

Peer Team Report of
Institutional Accreditation
Government Degree College
Kupwara
Jammu and Kashmir

Visit Dates: 26-27 August, 2004

NAAC
National Assessment and Accreditation Council

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission
2/4, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560 010

Peer team report on

Institutional Accreditation of
Government Degree College
Kupwara
Jammu and Kashmir

Section-1: Preface

The college functions in the most sensitive area of northern international border of India in the North-West part of Kashmir Valley. It is about 90 Kms. away from Srinagar and is demarcated by the line of Actual Control (LOAC) with Pak. occupied Kashmir. Established in 1988, this co-educational institution imparts education in undergraduate courses of Arts and Science Subjects. It has a catchment area of Kupwara District and also other remote areas of the border belt of the State. The increasing student strength (2002-812; 2003- 1073; 2004-1390) makes it clear that, over the years, it has earned a good reputation in this part of the valley. More than 85% of the total strength belong to first generation and economically weaker sections including LOAC, OBC and ST/SC categories and come from hilly and remote border areas.

It is only because of the dedicated faculty and supportive people of Kupwara that has enabled the institution to survive the tremors and turmoil of that period when the entire State suffered a great deal on account of militancy and political unrest. First seven - eight years of its life cycle (1988-95) proved worst and blocked the growth and development. Even today, the entire area of Kupwara is most vulnerable to the militants and the public at large is suffering a lot because of all sorts of incidents and apprehensions, compelling the people to live in a state of uncertainty.

It is in this background that the college (Registered with the UGC U/S 2f & 12 B in 2003 only) has prepared a criterion-wise Self-Study Report and volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, and submitted its Self Study Report in February 2004. In response to this, NAAC constituted a Peer Team to visit the College and validate the contents of the Self-study Report. The team consisted of **Dr. B. P. Bhatnagar**, former Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur, Rajasthan as **Chairman**, **Prof. R. L. Mathur**, Principal, Lachoo Memorial College of Science and Technology, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, **Prof. H. S. Sandhu**, Professor of Management at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab as **members**, and **Mr. Ganesh Hegde**, Assistant Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore, co-ordinated the visit.

The Peer Team visited all the departments during August 26-27, 2004 to have a first hand view of the manpower and infrastructure facilities available in the college, besides having interaction with the Principal, Director, Higher Education, faculty,

students, administrative staff, parents and alumni as well as district authorities. The criterion-wise report, prepared on the basis of observations made by the members, is given in the text that follows:-

Section- 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I : Curricular Aspects

The college is a Govt. college affiliated to the university of Kashmir, Srinagar and follows the syllabus prescribed by the university for all programmes. There are 14 Department in the college. There are 9 Department in Art discipline namely, English, Urdu, Arabic, Political Science, Persian, Education, History, Economics and Mathematics. In Science discipline, there are 5 departments namely Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology and Environmental Science.

Thus emphasis of the college is both on basic courses in Science and Arts subjects. The college is making its efforts to introduce new job oriented courses and vocational subjects.

The College has submitted proposals to the Government of J & K for starting 3 "Add-on" certificate courses in the subjects viz. Laboratory Technique, proficiency in English Translation, HIV & Family Education.

Criterion II: Teaching- Learning and Evaluation

The college has 28 teachers out of which 11 are permanent while the rest of 17 are temporary. Out of 11 permanent teachers, 2 are

Ph.D, 2 are M.Phil; similarly out of 17 temporary teachers one is M. Phil and 16 are post-graduates.

The Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir State, on the recommendations of State Public Service Commission undertakes the recruitment work relating to permanent staff.

Admission to 1st year of B.A & B.Sc Classes are done as per the rules of State Govt. & University. The number of students admitted to college in the last four years has shown a steady increase which is a healthy sign such an in economically backward and remote part of the country. Many students including girls are coming from hilly areas of the valley from 25 to 30 Kms. near the Line of Actual Control (LOAC) of Indo-Pak.

Regular unit-wise class tests are conducted to evaluate the performance of students which has helped in increasing the pass percentage of college in the university examination.

Science department are using VCD to show CD prepared by IGNOU centre which gives visual effect & help in understanding the subjects.

Some departments are also using OHP, models charts & LCD (hired) to supplement class room teaching. In Urdu department with a view to improve handwriting "*Mushak*" (Takhti) is used at their homes & department also organizes weekly



"Bazami Adab" to increase creativity. The College organizes intra and inter college debate, on-spot painting competition and symposium.

The college students also participate in Inter- College debate, seminar, & symposium organized by different institutions. Bridge/ remedial courses are conducted for educationally disadvantaged students as per their requirements.

College has also introduced Environmental Science as one of the compulsory subjects for 2nd year students of B.A & B.Sc. The unique feature of the college is that they have a separate dress code for boys & girls which helps in maintaining high level of discipline both with in and out side the college.

The note worthy feature is that there is a *"College Advisory Committee"* which prepares & look in to the development of the college. Teachers are attending orientation & refresher courses as & when they are permitted to do so.

Criterion III : Research, Consultancy and Extension

The college publishes academic calendar at the beginning of the year. It also publishes regularly annual magazine *"VONEPOSH"*.

The college has endeavoured its best to impart civic responsibility education & to develop character & competence among its students through NSS. The main aim of the NSS scheme is education through community service. The scheme is promoting



social consciousness, a sense of responsibility, as well as sense of discipline and dignity of labour among college students to fulfil above aims of NSS the college NSS unit undertook activities in the college campus including tree plantation beautification of campus etc. & urban slums cleaning during working and after college hours.

The NSS unit of the college organized various programmes at regular intervals in the college premises in collaboration with ICRC MSF & students voluntary organization. College is organizing extension activities in AIDS awareness, pulse polio immunization camp, environment awareness.

To facilitate the students to pursue higher education the college has made efforts to establish the IGNOU Study Center. Teachers may be encouraged to pursue Ph. D and research work .

Criterion IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Over the years since its existence, the college has expanded its infrastructure facilities in the form of administrative block, teaching block and science block.

The institution has a library/with 13909 books and 18 periodicals and magazines .During the last three years 1124 books were added at a cost of Rs. 3.80 lacs. Library functions for 6 hours a day. There is a separate reference section with, however, no proper sitting arrangement. There is also no proper cataloguing system in the library. It may further be pointed out that presently library is



There is a Health Centre in the college which provides first aid and other primary medical facilities. However, there is need to improve the facilities in this regard.

The study centre of IGNOU has been set in the college campus in 2002, which offers various programmes for the out-of-campus students community of this otherwise backward region.

Modern teaching aides like OHP are employed by only a few departments for teaching purposes. At present the college has four OHPs and no LCD projector. Efforts should be made to add more teaching aids including LCD projector, and encourage other departments also to employ the same for teaching purpose.

It seems present infrastructure is barely sufficient to cater to the growing need of an institution of this dimension. The college should, therefore, augment the existing infrastructure for future needs through additional resources like funds from UGC, resource mobilization through Alumni Association and by introducing self-financing short term vocational courses.

It is praiseworthy to mention that, under the scheme of JKPC, a lecture block/ science block/ fencing of the campus, / lawn development / construction of internal roads and flood protection works costing Rs. 150 lakhs have been completed. Also the District Development Board, Kupwara, has approved the construction of one auditorium hall at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 lakhs.



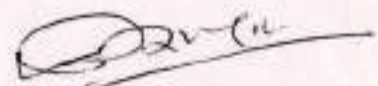
It may, however, be mentioned that an additional lecture block, a computer lab should also be added to the college infrastructure in the near future to keep pace with the academic growth of the institution.

Criterion -V : Student Support and Progression

The college gives clear guidance to the prospective students about admission policies/procedure, fee structure, infrastructure facilities and student support services in terms of financial aid, etc. are made available through the college prospectus published regularly every year.

Financial aid is available to the students of ST/SC /RBA/LOAC in the form of scholarships from the State Government. Financial assistance to the deserving and poor students, identified by the concerned committee, is also given by the college out of its own funds. During the period 2001-02 through 2003-04 a sum of Rs. 3.65 lacs has been disbursed among 183 students by way of scholarships and financial aid.

There is need for a counseling & Placement Cell in the college to provide guidance to the students for their placement and better job avenues. It is pertinent to mention here that the college, however, offers academic counseling service to the prospective students at the time of admission which help them to choose such courses which are suitable and useful.



The college has recently constituted an Alumni Association called "Sabzgar". The association has had two general council meetings so far. However, the association needs to be registered and strengthened further and encouraged to mobilize resources for the development of the college.

The strength of the students has grown significantly in the college over the years (413 in 2001 to 1390 in 2004). It is noteworthy that the college has made efforts to improve the academic climate and introduced the remedial courses for the weaker students.

The college provides various recreational / leisure time facilities to the students in the form of indoor games, debates, cultural programs, excursions/educational tours. However, facilities for indoor games are far from satisfactory. For outdoor games, playgrounds have yet to be developed. Further, there is a dire need to have better facility of indoor as well as outdoor games for girl students. There is no Physical Director in the College as of to date.

The college does not have Grievance Redressal Committee for the students to look into to the grievances of students and solve their individual and collective problems. However, grievances of the students are handled by the Principal in consultation with senior faculty.

There is a further need to improve the canteen facility for the students and the staff. More facilities need to be offered in this regard. A separate canteen for girl students is practically non-



existent in the college (except some provision beneath the trees). Besides, there are no hostel facilities for boys as also for girls. There is also no common room for girl students.

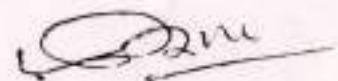
At present the College has only one bus to transport students from far flung and remote areas. There is a need to have at least two more buses as the existing facility is insufficient. There is an acute shortage of permanent teaching staff as more than half of the staff is contractual. The college may request to the Govt. to appoint the Librarian at the earliest.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management

The college being a Government-run institution, organization and management is governed by the rules and regulations framed by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of J&K.

The Principal runs the local administration of the College as its constitutional Head. Internal co-ordinating and monitoring is done through various committees constituted for the purpose wherein staff members are put in-charge of different responsibilities pertaining to day-to-day functioning of the institution with regard to admission, discipline, landscaping, examination, sports, scholarships, local fund audit etc.

College receives funds from the State government under various heads including the salary component. These funds are allocated to various departments by the Principal for the purchase of books and equipment depending upon their needs and requirements.



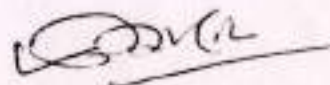
Various types of loan facilities like housing loan, vehicle loan etc are made available to both teaching and non-teaching employees as per rules of the State government. Loans are also made available through the banks.

The college has no role whatsoever in the selection process as recruitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff, which is made by the Govt. of J&K through its various statutory bodies.

Major items are purchased through inviting tenders by the Divisional Purchase Committee constituted for the purpose by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir. Financial transactions of the institution are handled systematically. Budgeting and auditing procedures are regular. Besides departmental audit, college undergoes periodical audit done by the state Accountant General's office.

The college should take necessary steps to conduct short term workshops for updating the knowledge and skills of staff and laboratory assistants in their respective fields. There is a need to train the staff for using computers and administrative-wing and accounts section need to be fully computerized.

It is praise worthy that the college is making every effort to involve the District Administration for its betterment.



Criterion-VII : Healthy Practices

The College fosters on over all personality development of students. Many girls studying in the college are actively taking part in curricular and co-curricular activities. The alumni and parents have spoken high in this regard to the attention, care and concern shown by the staff for holistic welfare of the students.

The college has dedicated faculty/other staff who work in team spirit. The college has also established good relationship with all the stakeholders and the society at large. The societal impact of an educational institution is clearly visible.

The computer department functions in an effective manner and the networking activity of the college for computerization is in progress.

The college is undertaking many curricular and co-curricular activities wherein the students are actively involved. Many students have shown good performance in games and sports and NSS activity. The college has strong and supportive Alumni Association.

The college has taken care of the needy students and granted scholarships amounting to Rs. 3.65 lakhs up to March 31, 2004.

Section-3: Overall Analysis

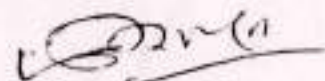
The Government Degree College, Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir was visited by the Peer Team on 26, 27 August, 2004. The Principal,



Staff, Students and State representatives have individually and jointly met and discussed about the facilities offered as well as interacted in detail with the faculty and students. This was followed by several meetings, formal and informal, with the alumni and parents, administrative and supporting staff which helped the members to make an over all analytical assessment.

For the further improvement in the college, the Peer Team suggests the following:

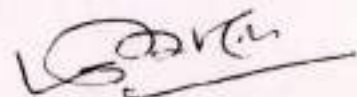
1. All the faculty members should pursue doctoral / post-doctoral research on a continuing basis and also develop new specialization in innovative areas, for which excellent opportunities exist in this college. Faculty members, more so, younger ones, must clear the NET Examination.
2. In addition to the job-oriented courses to be started by the college, it may introduce Music, Fine Arts and Home Science, Psychology, Sociology, Kashmiri, Hindi, Food processing, Commerce, Sericulture, etc after examining their viability very carefully .
3. Employment opportunities in Defence Services are increasing and special facilities are available for women. Sports and NSS students may also be provided more counseling / support for placements and access to latest knowledge on employment opportunities. College must think of establishing NCC Unit.
4. Additional land and buildings should be acquired for hostels, (both for boys and girls)and staff quarters. Toilet facilities should



- be increased considering the increased strength of the students in the college.
5. The College may consider extending the working hours of computer and library (both in the morning and evening) to cover the requirements of all the students of the College. Steps may be taken to increase the number of computers in the library and other departments and provide Internet facility to enable the faculty and students to cope up with the requirements.
 6. The library should be fully computerized and connected with INFLIBNET / DEL Net. College should also have a Book Bank facility.
 7. Steps should be taken by the college to open counters of Bank and a Post Office in the campus. .
 8. The students are sensitized about their role and responsibility towards the society through Community Services towards the needs of the marginalized sections of the society. The college may extend these services to rural based schools in partnership with appropriate government departments and NGOs.
 9. The College may start hobby classes in drawing, painting, dress designing, cookery, photography on the lines of similar classes in dance, drama and music for the regular students as well as outsiders. This will benefit the public at large.
 10. The College may provide employment oriented education. Linkages between the college, industries and other professional bodies should be enhanced.



11. College may consider the possibility of setting up Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to ensure periodical internal quality checks and monitor progress with one of the senior faculty member identified as Chief Quality Auditor (CQA). The teaching faculty should establish a national network for research and new courses.
12. To prevent procedural problems relating to purchase of equipments, if the Deptt. of Higher Education is not in a position to approve tenders in time, the Director / Principal can be authorized to constitute a Spot Purchase Technical Committee consisting of the following persons to make immediate purchase by giving spot payment to the supplier:- 1. Principal, 2. Technical Expert (Head of the Concerned Department of the College) 3. Accounts Officer (Nominee of the Director, HE)
13. The college may initiate measures for strengthening the existing courses, especially those offered under self-financing scheme. There is an urgent requirement for introduction of P.G. programme in some of the basic subjects.
14. A central computer facility can be provided for the benefit of students and staff which could be kept open even after college hours.
15. Training programs for the non-teaching staff in office management and computer will greatly enhance their efficiency.
16. Language Lab needs to be established for the development of communication skills in the light of the fact that a large number of students here are offering English, Arabic, Persian, and Urdu.



17. A women's study centre (for empowerment of women at college and community level) need to be established. The college may consider and request the District Medical Officer to depute a lady doctor once in a month for counselling and medical help.

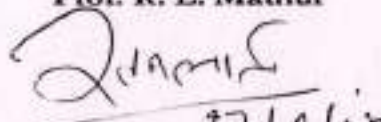
It would not be out of place to put on record our appreciation for cooperation extended by all concerned including Principal, Faculty, Alumni, Parents, office staff and Students.

Name & Signature of the Peer Team Members

1. Name of the Chairman : **Dr. B. P. Bhatnagar**


Signature 27/8/04

2. Name of the Member : **Prof. R. L. Mathur**



Signature 27/8/04

3. Name of the Member : **Prof. H. S. Sandhu**


Signature 27/8/04

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

Name and Signature of the Head of the Institution


27.08.04.
Dr. Shamima Akhter
Principal
Govt Degree College
Kupwara (Kmr.).

Date : August 27, 2004

Place : Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir