



# **KUMBALATHU SANKUPILLAI MEMORIAL DEVASWOM BOARD COLLEGE**

**(Re-accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC)  
SASTHAMCOTTA, KOLLAM District, KERALA**

## **NAAC PEER TEAM REPORT**

# **2006**



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REPORT

13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006

DEVASWOM BOARD COLLEGE  
SASTHAMCOTTA  
KOLLAM DISTRICT  
KERALA

## **Report of the Peer Team**

**On institutional Accreditation of**

# **Devaswom Board College**

**Sasthamcotta, Kollam , Kerala -690521**

### **Section I: INTRODUCTION**

Devaswom Board College, Sasthamcotta, Kollam was established in 1964 as a junior college and in its long journey has grown into a Degree college by 1967 and a Post graduate college in 1981. It is affiliated to University of Kerala . The college is a private government aided one and has come under the 2F of UGC in 1977 and 12 B in 1979. Thus development grant is being provided by UGC.

The management's mission is the overall excellence of its students who are from surrounding poor rural families. The college aims to impart knowledge and skills that help the society primarily to improve its standard of living, become more health conscious and to protect the environment. Its mission is comprehensive " Knowledge for each and Wisdom for all". In order to actualize its mission and mission statements , a number of clubs are formed under teacher's guidance , regular class room dynamics, human and community values orientation through extension services like NCC and NSS, add further vigour to their community welfare effort.

The campus has an area of 52 acres of land. The college offer both UG and PG programmes . The three faculties of Arts, Science and Commerce have 7, 7 and 2 departments respectively, besides department of Physical Education. The programme options are 13 UG and 6 PG





courses . There are 97 full time and 11 guest lecturers . 25% of the faculty are Ph.D. holders and about 50 % are M.Phil. Degree holders. Some more are in advanced stage of research.

There are 56 non-teaching staff consisting of Technical, Administrative and other categories. 2162 students are enrolled in UG and PG programmes together. The temporal plan of academic work is Annual system for UG and Semester system for PG.

The college has a central library, computer center, sports facilities, a number of welfare scheme, redressal cell along with counseling also, women's students center , besides the prescribed departmental infrastructure.

The DB college, Sasthamkotta, Kollam District, volunteered to be accredited by the NAAC . Self study report was submitted to NAAC, who constituted a Peer Team to validate the report submitted by the institution, comprising of the following members: Prof.Y.Saraswathy Rao, Former Vice –Chancellor, Sri Krishnadevaraya University , Andhra Pradesh as chair person, .Dr..Packiaraj, Former Principal, St-Xaviers college and counselor , Loyola Technical Institute , Madurai , Tamil Nadu as member and Prof.A.S.Raghavendra, Dean ,School of Life Sciences , University of Hyderabad as a member co-ordinator.

The peer Team visited the DB College, Sasthamcotta, Kollam, on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006. The assessment of the Peer Team in terms of the Seven Criteria and overall analysis along with the commendations and suggestions are presented in the following pages



## Section 2

### CRITERION I: CURRICULAR ASPECTS

Within the framework of the University regulations, the college has been conducting co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to the satisfaction of the students for the past several years. The efficiency of the faculty is clearly reflected in a wide spectrum of highly visible performance of the students in diverse fields. This has helped in a significant improvement of the community in and around Sasthamkotta. The foresight of the future needs and job opportunities of students is commendable.

It is possible to use the very strong teaching capacities of the faculty more effectively than at present, as for example in the case of Physics and Malayalam. Such departments must be encouraged to start postgraduate studies and the management may make efforts to help them in this direction.

The feedback system in all the departments may be made more effective to improve the standards further. Efforts should be made to complement their teaching programmes with the college-industry Networking. The distinguished alumni and PTA can help in this regard. This will help to improve the local conditions also.

Despite a few limitations, the overall performance of the college is illustrated by the achievements of University ranks by several students, year after year. The departments of Chemistry and Sanskrit are commendable in this aspect.

The use of tutorial system, practically in all the departments, and the enthusiasm of both faculty and the students are definitely the strengths of the college.





## CRITERION II: TEACHING -LEARNING AND EVALUATION

The staff members are making a lot of efforts in making the teaching-learning activities very effective. This is obviously by a felt need in the local surroundings with marginalized sections. The high percentage (more than seventy five percentage) of the faculty, with M.Phil and PhD qualifications is quite impressive and obviously an asset to the college

The college may explore the possibilities of introducing some elective options particularly in postgraduate programmes within the university framework. While attempts are made to help the academically weak students, more efforts may be made to identity the bright students and help them in a different way. Computer related teaching methods could be used as a part of innovation.

While efforts are made to monitor the overall performance of the staff, it could be made more effective throughout the year. The learner-centered teaching methods like discussions, seminars and project work are added academic attractions and attentions. The higher percentage of passes in different courses than the average in the university is an overall indication of the effective teaching pattern in the college. There is scope for further development, particularly in the undergraduate programmes.

The internal assessment programmes can be used for some innovative efforts within the university structure. This will help the student in a significant way to improve their standards. The few national and international linkages in some departments may be exploited for further useful academic performanc

### CRITERION III: RESEARCH, CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSIONS

The management is encouraging research activities of the departments and the individual faculty members. The department of Chemistry is already a recognized research center. Departments like Malayalam, Physics, English and Sanskrit may be encouraged to strengthen their research potential. With as many as 25 PhDholders and 51 M.phil holders, in the college, the faculty may be persuaded to make active research endeavors. The college may also encourage departments like Sanskrit, Economics Chemistry and Malayalam to apply for special assistance programmes of the UGC. The number or research programmes funded by external agencies is rather small in comparison with the number of PhD holders. The college has all the potential to establish a strong research centre forming PG departments. The major funding agencies may be approached with appropriate proposals

The extension programmes of the college are quite diverse and deserve commendation. The SAHITI programme as a literary organization has been functioning very well. There are also other innovative activities such as Tourism Club, Nature Club, Cultural Forum and Science Forum. The NCC has done well to accomplish all the recommended activities. The NSS programmes also are very active and socially relevant to the public. The college has also been very active in promoting diverse voluntary outreach programmes like Spoken English, Spoken Sanskrit, and Talent Search in Mathematics, Legal Awareness programme for Girls and Traing programmes for competitive tests





#### CRITERION IV: INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The college is built in an ideal location with a freshwater lake surrounding the campus and in a rural area. There have been many additions and improvements to the infrastructure facilities during the last few years. The buildings are well utilized for teaching and extension programmes. The classrooms and the staff rooms are well furnished and are maintained in good shape. There is a well-furnished library in the campus with nearly forty thousand books and eighteen journals. It is essential to complement the existing facilities with items such as photo-copying machine, and internet connectivity and some computer facilities. Since space is available, the reading room can be improved with additions of popular magazines and science journals.

A computer center with a bout forty three PCs has been setup recently. However it is essential to build an intranet (LAN) system to connect the PCs in the college and also to the internet. With such internet connectivity, the usage of their computer center would be more intense than it is at present. It will be useful also to assign a faculty member or a qualified person to be in charge of the computer center.

The college is endowed with the best facilities for sports and games. The fitness center is extremely well furnished and is being used by the students, teachers and the staff. The Fineness Center is definitely one of the assets and attractions of the college.

The intense use of these facilities is also reflected in the impressive achievements of the students in games and sports. The laurels they win regularly in different competitions at the university and state level speak well of the facilities and their use. The existing facilities and the use of the college can further be improved by adding of a key component, namely, a health center/ clinic.






## CRITERION V: STUDENT SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION

The college is one of the leading centers of higher education in the district and this opinion is endorsed by the parents, the alumni as well as the students. The low dropout rate is an indication of the success of the college in sustenance of the students' interest. The scholarships, endowments and awards to students are additional incentives.

The practice of active participation by the faculty in counselling students in both academic and personal matters is commendable. The alumni association and the Parent Teacher Associations have several leading personalities. The college may exploit their expertise and the good will of these members in teaching programmes and developing entrepreneurship skills. The existing career guidance cell may be upgraded into an employment and placement cell. This will help the rural local students to a great extent.

The cultural activities of the college and the participation of both the faculty and the students are very good. The calendar of the college describing the structure and functions is brought out very well. With all the required details, the college calendar is a very good source of reference. Students union, women's study center and grievance redressal cell are functioning well in the campus to the satisfaction of many. The feedback system from the outgoing students is a valuable source for improvement.



## CRITERION VI: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The college is administrated by Devaswom Board which has many such institutions to its credit. The approach of the Board towards the college administration is very proactive. The recent developments in the campus in terms of buildings and facilities are an indication of the good will of the Board Management. The board also gives academic and administrative freedom, and is generous in providing necessary funds and academic autonomy.

The college council consisting of the Principal, Heads of the Department and elected staff members is of assistance in the academic management of the college. Each department also has a committee. The appointments of the teaching and the non-teaching staff are governed by the Government and University rules. The college has a grievance redressal cell to address any problems that may arise.

The college may consider conducting suitable professional development programmes to the non-teaching staff members.

There are no self-financing courses in the college. There is no internal audit mechanism, though the accounts in general are audited as per the rules. The college could make efforts to raise more funds and utilize fully the available resources for the students welfare and research.

The staff club, promoting the cultural talents of the members, the co-operative bank providing loans and the co-operative store with text books and stationery are some of the welfare measures promoted by the college. Several such internal mechanisms to look after the welfare of the staff and the students.



## CRITERION VII: HEALTHY PRACTICES

The Peer Team appreciates the multifaceted personality developmental approaches of the institution is following while dealing with the students of the college

- Value based education is being imparted through Morning Prayer at the start of the college.
- Inculcating community services and humanitarian perspectives through NSS activities and other clubs.
- Civic sense awareness through programmes of human rights, duties and responsibilities.
- Preserving the cultural heritage of the state and country through traditional arts etc.
- College has a mechanism for internal quality check and periodic assessment and monitoring the performance of students.
- Teacher performance monitoring is done through the student assessment of teachers at the end of the year through a structured questionnaire and appropriate remedial measures initiated to improve the quality of the teaching.
- Research culture is promoted and chemistry department is recognized research center.
- Faculties make special efforts to conduct extra remedial class for the needy students.
- The team spirit between the management, teachers, non-teaching staff, students, and parents and alumni is very evident.
- The quarterly and half yearly in-house journals published by many departments are noteworthy.


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### **Section III: OVERALL ANALYSIS**

The college is in a rural area of Kollam District, started by the Devaswom Board with an objective of social and economic upliftment of the poor backward local community.

The College is 41 years of old and has gone through a gradual development process. It has excellent infrastructure and a willing management to provide the needs of the college. The team spirit among the various constituents, the stakeholders, the students is very cordial and positive.

An appreciable feature of the college is the emphasis on spiritual, moral and ethical value, inculcated to the youth through daily prayers and personal counseling. Modern Education Technology is used to the extent necessary, while the teacher is the focal point of learning, giving proper place to the traditional pedagogy.





## Commendations and Suggestions

The Peer Team would like to commend on the following practices in the college:-

- Healthy and cordial relationship between the staff, students and Principal.
- The interest shown by the teachers in conducting remedial classes.
- Excellent performance of the students in university examinations and securing several ranks
- The periodic in-house journals published by many departments with articles by staff, students and some outside experts. Notable ones are.

Vision ----- a quarterly by the college

Alchemi---- biannual by Chemistry department

Zoonpulse---biannual by Zoology department

Bhavana----- By Women's Studies center

Sahithi----- All languages literary Journal.

Thrishna-----Political Science Department journal

Sristi----- Journal of the Malayalam Department

- Department of Chemistry is a recognized research center for PhD. Work.
- Students feed back on teachers performance and students continued evaluation system through tests, assignments and project report writing.
- Active participation of Alumni in promoting placement of students in their industries.



### Suggestions for considerations

- Computer center could be strengthened so as to expose all students to computer skills in phases
- Women students can plan a project to motivate more political participation of women of this area in the state legislature and parliament in keeping with the 100 % literacy record of the state.
- Research potential of some departments like Sanskrit, Malayalam and Physics needs to be paid special attention for further development.
- The digital seminar hall may be equipped better and made usable by all departments.
- The alumni who are industrialists could be encouraged to link up the college to provide an industry – institution interface
- Modern management training could be thought of for the office staff.
- Immediate action may be initiated to submit research proposals to the UGC and other funding agencies.

The efforts of the benevolent management, Principal teaching and support staff in fostering and maintaining an academic atmosphere in this naturally beautiful campus is well appreciated. The Peer Team appreciates the dynamic and committed leadership of the Principal who has created a team spirit among all the constituents in the college. The Peer Team wishes the college will make great strides in achieving its goals and add more courses in the thrust areas of knowledge with the support of the young and dynamic team of management. May this institution grow from strength to strength in its pursuit of excellence and upliftment of the community around.





**Name and Signature of the Peer Team Members**

1. Name of the Chairperson

: Prof. Y. Sarawathy Rao

*Y. Sarawathy Rao*  
14/02/06

Signature

2. Name of the Member

: Dr. G. Packiaraj

*G. Packiaraj*  
14/2/06

Signature

3. Name of the Member Co-ordinator : Prof. Raghavendra

*R. Raghavendra*  
14/2/2006

Signature

Head of the Institution

Dr. B. Janardhanan Pillai, Principal

Signature

*Accepted*  
*Janardhanan Pillai*

PROF. B. JANARDHANAN PILLAI  
PRINCIPAL  
D.R. COLLEGE, SASTHAMCOTTAH.

