices may be further augmented in the College pond for resource mobilisation.

All departments may take initiatives for extension activities for social development and awareness for popularisation of subjects.

Administration may take note of students' suggestion for opening B.Sc. in Geology as major and general stream and B. Com. Courses.

The Peer Team believes that this exercise will be useful to the College to develop strategies for further growth and development. The Team records its thanks to all the stakeholders for their cooperation.

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