

Assessment Report for Institutional Accreditation of Belda College, Paschim Medinipur, Belda, West Bengal

Introduction

The Belda College, West Bengal was founded in the year 1963. It is affiliated to Vidyasagar University. The College is recognized under Section 2(f) of U.G.C. Act. This multi-faculty College spread over 10.4 acres of land, is located in the scenic rural area of Paschim Medinipur District of West Bengal. The basic objectives of the Institution are to disseminate higher education in a backward locality under 226 S.T. Legislative Assembly Constituency in the State of West Bengal which is connected with a good number of feeder schools. Within the framework of University prescribed curricula the potentiality for increasing human resources within the locality is encouraged through the Upanishadic teachings, ideals of Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Swami Vivekananda.

The College offers 17 under graduate programmes in the faculties of Arts, Commerce and Science. The total number of students enrolled during the current academic session for aided and self-financing courses is 2170. Of the students admitted it is stated that 30% are scheduled tribes and 5% belong to other backward communities. Teachers are recruited through the West Bengal College Service Commission. The College Management has the authority to recruit guest lecturers and part-time lecturers for whom the College pays salary from its own resources. There are in all 17 teachers, of whom 05 hold Ph.D. Degree and 6 hold M.Phil. Degrees. The College has appointed 41 teachers on temporary basis as Part-Time and Guest Lecturers. There are 16 non-

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teaching staff members in the College. The success rate of students in the university examination is quite high. The College had a surplus budget during the academic session 2003-2004. The unit cost of education including the salary component is Rs 4,446/- while it is Rs.1,318/- excluding the salary component.

The College follows the annual system of examination. It has a Central Library, Computer Centre, Hostel, Canteen, Common Rooms for Boys & Girls, Telephone & Xeroxing facilities. The College has established a Grievance Redressal Cell for the students. 10 students of the institution have cleared the U.G.C.-CSIR NET examination while 12 students passed U.G.C. SLET examination in the last five years. Out of 228 working days in the college, 180 days are devoted for teaching activity. The total number of books in the library is 13,348. The College library subscribes 10 National and 2 International journals. There are in all 22 Computer Systems in the college. Research Projects worth Rs. 1,65,000/- have been completed by the faculty members of the institution. Five Faculty members served as Resource Persons in various National Seminars while four teachers attended Inter-national Seminars. The College has presently two ongoing research projects and is yet to establish research linkages with international institutions. The College has generated a sum of Rs. 10 lacs through self financing courses during the last financial year.

Belda College, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal volunteered to get assessed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore and accordingly submitted its self study report in September, 2005. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council constituted a committee to validate the self study report. The Peer Team consisting of Prof. S.P. Thyagarajan, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras as Chairman, Prof. R. Krishnakumar, Director, Board of College & University Development, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University as Member Coordinator and Prof. Nishi Pandey, Director, UGC Academic Staff College, University of Lucknow visited the Institution on 4th & 5th

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February, 2006. Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC was the Co-ordinating Officer.

The Peer Team interacted with the Principal, Management, Students, Teaching & Non-teaching staff, Parents and Alumni of the College. Based on these interactions, visiting the various teaching units, examining the existing infrastructural facilities & validation of available records, the Peer Team has made a comprehensive assessment of the college and records its observations on the various criteria defined by NAAC as under:

CRITERION I : Curricular Aspects :

The College was started with a goal to disseminate higher education, training, outreach activities and to encourage equal opportunities to all students irrespective of their caste, creed, or religion of the rural Medinipur area under 226 ST Legislative Assembly constituency where it is located.

The College follows the curriculum prescribed by Vidyasagar University, West Bengal for different courses. However, it lays special emphasis on Gandhian Thought, Spirit of Nationalism and teaching of Swami Vivekananda through its curriculum. The College offers honors and general B.A. courses in Bengali, English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, Geography and Sanskrit while it offers general B.A. programme in Music. B.Com. with Accountancy at the honors and general levels is the only course offered in Commerce Faculty. The College also offers the honors and general courses in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Computer Science and general programmes in Botany and Zoology. Generally the University syllabus is reviewed after every five years. During the last three years, the College introduced general and honors programmes in ten subjects.

Normally one year's time is required for introducing a new programme. Teachers of the institution, by virtue of their membership in the Executive Body and the Board of Studies, contribute towards the curriculum development. The College has qualified teaching staff and


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five of the seventeen teachers possess Ph. D degree while six have M.Phil degrees. The rest of the Faculty members fulfil the basic qualifications e.g. NET, SLET etc. as stipulated by UGC. The teachers have participated in various seminars, orientation programmes and refresher courses and remain in touch with the developments in their disciplines. Some of the Faculty members have also made efforts to pursue research activities in their subjects by submitting proposals for minor research projects to the UGC. All teachers have access to computers and internet facilities at the Computer Centre. There is a system for active academic interaction between teacher and the taught. However, the academic audit stated to have been submitted to the Office of the Inspector of Colleges were not available and the Annual Report of the College was made available to the Peer Team. The College has introduced special programmes in Communicative English and Computer Applications on self financing basis on nominal fees. The classes are conducted beyond the formal working hours of the Institution. An elective subject on Physical Education is offered to all students to provide basic knowledge of physical health maintenance.

Criterion II : Teaching, Learning & Evaluation :

Students are admitted to various programmes on the basis of academic records i.e. marks obtained in the qualifying examination. In few cases interviews are held before admitting the students. The College Management strictly follows the reservation policy framed by the State Government. Students are assessed on the basis of regular class tests and annual examination. Tutorial classes are held for educationally disadvantaged students. Students are encouraged to participate in field visits and class seminars. Teachers prepare their teaching plan in the beginning of the academic session. Central facilities like computers, overhead projectors etc. are frequently used by teachers.

Regular seminars and symposia provide necessary motivation to the students for their overall development. The ratio of full time teachers to part time teachers is 1:2. The academic Calendar of the College

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provides details of the examination system. Besides, students are regularly informed about the forthcoming examinations. During the last three years, 8 full time teachers and 36 part-time or guest faculty were appointed. Appointment of the regular teaching staff is done by the West Bengal College Service Commission and non-teaching staff are appointed through a Selection Committee constituted by the College management.

For self-financing courses teaching staff are appointed by the College management and their salary is paid through the College funds. The College has a mechanism to monitor and assess annually the work of teachers through self appraisal report submitted by teachers. A prescribed proforma is provided to the teachers for this purpose and they are required to fill up the same every year. Students' feedback at frequent intervals has helped the College to implement improvements in many areas. The Principal of the College was awarded the "Jewel of India award 2005". Six sub-committees are functioning in the college under the guidance of the faculty members. Many teachers in the institution have pursued research work and have obtained their M.Phil/Ph.D. degrees while in service.

There is ample opportunity for the students to participate in sports and cultural activities. The College has a large Vidyasagar Seminar hall for such cultural activities and for holding seminars. The students participate in inter-collegiate and University-level sports activities and are gradually showing their potential by getting selected in University teams.

CRITERION III : Research, Consultancy & Extension :

Being an under-graduate college, there is no significant research activity. However, teachers are motivated to pursue research. 50% of the full time teachers contribute research papers for various journals at frequent intervals. Four teachers are presently pursuing research for the Ph.D. degree. Two Minor Research Projects sponsored by the U.G.C. with an outlay of Rs.1.65 lacs has been carried out by the college

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teachers. The College has appointed a full time In-charge for carrying out co-curricular activities which includes organizing Afforestation Programme, Awareness on Drug Abuse, Survey of Folk-lore and Field Study. The College has two units of NSS. NSS activities include Tree Plantation, Blood Grouping & Blood Donation Camps, Career Guidance Camp, Aids Awareness Programme, Campus Cleaning etc. The College also encourages the students to participate in National Literacy Mission, Folk-lore study etc. The College also conducts extension programmes with the help of NGO's & Red Cross Society.

A special mention needs to be made about the number of faculty members from the Literature/Language (Bengali, Sanskrit, English), Music and Physical Education disciplines who contribute to extension activities in their College and society at various levels.

CRITERION IV : Infrastructure & Learning Resources :

The infrastructural development in the College has been made possible due to the financial assistance from the University Grants Commission, D.P.I. and M.P. and M.L.A. funds. The College had contributed substantially for the over all growth of the institution. The College has constituted a Building Committee which includes representatives from P.W.D. and the Directorate of Education, West Bengal and representative from Vidyasagar University. College Library, Computer Centre, and Physical Education and Sports facilities are put for optimum use of the students.

However, the Science departments like Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology and mathematics have only rudimentary laboratory facilities with limited basic equipments. It was felt necessary during the students' interaction that a College bus has to be made available since students especially girls travel long distances to reach the College in time and with safety. The College is likely to collaborate with the Regional Centre, Kolkata for conducting Certificate and Diploma Courses in Computer Applications. The College has constituted a Library Advisory Committee. It extends book bank facility to the students. The

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functioning of the college library is yet to be computerized. The college library has procured 525 books at the cost of Rs.63,870/- during the last year besides subscribing to 10 journals/ periodicals. The college library has reprography and internet facility for the students and it functions for 8 hours a day. The college library is utilized to the optimum extent by the staff and the students. The total number of books is Rs.13,348/-. The College has in all 22 computer systems. Computers have been made available in the library, the office and the Computer Science Department. All the departments make use of the facility provided by the computer centre. The college has LCD projector and other necessary audio-visual teaching aids which are utilized as and when required by the faculty. The

College has adequate facilities for training the students in Volley Ball, Foot Ball, Cricket, Badminton and in athletic events. Indoor games like Chess and Carrom are made available for the students. Suitable incentives are given to the achievers in Sports. 20 students represented the college in the State/University Tournaments. 5% of the total students reside in the college hostel. The college has in all three hostels, one for women under construction and two for men. It was felt necessary to provide a common room, one each for boys and girls hostels, with a TV and indoor games. Sufficient number of bathrooms and toilets are to be provided with an effective hygiene maintenance staff in the hostels. The College has plans to construct staff quarters in near future. The Psychological Counseling Cell of the College needs to be strengthened and made more broad-based to benefit the girl students on a regular basis.

CRITERION V : Student Support & Progression :

The College updates and publishes its Prospectus annually. The Prospectus contains the Admission Rules, Examinations Prizes, Fee structure, Library rules, Code of Conduct, Scholarships etc. besides the details of various academic programmes.



Drop out rate of the students is 35%. 60% of the students go in for higher education. The college alumni hold respectable position in the society. 10 students passed UGC-CSIR (NET) examination while 12 succeeded in UGC-SLET examination during the last five years. The college prospectus provides information on the courses offered, the fee structure, evaluation method, library facilities etc. Students get the benefit of National Scholarship, SC/ST Scholarship and the Scholarship for Physically Handicapped provided by the State Government. Jindal Trust and Ramkrishna Mission have also instituted Scholarships for needy students. The College has instituted Awards and Scholarship for the meritorious students in the name of Swami Vivekanand Medal. During the last academic session 484 students received various scholarships. The College has established an "Employment Cell" which provides information on the job and career opportunities. The Placement effort of the college has succeeded in providing employment for some deserving students. Majority of the students prefer to go in for self employment. Alumni Association which is two years old, has organized programmes, seminars during the year. Students are motivated to contribute articles for the college wall magazine and encouraged to participate in the extra curricular activities. A students' grievance redressal cell is in place at the Principal's Office.

CRITERION VI : Organization and Management :

The College affiliated to Vidyasagar University is aided by the State government and the college has constituted its Governing Body and various sub committees for its effective functioning. The administration is centralized in the Principal who monitors the day-to-day administration of the College, plans and executes all academic policies/programmes in consultation with the various committees. Regular assessment of non-teaching staff is made at the administrative level. The non-teaching staff members of the College are computer-literate and are encouraged to participate in training programmes, especially, in the field of Information Technology. The College office has

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computerized the students' admissions and related activities. The College has a fixed fee structure prescribed by the State Government for the aided courses. There has been no change in the fee structure for self-financing courses during the last three years. The college had a deficit budget during the last two years. The college has an internal audit system. The College provides medical facility to the staff and students through the Government Hospital, a part-time doctor is also available on the campus on alternate days. The College conducts courses in Communicative English, which has to be encouraged to be taken by all students of the College.

. The College facilitates procurement of loan to the staff members from various Funding Agencies. The College follows the system of calling quotation and floating tenders for purchase of major items. Annual tour is conducted at a concessional rate for the students. Telephone facility has been provided for the students. The College has adopted a continuous in-built mechanism for coordinating and monitoring its working through its own experienced teaching/non-teaching staff - reviewing performances and suggesting improvements. The mechanism to get the students' feedback on academic and other matters regularly in order to improve the content as well as the method of teaching so as to ensure better career progression of the students has to be more structured and strengthened. Feedback from alumni association and parents' association could be taken regularly to help in improving the organisation and management of the college. The Grievance Redressal Cell needs to be strengthened as a committee based mechanism. A special committee for prevention of sexual harassment of students and teachers headed by a woman faculty member should be constituted.

CRITERION VII : Healthy Practices :

Students' feedback and teachers' self appraisal reports have facilitated significantly for the development of the academic scenario in the institution. The college has introduced 11 U.G. programmes on self-financing basis and also houses an admission centre of Netaji Subhas


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Open University for PG courses. In order to imbibe moral values amongst students, all religious festivals are celebrated in the college premises. Students are motivated to participate in various social service projects like Blood Donation, Blood Grouping Camp, Plantation, Pollution Control Awareness camp, Tribal development campaign, Awareness on Drug addiction etc. Students have played a major role in the developmental programmes of the college. The students' union functions in a democratic manner and takes initiative for organizing various programmes through out the year. The college is striving hard to provide quality education to the disadvantaged sections of the society especially the scheduled tribes ever since its inception. Students are involved in the community development programmes. They are encouraged to develop the habit of exhaustive reading of reference books, magazines, periodicals etc. Due encouragement is provided to the students to develop their interactive skills by participating in group discussion, seminars, debates etc.

OVERALL ANALYSIS

After interactive visits to the various Departments and units of the College, and meetings with the different segments of the academic community, office staff, alumni and parents, the Peer Team is pleased to record the following:

COMMENDATIONS :

- The Governing Council (Management) Principal and Faculty, office staff and students have enthusiastically taken the NAAC Assessment and Accreditation process with a sincere desire to strengthen the Belda College as a quality higher education institution and extended whole-hearted cooperation to the Peer Team visit.
- The College has attracted community participation in the process of physical infrastructure strengthening.


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- The laudable feature of this institution is its higher education service to the people of Paschim Medinipur who predominantly belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
- The College has both traditional and modern UG courses to provide a blend of culture and employability for the students of this area.
- In view of Bengali being the medium of instruction in the College, earnest efforts are being made to provide communicative skills in English by special teaching programmes in communicative English.
- Realising the need for providing the working knowledge of computer and IT, the College is setting up the DOEACC programme to provide 'O' and 'A' level courses to the students on subsidized fee structure.
- In view of the large number of vacancies in the teaching and non-teaching positions of the College, temporary and part-time appointments of teachers and other staff are made from the College funds to strengthen the College activities.
- The established procedures of academic quality like the self-appraisal of teachers, student feedback mechanism, grievance redressal mechanisms etc. are in place.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

- The top priority for the Government of West Bengal is to fill up the vacant positions of teaching, technical and non-teaching staff with qualified candidates to strengthen the teaching-learning potentials.
- The existing Science departments of Chemistry, Physics, Botany, Zoology and Mathematics should be strengthened with better laboratory facilities and modern equipments.
- Besides the 8 KV generator available presently, a high-capacity generator facility must be provided for uninterrupted power supply and for the internet-cum e-education facilities.

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- A leased line or broadband connectivity has to be provided in the College for good bandwidth.
- The computer science department and the computer centre has to be fully strengthened by providing additional computer nodes, servers and required softwares.
- In view of the backward/ST status of the constituency, the College should work through a task force of governing council members to harness special funds from a) earmarked programmes of UGC b) Tribal development ministry c) rural development ministry under the PURA programme and d) information technology ministry under ITES scheme for rural/ST area. Through these funds the College can be fully strengthened with all the required infrastructure facilities.
- New courses like UG in Journalism and Mass Communication, B.Ed, BBA, B. Com specialization and Nutrition in addition to value-added parallel courses in Travel & Tourism, Fashion Designing, and Interior Decoration, Beautician, Career Guidance and Counselling, Personality Development, Leadership Training can be started. For this, the College has submitted UGC seed grant proposals under the add-on scheme of UGC which are under consideration.
- The toilets and bathroom facilities in the hostels are to be increased and common room facilities in hostels with TV and indoor games are to be provided.
- The Library needs to be computerized with more books and journals and modern methods of library maintenance may have to be put in place.
- In view of the globalization of higher education paradigm all students should be encouraged to develop communication skills in English and soft skills in computers by structured short-term courses provided with only nominal fees.
- The College can also think of starting a Training Centre for competitive examinees.

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- More teachers may be persuaded to submit proposals for minor research projects.
- It is necessary to introduce NCC activities in the College.
- The College must have a department-wise annual budget showing the estimated receipts and expenditures.
- Alumni Association will have to be strengthened so that they could make more meaningful contributions to the alma mater.
- The College may initiate the process to construct a Gymnasium.
- The College may explore the possibility of running a bus from nearby villages.

Dr. S. P. Thyagarajan
Chairman

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Prof. Nishi Pandey
Member

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Dr. R. Krishna Kumar
Member-Coordinator

I Agree

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Dr. M. Mondal 5/02/06
Principal

Dated 05 february 2006

Principal
BELDA COLLEGE
Belda, Paschim Medinipur (W.B)

