

PEER TEAM REPORT
On Institutional Accreditation of
NESAMONY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE , Marthandam,
Tamil Nadu

Section I: PREFACE

THE NESAMONY MEMORIAL CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (NMCC), Marthandam volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) by presenting a self-study report. A Peer team consisting of Dr. M.G. Takwale, Vice-Chancellor, Shivaji University, Maharashtra as Chairman, Prof. A.M. Puttaswamy Gowda, Principal, Yuvaraja's College, Mysore, Karnataka and Prof. G. Henry, Principal, Fatima Mata National College, Kollam, Kerala State as members visited the institution to validate the self-study report. The team visited the institution for two days from 8- 9 April 2003. Dr. K. Rama, Deputy Advisor from NAAC coordinated the visit .

NMCC College, affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University was established in 1964 as an affiliated college on a campus covering a total area of 32 acres. The student strength of the college is 2202 of which 1755 are in undergraduate courses, 428 in post graduate courses

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and 19 at the Research level (M.Phil., Ph.D.). The college offers 22 academic programs of which 13 are undergraduate, 07 postgraduate, one M. Phil. and one Ph.D. program. The institution has got UGC recognition in 1972 under sections 2f and 12B. The college has received a grant of Rs.16,35,678/- from UGC during the IX plan and has been assessed for Xth plan UGC development assistance.

The college has 126 qualified teaching faculty; 86 permanent teachers (in the aided posts), 16 temporary teachers (aided courses), 23 on the unaided posts (in self-financing courses) and one on part time basis. Including the administrative and technical staff there are, in all, 61 non-teaching staff. The college is having 13 departments at the Graduate level for teaching History (English and Tamil medium), Economics, Tamil, Malayalam, English, Mathematics, Physics, Zoology, Chemistry, Botany, Computer Science (Extension as well) and Commerce. The College has common facilities such as central library, computer center, sports grounds, canteen, vehicle parking shed and retiring hall for girl students.

The peer team carefully perused and analyzed the self-study report submitted by the institution. During institutional visit, the team went through all the relevant documents, visited the departments and the facilities, and interacted with the various constituents of the institution. The academic, co-



curricular, extra-curricular, sports and extension facilities of the institution were visited. The peer team also interacted at length with the Governing Body, Principal of the college, faculty, non-teaching staff, students, parents and alumnae of the institution. Based on the above exercise and keeping in mind the criteria identified by the NAAC, the peer team has made the assessment of the institution including its commendable features as well as the issues of concern.

Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects:

The mission and goal of N.M.Christian College is to transform rural folk by imparting proper knowledge to their children. As an affiliated college of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, the college follows the syllabi and scheme of examination prescribed by the university for the Humanities, Arts, Commerce and Science faculties for both the undergraduate and post-graduate courses. The college offers 22 programmes: consisting of 13 UG programmes, 7 PG programmes, 1 M. Phil. and 1 Ph.D programme. The college has developed self-financing programs in two major thrust areas viz. Computer Science and Management studies.



Post-graduate courses in Mathematics, Physics, History, Zoology, Commerce, Management Studies and Computer Applications are available in the College. It is commendable that the college authorities have shown courage to start P.G. Courses in Commerce, Zoology, Computer Applications and Business Management and an additional batch of UG course in Computer Science under self financing mode in a rural and backward area. The M.B.A. and the M.C.A. programmes are approved by the All India Council for Technical Education (A.I.C.T.E.)

The college encourages research culture and is a recognized center for M. Phil. and Ph.D. programmes in History. Some members of the staff have served as members of the senate and Board of Studies of the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. The faculty of the College from the Computer Science department and a few other departments are on the District Development Council's Project "Vision 2020" and are thus actively involved in the report preparation and planning activities of the locality.

Thus the college is committed to its goal of uplifting the poor and downtrodden of a backward area where the knowledge seekers are mostly from first generation learners.

The aspiration of the college is to offer need based courses like BA Tourism, M.Sc., Biotechnology and other relevant courses in Agriculture,

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Rubber Cultivation, Coir Industry, etc., to improve the rural economy and development. The introduction of "*Field Work on Local Relevance*" as a part of the curriculum, the college is able to create interest and enthusiasm among the students and also involve the people of surrounding area thereby making the students aware of the problems of the society.

Criterion II: Teaching–Learning and Evaluation

Admission to the various courses of study in the college is in accordance with the policy of the Govt. of Tamil Nadu and the regulations of the MS University. Students for MCA and MBA are admitted on the basis of the marks scored in the entrance test conducted by the college and the marks obtained in the University examinations at degree level. The college provides bridge or remedial courses to the educationally disadvantaged students. In view of the poor economic and educational background of the students admitted to the college it is required that the college strengthens and provides more remedial coaching covering all the subjects.

Under the provisions of Extra Disciplinary Optional courses (EDOC) offered by the affiliating University, the college has carefully chosen the options keeping in mind the socio economic background of the students



admitted to the college and the employment opportunities . Similar is the case of implementing the “Field Work on Local Relevance” to be undertaken by the second year undergraduate students , wherein the students have done a commendable work on various social issues and in improving the local traditional techniques in processing of various local products such as Palmera , Rubber , Coir , Honey, Cashew nuts etc. The College is implementing the unitised syllabi approved by the university authorities. Accordingly the college conducts unit tests and gives feed back. Teachers should be also encouraged to use the audio visual aids. Field trips, industrial visits, study tours etc., prescribed in the University curriculum have helped the teaching community to supplement the routine lecture method.

The college takes up initiative to conduct refresher courses, seminars and workshops for the benefit of teachers and students. The college encourages teachers to participate in national and international seminars apart from their participation in the refresher and orientation programs. 59 teachers have attended national level seminars and during the IX plan period 10 teachers availed the FIP of the UGC and three minor research projects have been undertaken by the faculty of Department of Physics. The efforts of the Department of Physics are praiseworthy . They have been active not



only in organizing the UGC sponsored refresher and orientation courses for the college teachers , but also in organizing such courses to the school teachers. Other departments should also actively take part and initiate such role models.

The college should prepare teaching plan at the beginning of every academic session and a proper monitoring mechanism be evolved and implemented. The progress of the students is continuously monitored through the unit tests, mid term tests and model tests. There is no internal assessment in the affiliating university, the University examinations form the final evaluation of the students. The evaluation methods are made known to students in the beginning of the academic year through college handbook and notice boards.

The college has a bimodal system of aided and self-financing programmes. It is appreciable that even the faculty working in the unaided posts are encouraged to attend various training and career development programmes.

There is a mechanism for faculty appraisal through the submission of self-appraisal reports by all teachers. The college has recently introduced the teacher- evaluation by the students. However it needs critical analysis of the data and its use for remedial measures.



Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

Apart from disseminating knowledge through academic programs of interest to the society, a main function of the institution should be to develop research interest in the minds of teachers and students so as to create new knowledge. The efforts of the Department of History to get itself recognized as a Research Center and introduce M. Phil. and Ph.D. programs deserves commendation. Though there is a lot of potential for research in departments like Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Commerce etc. and some of the teachers have really worked on various developmental techniques for their Ph.D. studies, they have not attempted to continue and propagate the same. While most of the faculty availed the FIP scheme of the university, grants under the Minor and Major research projects of UGC have not been availed of, to the potential of the faculty. The college sanctions sabbatical leave so that the staff members can do research. The college should take advantage of its geographical location, having high potential for undertaking research activities and motivate more teachers to take up research projects and attract funding from various funding agencies like UGC, CSIR, DBT, ICMR, ICHR etc. The college should motivate these teachers to form interdisciplinary teams to do research in frontier areas and establish centers of research recognized by the University. The efforts of the



department of Botany in trying to collect and preserve rare and important flora in their botanical garden and developing a research laboratory of its own, in spite of being only a UG department, is commendable.

Competent teachers and departments should be encouraged to formulate and undertake consultancy services. This will not only enrich the faculty but also be of immense help to the student community.

The efforts of the department of Computer Science , in signing an MOU with the Govt. Polytechnic and getting recognized as a Continuing Education Extension Centre under the World Bank 'Technician Assistance programme' is laudable. Through this center the college is imparting IT skills to the rural masses on nominal charges to those who cannot afford to go in for expensive education offered in the cities. Through the center the college also assist the poorest of the poor, specifically girls, by providing them these courses free of cost. To encourage continuity of these courses the college also is providing assistance to these students in bearing the transport charges and free meals etc. During the academic session 2002-2003 three tribal girls were benefited of the scheme of assistance. The center also acts in providing these courses as add on course to their own students. There are, in all, 1328 students enrolled in this center, 587 are the students of the college and 741 are outsiders.



With the help of the NGOs the college plans and undertakes various community development and awareness activities. One such activity is the setting up of Eco-club and organizing various activities on environment protection and preservation of natural resources etc. The college has strong bonding with local community and has initiated various programmes like providing sports and games facilities to the youth of the village, assisting the local villagers in times of calamities and spreading awareness on various social issues etc.

There are three NSS units , two for boys and one for girls. The volunteers are involved in many social outreach activities like literacy campaign, environmental awareness, blood donation etc.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources:

The college has good , well maintained infrastructure facilities. The total area of the campus is 32 acres. The maintenance of the campus is done by appointing adequate supporting staff. The NSS and NCC students and the Eco club of the college also actively involve in the maintenance of the campus. The laboratories are well equipped and some of the departments have there own computer facility. The college has ample space for play grounds. It may try to avail of the various schemes of the UGC, MHRD etc



for the development of outdoor and indoor sports facilities. The college allows external agencies to use their facilities during weekends and holidays.

The Central library has 47339 books and has no book bank facility. The computerization of the library is under progress. The number of additions to the stock of books in the library is small. With the revision of the curriculum and introduction of various new and modern subjects the library facility need to be immediately augmented and improved in terms of books, the internet facility, interlibrary lending facility etc.. The classification of books need to be done more scientifically and the administration of the library also needs improvement. The library should also try to get some employment and career advancement news papers/magazines. This would help the students to have the know-how of the employment opportunities and competitive examinations, career advancement opportunities etc. . The library can subscribe a few more standard Indian and foreign journals and also acquire back volumes for the benefit of the students and faculty. Availability of good and educative video cassettes helps students largely to acquire knowledge.

Apart from the computer facilities available at the Department of the Computer Science, some of the departments like Mathematics, Physics, and Management studies also have the departmental computing facility. Other

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departments like Commerce, Economics, Chemistry etc. share the facilities available in the Computer Science department. It is necessary that these departments also have their own centers and impart skills in application software. This is the basic requirement for the students entering the job market. The office is partially computerized. The efforts of the computer science department in preparing a software for total automation of the college administration, being introduced in a phased manner, needs to be congratulated. The college has only a dialup internet connectivity in its MCA and Computer Science laboratories. The college has got a sanction from the AICTE for Broad- band 64 kbps connectivity.. It should try to avail of the facility at the earliest and provide internet access to the students and the staff.

The college has play grounds for Foot-ball, Cricket, Long and High jump pits, Volley-ball, Tennikoit, Kabadi etc. It encourages sportspersons by providing them with special assistance and financial resources to participate in various competitions. During the period of competitions the participants are provided with nutritious food. The students have won prizes in the University and State meets.

The college has no hostels either for boys or girls . The college should have utilized the 3.5 lakhs UGC grant sanctioned to them for construction of



the girls hostel. With 60% of the total strength being girls the college has provided retiring hall for them with a capacity of around 500 and all the basic amenities.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression:

Around 95% of the UG and 98% of the PG students admitted to the college appear for the university examination. Though the college continuously monitors the performance of the students through various tests and prepares them to the University examinations, it is seen struggling with results in University examinations specially in under graduate courses. The team reckons the background, however in the matter of examination results the college should pay more attention.

The college has Career guidance and counseling cell and some of the departments are providing additional coaching to the students to appear in the competitive examinations. It is commendable that 20 students have qualified the UGC-CSIR (NET), ICS and similar examinations during the previous academic year. The college has made commendable efforts in instituting endowments for extending financial assistance for the needy students. The efforts of the staff to encourage the poor students to continue their studies by contributing to the mid-day meal scheme and financial assistance to poor and needy students is commendable. The students and the



staff have a strong bondage and teachers are always ready to help the needy through liberal contributions . The recent example being the contribution of the staff to the tune of Rs. 71,000/- towards the brain surgery of one of their students.

An Employment cell with a Placement Officer has been established, but nothing substantial has been achieved. The cell needs to be strengthened

The Alumni association was established in 1971 and it assists the college by way of raising financial resources. Many alumni have occupied important positions in the state and central government offices including high positions in the Indian Army. The college has a very active Parent Teacher Association which has contributed to the infrastructure and resource generation of the college when in need. They also play a pro-active role while deciding the programmes to be started in the college specifically self-financing courses.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management

The Church of South India, Kanya Kumari Diocese, governs the NMCC College. The periodic meetings of the Governing Council analyze the working of the institution and provide directions for the long term and short-term activities of the college. KanyaKumari Diocese adopts democratic



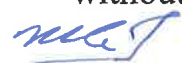
pattern in the governance of the college, by adopting members of the Governing Board inclusive of a staff representative.

Principal does internal co-ordination and monitoring. The staff Council comprising of Heads of all Departments and the staff representative headed by the Principal, meets regularly for decision-making. A special committee, in co-ordination with the Principal, prepares the academic calendar. Staff members are divided into small committees and are put in charge of various responsibilities pertaining to the day to day functioning of the institution.

There is extensive documentation, strategic planning and transparency in the operations. In addition, every year, a committee approved by AICTE and affiliation committee of Manonmanian Sundarnar University visit the college and review the academic standards and performance of the institution with reference to continuation of affiliation. The college also has internal audit mechanism. A grievance redressal cell headed by a senior teacher solves the grievances of students and employees.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices:

The college is trying to work towards achieving its mission and goals without compromising on quality. The Peer team appreciates the college on



the various healthy practices adopted in its march towards the development and upliftment of the rural masses, which enhances the academic ambience of the institution: The College

- provides extensive support to weaker sections of society in terms of finance, offering bridge courses and career guidance etc.
- gives 10 additional marks to boost their chances of getting admission to rural and poor students.
- has sensitised itself to latest managerial concepts such as strategic planning, team work, decision making and computerisation.
- signed an MOU to implement the World Bank assisted 'Technician development programme' for continuing education in the field of computer literacy
- has implemented through the Physical Care Committee activities such as administering Hepatitis-B vaccination , free medical checkups etc for all the students of the college and the people of the adopted villages.
- has taken an initiative to offer self financed courses in emerging fields and sustains itself in the upgradation and modernization process
- inculcates civic responsibilities among students through programmes organized by Consumer Protection cell, NSS, Youth Red cross, Eco Club, Anti Eve Teasing cell etc.
- takes up welfare schemes, such as Noon Meal scheme, financial assistance to the poor students in the form of freeships, assistance to pay their examination fees, financial help for medical treatment etc. with the benevolence of teachers.



Overall Analysis:

Started in 1964 as a junior college it has strived to achieve the mission. It has introduced in a planned and phased manner various courses which benefited the local community. The faculty is focused at preparing the students to face the challenges of the world with confidence. With more than two thirds of its students coming from rural areas and are the first generation learners the college is doing a commendable job for the education of the rural masses , specifically Girls. While the peer team has already brought on record the appreciation of the work done by the college in various spheres of institutional and societal development the peer team would like to express its concerns and give some suggestions for the furtherance and development of the college

1. The College should take advantage of the *Vocational Courses* introduced by UGC and include them in the undergraduate studies. These courses be selected on the basis of the needs of the villagers and the tribals.
2. With the faculty on the Senate and on various Boards of Studies, the college, through university authorities, should review their syllabi and adopt courses suggested by UGC and meet the local needs.
3. The students have to spend a lot of time to reach college from their residence due to poor transport facilities. Therefore College should provide hostel facilities to them. The non-residential students(boys) need a common room.
4. The College has a potential to do research in many important areas i.e. Biodiversity, Environmental studies, Computer Applications for



rural development etc. The faculty members are to be motivated to submit research Proposals/Projects to various funding agencies such as UGC, DST, DOE, DBT etc.

5. The large number of computers in various departments need to be networked for optimal utilization of the facility. The students are also demanding better Internet facility.
6. The underutilization of the library facilities is a concern which needs to be attended to immediately.
7. The library (both central and departmental) should be improved by procuring books& Journals for the recently introduced courses of study.

The members of the Peer-Team would like to thank the College authorities, Principal, staff, students, parents and alumni for their sincere co-operation and hospitality extended during our visit.


(Dr. M.G. Takwale) 9/4/03

Chairman


(Prof. A.M. Puttaswamy Gowda) 9/4/03

Member


(Prof. G. Henry) 9/4/03

Member

I Dr.G.Oliver Robertson , Principal, Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam, Tamil Nadu agree with the facts and information mentioned in the above report.


(G.Oliver Robertson)
Principal

PRINCIPAL
NESAMONY MEMORIAL
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Assessment and Accreditation of Nesamony Memorial Christian College, Marthandam