



National Assessment and Accreditation Council

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission
Bangalore

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

The Executive Committee of the

National Assessment and Accreditation Council

on the recommendation of the duly appointed

Peer Team, is pleased to declare the

Dharmapuram Gnanambikai Govt. Arts College for Women,

Mayiladuturai, affiliated to the Bharathidasan University, Tamil Nadu, as

Accredited¹

at the Three star level².

(among the Affiliated/ Constituent Colleges)



Date: February 07, 2000

Shivanam
Chairman

1. This certification is valid for a period of 5 years with effect from the assessment academic year 1999-2000.
2. An institutional score (%) in the range of 55-60 denotes one star, 60-65 two stars, 65-70 three stars, 70-75 four stars, and 75 and above five stars (upper limit exclusive).

**Peer Team Report on
Dharmapuram Gnanambigai
Government Arts College for Women
Mayiladuturai, Tamilnadu**

Section 1: Preface

Dharmapuram Gnanambigai Government Arts College for Women, Mayiladuthurai, came into existence in the year 1967 with the generous contribution of Rs. 2 lakhs by Adheeman Mutt and philanthropic concern of a galaxy of academicians and government officials in the region. Initially the institution was conceived for pre-university programme for teaching of mathematics, science and arts. In the year 1974, keeping the needs of women education as priority, the government of Tamilnadu constructed a good building in a prime area of 13.72 acres of land where the present college is housed. During the last two decades, the college evolved into an important degree college offering 4 disciplines in arts and 5 discipline in sciences, both at the UG level. Recently the college has upgraded two Departments, viz., History and Economics to postgraduate level and also offering research facilities in the Department of History where five students are pursuing M.Phil. programme. The College is a major contribution of the Government of Tamilnadu and some visionaries in its formative stage for the upliftment backward women students in the area.

In response to the request of the institution for its accreditation and assessment, NAAC constituted a Peer Team consisting of Prof. Malla Reddy, former Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Hyderabad, Prof. Jacob Chacko, Professor & Head, Dept of Chemical Oceanography, Cochin University of Science & Technology and Dr. Sr. M. Olivia A.C., Professor and Principal, St. Agnes College, Mangalore. The Peer Team visited the college on the 27th and 28th of December 1999, examined various dimensions of institutional functioning, interacted with the functionaries of the institution like the Principal, Management, Faculty, Non-teaching staff, Parents, Alumni, including the student community. The following report is the culmination of the detailed exercise undertaken by the Peer Team presented in terms of the seven parameters suggested by NAAC.

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Section 2: Criterionwise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

Though the College originally started as an Arts college, it now conducts five U.G. programmes under science and four U.G. programmes and arts. The college has also recently introduced two P.G. programmes and one M.Phil. programme under Arts. It offers a Certificate course in computers to non-computer students.

Among the existing programmes some have an opening to jobs or career. Among these are **Computer Science and Biochemistry** in B.Sc.; the Applied Tamil in B.A. which is the first of its kind in the entire University, has papers relevant to job opportunities, viz., journalism, mass communication, administrative Tamil, Printing Technology and Translation; the allied subject under History includes the vocational subject, Archeology & Museology. At the P.G. level M.A. in Applied Economics too has scope for jobs in the future.

The College has a well-conceived goal, the curricula being framed with the progress of women's education, especially the upliftment of the economically and socially backward women students in focus.

The College is the foremost in introducing new courses like B.A. (Applied Tamil) and B.Sc. Biochemistry in Tamil which is not available anywhere else in the University. It is also one of the two colleges in the University to teach the vocational subject Archeology & Museology under History. The curriculum also includes some subjects with an interdisciplinary approach.

The Peer Team, while interacting with the faculty of the different Departments has suggested that each Department could conceive of different certificate courses in addition to the already existing curricula prescribed by the University syllabus.

Criterion II: Teaching-learning, Evaluation

The admission procedures are governed by the policy of the State Government. Under this policy, 30% seats are reserved for BC students, 20% for MBC, 18% for SC, 1% for ST and the rest of the seats i.e., 31% is for open admission. Admissions are made on the basis of merit in the qualifying examination. Thus the State Government has adopted this laudable policy of positive discrimination in the interest of social justice and in conformity with constitutional guarantees to weaker sections.

Assignments and seminars are conducted to test the student's knowledge and skills as well as to aid in an overall assessment. Remedial and special classes are conducted for the weak students. The brighter students are given opportunities to participate in intercollegiate activities, summer institutes and seminars. The methods of evaluation adopted are tests, model exams, assignments, seminars, quizzes, records and project reports. These are regularly checked and the evaluation methods are communicated to the students.

The Principal and the Heads of Departments monitor the implementation of teaching, learning and evaluation processes.

The Teachers are encouraged to use other teaching aids such as the OHP, audio-visual equipment etc. to supplement the lecture methods.

The success rate in some Departments needs to be improved. The Departments of Zoology, Economics and English have maintained a high success rate at the UG level. The intellectual standards maintained and creativity established among the students by these departments is noteworthy. The Zoology teachers give surprise tests to the students regularly. The Department of English offers foundation courses for the First Year undergraduate students to improve their language skills which is helping the students immensely in view of their family, educational and socio-economic background.

It is significant to note that the faculty in general has demonstrated exceptional commitment to their students by extending even financial support to needy and deprived students. The Team records its appreciation for the voluntary contribution made by the staff members of the various Departments in this regard.

Among the Faculty members the Department of Zoology has a well-qualified staff. Many other Departments are encouraging the colleagues in their Department to pursue Ph.D. studies.

With regard to participation of teachers in seminars and conferences, the Peer Team noted with concern that in many Departments, the Faculty members are not exposed to latest developments in their respective fields. However, the faculty on the whole are academically sound in the curriculum they are handling. There are 10 Ph.D. degree

holders and 45 M.Phils and at present 4 are deputed to pursue Ph D under the UGC - FIP scheme.

The College follows a self-appraisal method to evaluate the performance of the faculty in teaching and their participation in evaluation and institutional programmes. The teachers' contribution is also assessed by HODs and the Principal on a continuous basis which acts for the purpose of providing feedback to teachers in their respective Departments.

The College has a central library with ~ 24,000 volumes which, unfortunately, is not used by the students due to certain administrative constraints. The Institution should make earnest efforts to appoint a qualified librarian and provide an open access to the library for all learners in the institution. Though all Departments maintain a small Departmental library of their own and the students are provided with adequate literature to pursue their studies, the facilities available in the central library cannot be wasted.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy & Extension

There is a research committee for promoting research in the College. The Committee acts as an information dissemination centre in creating an awareness among the faculty members for preparing research projects and submitting to various funding agencies for research support. At present there are two ongoing research projects which is an indication of research climate in the institution and interest in teachers in the pursuit of research.

The research work undertaken by the students in the form of micro level research as an integral part of their degree course is a healthy practice which introduces the students into basics of research at the formative stage itself.

With four more teachers (who are now on deputation pursuing Ph.D.), joining the Departments on completing their programmes, the institution will be endowed with considerable man power resources for promoting further research in the institution. Thus the institution should make continuous effort to promote research culture for the benefit of both the teachers and the students in the institution.

Extension work undertaken by the institution is a strong point of the College, which cover community development, health and hygiene awareness, adult education and literacy, AIDS awareness, social work, medical camps, blood donation camps and

environmental education. There is also a Population Education club. Extension work is planned along with NGOs and GOs. There is a team of staff members guiding NSS work. Encouragement is given both to students and staff for undertaking extension activities.

Recognition is given by conferring of Certificates, Medals and Awards, such as the Best NSS Officer, Best Ranger Team in the District, Best Ranger Officer Award, Best Ranger Student Award.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The College has a campus of 13.72 acres accommodating the various Arts and Science Departments and other facilities like hostels, library, Staff, etc. More infrastructural facilities are proposed to be built up soon. Construction of new Class-rooms are in progress. It is heartening to note that the AOS, PTA and MP's funds are being used for augmenting the infrastructure. Existing buildings are reasonably well maintained by the state PWD and the Department of Education. The open land around the College can look like a well laid-out garden with proper landscaping, which can be done by a professional horticulturist.

The buildings require better maintenance. Besides the staff and student volunteers, the College has been able to secure the involvement of Service Organizations like the NSS, ROTRACT, JAYCEES etc. for maintaining the Campus. This is to be appreciated as it reflects the concern and responsibility of the community in the affairs of the College. In addition to the Departmental libraries, there is a Central library, which has a collection of 24031 volumes. There is also a book bank in the Central library. A library Advisory Committee constituted by the College looks after the affairs of the library.

There is a central computer facility in the College and this is attached to the Department of Computer Science. There is a LAN system comprising of 10+1 and 5+1 Nodes in addition to other stand alone systems. The computers are maintained on an "on-call" basis.

Sports facilities provided in the College include a small area for physical exercises, various play-grounds / courts, facilities for indoor games etc. Good incentives are given to meritorious sports persons. Besides Endowment Prizes and Cash Awards, Special

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Prizes and Cups are given to University Participants. This encouragement is reflected in the outcome: the College has won 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in State level competitions.

As far as student amenities are concerned, besides a College hostel, there are separate BC and SC hostels, although the wisdom in having such segregation is debatable. Medical facilities provided include annual medical check-ups for all the students.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The College publishes separate Prospectuses for UG and PG courses every year. 95% of the students admitted appear for the qualifying examinations and the drop-out rate of 5% is does not appear to be a matter of very serious concern.

Besides Merit Scholarships, several merit-cum-means Scholarships are available to the students. On the whole, over 60% of the students are in receipt of some kind of financial assistance. This is a good encouragement to lady students and augers well with the goal of the College viz., the upliftment of women through education.

The College has an Old Students' Association and PTA which play an active role in maintaining and augmenting the infrastructure of the College through donation of various Prizes, furniture etc. Periodic meetings of the OSA and the PTA are held. These provide a forum for obtaining a feedback on the functioning of the College as well as on the acceptability of the Courses offered. Suggestions received are taken into account while formulating new programmes / policies of the College.

A tutorial system is in vogue and regular ward meetings are held to facilitate closer student- teacher interaction.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

Being a Govt. College, its operates to a large extent within the well-defined administrative framework of the Government. However, all decisions pertaining to academic matters are taken by the College Council, which comprises of the Principal and all Heads of Departments. Considerable degree of decentralization of authority has been effected by delegating power to various Committees such as Admission Committee, UGC Committee, Sports / Magazine Committee, Students Union (with elected student representatives, the Principal and a designated Head of the Department) etc. The College

should initiate action for attaining autonomous status for obvious advantages especially for introducing innovative, job-oriented courses and for promoting research activities.

The College Calendar is prepared by a separate Committee. There are also other Committees to oversee the functioning of the OSA, the PTA, Fine Arts activities etc.

Staff Quarters are provided. Welfare schemes for teaching/non-teaching staff include GPF, Advance Schemes for HB, FA, Education, Vehicle, Computers, Marriage etc. There is also a Grievance Redressal mechanism, which functions through the formation of Committees.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

Besides the processes and programmes mentioned under the above six criteria, the college in addition has the following healthy practices:

1. Annual verification is adopted by the College for internal quality check.
2. The College is conscious of the importance of computer skills. A training programme was organized for the non-teaching staff to acquire computer skills to modernize their office activities.
3. Though it is a Government College, it conducts practical value-based programmes through enrolment and involvement in SSL, CDI, NSS and other service organizations.
4. The students are helped to imbibe life-oriented skills through the general positive approach adopted by the College: skills of learning capacity are enhanced through the conferring of proficiency prizes; communication and numerical skills are strengthened through seminars, essays and oratorical contests and quizzes respectively; the students are introduced to the gaining of knowledge in the modern trends especially information technology: e-mail services and internet facilities are available in the College.
5. The culture of working with a team spirit, which exists among the staff, is percolated to the students. Institutional climate provides ample scope for social and personality development among the students.
6. The Department of English is offering a foundation course for developing communication skills among freshers joining the institution, especially for the benefit of those who come from rural area as first generation learners.
7. The Peer Team noted with a sense of gratification that in the faculty contributes some amount for the welfare of the students. This involves a great philosophy,

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characterized by a sense of empathy and altruism, which is well emulating by other college.

8. The College publishes an annual prospectus giving the details of admission procedures, programmes offered, fee structure and financial aid available. The College also explains in the prospectus the philosophy of the institution and the behaviour expected of the students seeking admission to this institution.
9. The College has instituted a few Scholarships for meritorious students and other forms of financial aid to the socially and economically deprived in the interest of social justice and with a view to create an egalitarian social order.
10. The College has started a number of welfare programmes like advancing loans and financial support to its employees both the teaching and the non-teaching.
11. The College has guidance and counselling cell and tutorial system, which is an essential component of education, particularly in a women's college. The students during their interaction with the Peer Team have acknowledged the significance of these, which enable them to share both their personal and emotional problems in confidence with the faculty. This can also act as a very strong source of psychodynamic therapy for girl students involved in emotional problems.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

Dharmapuram Gnanambigai Government Arts College for Women, Mayiladuthurai was established in July 1967. The College is situated in a prime area of 18.72 acres of land in Mayiladuthurai, which is a semi-urban area. The College is affiliated to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli and offers 13 programmes in all -- 9 UG, 2 PG, 1 M.Phil and 1 Certificate course encompassing three major faculties, i.e. Science, Arts and Technology (Computers). The significance of the College lies in the fact that the College has been conceived exclusively for the cause of women education in a backward region of the state. The College is fully funded by the Government.

Though the College is popularly known as Government "Arts College", the College is also offering science programmes, which form a dominant component of the institution. It is therefore desirable to rename the institution as "Arts and Science College" for obvious advantages.

The College has many accomplishments to its credit. During the last 33 years the College has emerged into one of the important institutions and it has considerable potentialities for further expansion. Though the Government of Tamil Nadu is in favour of

conferring autonomy on almost all Government colleges the College has not initiated any steps in this direction. Seeking autonomy for academic expansion is imperative on the part of the institution. The College has well qualified teachers comprising 51 permanent teachers and 20 temporary teachers; all of them are ladies. There are 10 Ph.D. holders and 45 M.Phil. Degree holders on the faculty and a few more are pursuing their doctoral programmes under various schemes. The faculty which is the backbone of any institution is thus very strong in this College both in terms of the academic qualification and their professional experience in teaching-learning and evaluation. The faculty has sufficient motivation to update their professional knowledge further by attending seminars and conferences and therefore there is a need to encourage the faculty by providing necessary incentives and financial support in future.

The College has a central library which is not opened for the use of the students due to certain administrative reasons. The College can make arrangements without further loss of time to keep the library open for the use of both the day scholars and students in the hostels. The College has many other facilities -- a computer centre, sports cell, canteen, a grievance redressal cell and a hostel for about 120 students.

The College is a miniature community with close-knit interpersonal relationships between the faculty and the management. The faculty enjoys considerable freedom and are able to introduce many innovative programmes like the foundation courses in few subjects like English, organize extension activities, impart value-oriented education keeping in view the holistic personality development of students. In spite of lack of **academic freedom** in the absence of autonomy, the faculty is resourceful enough to design a few new courses and to seek the approval of the university to introduce the same. The course designed in Applied Tamil deserves a special mention here.

Thus the College has many noteworthy achievements to its credit. However, considering the challenges in the education of women and their empowerment, the College should take many more steps to make it a leading women's college in the State. The College has great potentiality and a vision set before it by its founders which need to be translated into reality. Thus in order to bring the institution closer to the objectives for which the institution has been created the following suggestions are made:

1. The institution is endowed with rich infrastructure, which requires better maintenance. The College can be transformed into an ideal campus by planting a number of trees and with extensive landscaping. The present vacant land can be used

for this purpose and this can be achieved with a minimum investment, if necessary involving the students.

2. The College should strive for autonomous status and expansion of curricular options through an enduring effort. Since DGG College for women is the only women's college in the region and has been conceived for promoting social justice, many funding agencies can support the cause of this institution which need to be explored by the management, Principal and the faculty with earnest desire.
3. There is an acute shortage of teachers in many Departments. The Department of English, in spite of its limited faculty is rendering excellent service. It is necessary that the Government should recruit a few more teachers immediately for effective functioning of this Department. In this regard the peer team was informed during the interaction with the Director of Collegiate Education that the recruitment of faculty for various Government colleges is almost finalised and the teachers will be allotted to the colleges in the immediate future.
4. It is imperative to develop good language skills, good communicative skills in English in the interest of career opportunities of the students. Therefore, the faculty of this Department requires the additional support both from the Government and the Management in their laudable endeavour, in which they are involved at present.
5. In some core areas like Physics and Mathematics, the performance of the students needs to be improved. One of the major reasons for low success rate in these Departments appears to be due to the shortage of faculty. Whatever be the constraints of the Government and the bureaucratic procedures involved, there is an absolute need for strengthening these Departments which are vital areas of learning under the modern curriculum. It is not necessary on the part of Peer Team to overemphasize the significance of the knowledge of mathematics under the emerging educational scenario.
6. The faculty is not exposed to seminars and conferences sufficiently. This need has to be examined by the Management (which is basically the governance of the Government) with a view to promote excellence in the institution. The updating of knowledge on the part of the faculty is an absolute need of the hour and this cannot be ignored under any circumstances.
7. The College is located in an area where many families live close to the institution in terms of geographical proximity. The College can organize several community activities and slowly transform itself with its structure and functions into a 'community college'. The various functions the College can undertake in the form of

a 'community college' will go a long way in transforming the backward region of the area into a healthy developed community.

8. The College should collaborate with other institutions for promoting research by organizing seminars, inviting experts and sharing their physical and intellectual resources. The present laboratories where the students carry their research work should be considerably improved by adding new equipment.

The Peer Team on the whole was impressed with the commitment and dedication of the Principal, the faculty and also the involvement of the Government in promotion of this institution into a futuristic centre of excellence. The College has miles to go before it achieves its goals laid down at the inception of this institution, especially created for the cause of women education – the great national asset.

We express our appreciation for the hospitality extended by the institution. We record our sincere gratitude to Prof. A. Gnanam, Chairman, NAAC and Prof. Victor, the Director of Collegiate Education, for their gracious presence at the opening meeting. The Peer Team could carry on its tasks with mutual consultation and harmonious relationship.

Signed:

Prof. Malla Reddy

M. Malla Reddy
28/12/1999

Prof. Jacob Chacko

Jacob
28.12.1999

Dr. Sr. M. Olivia A.C.

M. Olivia A.C.
28.12.1999

I have gone through the report and agree to the same.

R. Annala

28.12.99
PRINCIPAL

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