

REPORT OF THE PEER TEAM

on Institutional Accreditation of

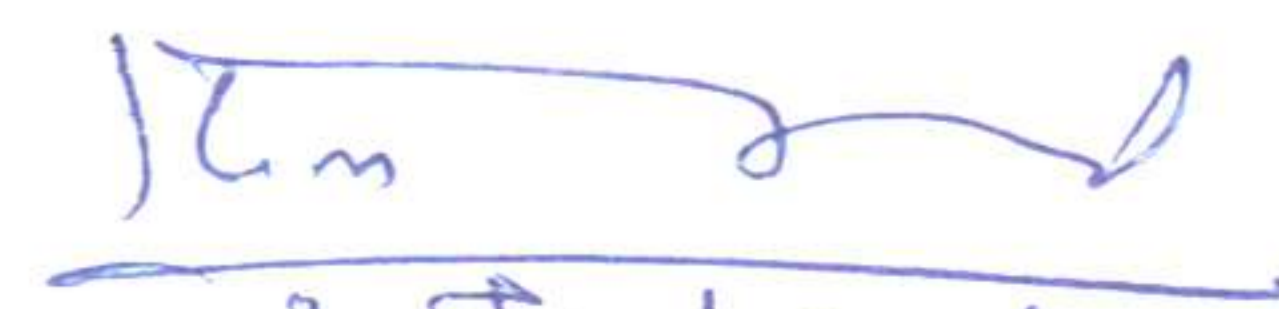
Shrimati Indira Gandhi College

Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu

SECTION 1 : INTRODUCTION

Shrimati Indira Gandhi College, Thiruchirappali was established in 1984 as a self-financing College affiliated to the Bharathidasan University under the auspices of the prestigious National College Council. The objectives of the college are to make women economically independent by providing them with high quality education and also to foster communal harmony. It was one of the two self-financing colleges in the state of Tamil Nadu, which got permission in the year 1984.

The college is located in the heart of the city. The college campus has 3 acres of land where the main buildings, MCA Block, MBA Block, hostel and canteen facilities are provided. The other campus has sports facilities in about 6 acres. There are 13 departments in the college under faculties of Arts, Science, and Commerce. The college runs departments of Fashion Technology and Costume Designing. The college also has a Department of Physical Education which helps


25/12/003

the students for sports. The college conducts 13 under graduate, 9 post graduate, 3 post graduate diploma and 2 diploma courses and 1 certificate programmes. The college also offers facilities for Ph. D and M. Phil research activities. At present 7 scholars are under undergoing M. Phil and Ph. D. programmes. There are 116 permanent and 22 temporary teachers in the various departments. There are 7 teachers with Ph. D, and others have M. Phil and Post graduation as their highest qualification. The number of administrative staff is 13 and technical staff is 43. The college has a central library and separate MBA and MCA library and a computer center.

Shrimathi Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu volunteered to be assessed by the NAAC and the Self-study Report was submitted to NAAC. The NAAC constituted a Peer Team to validate the report submitted by the institution, headed by **Dr. B. Ekbal**, Vice Chancellor, University of Kerala as Chairperson, **Dr. Esther Jayanhti**, Principal, All Saints' College, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala and **Dr. (Mrs.) Meena Chandavarkar**, Principal, SRN Arts and MBS Commerce College, Bagalkot, Karnataka as members. The Peer Team visit was co-ordinated by **Mr. Ganesh Hegde**, Asst. Adviser, NAAC. The Peer Team visited Shrimathi Indira Gandhi College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu from 28th – 30th December, 2003.

The team visit was intended to validate the self-study report submitted by the institution. The peer team interacted with all sections of the teaching, non-teaching staff, parents, alumni and students and also with the management of the college and the Principal. The team was also able to obtain an in-depth picture of the functioning efficiency as well as the views of the different functionaries and the stake holders. During the institutional visit the team examined all relevant records and visited the different departments and laboratories, library, play grounds, canteen, hostels and other student support

CM
35/12/003

facilities. The interaction provided first hand information about the working of these set ups. Based on the information collected, and keeping in mind the declared objectives of the institution and the criteria prescribed by NAAC for institutional assessment, the value judgement of seven criteria arrived at by the team is given below:-

SECTION 2 : CRITERION – WISE ANALYSIS

Criterion 1 : Curricular Aspects

The college has a broad goal of fostering empowerment through relevant women's education. The college has introduced new courses to empower women to meet the ever-increasing challenges of changing times. The focus is on providing education, employment and equality of opportunities to women especially those who belong to the rural area.

The college offers a variety of academic programmes, ranging from UG to PG, including facilities for research. Its Diploma in Fashion Technology, Bio-informatics and Yoga, has added a new meaning and dimension to its efforts to empower the women and to make them self-reliant.

The programmes are not flexible in the sense that the University designs them. But the college seeks the collective view of students, when new electives have to be introduced. Information technology related subjects are offered in all the branches.

The Principal is a member of the Syndicate of the Bharathidasan University. So also, many of the staff members have had opportunities of framing syllabi for

new comers, being on the Board of Examination and being question paper setters and evaluators of the University exams.

Staff has also been actively involved in organizing functions, seminars and workshops and training programmes.

Criterion II : Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

The college follows the syllabus of the semester system prescribed by the Bharathidasan University. The college gives adequate preference to the economically backward and SC, ST students in admission. The post graduate course admission is made based on the marks obtained in the 50% qualifying examination and 50% entrance examination. Though the traditional lecture method of teaching is the dominant position other learner centered methods like brief discussions, use of visual aids in teaching, student seminars / guest lectures and study tours are also followed. Internet facility is provided in the computer centre.

Full time faculty teaches 90% of classes. Students are given a clear idea about the functioning of the college, at the time of admission, covering aspects like syllabus, examination system, and extra curricular activities and project work. Taking regular attendance, keeping a watch on the academic progress and observing their performance in NSS and other activities enable the authorities to monitor the overall performance of students

The college takes special care, to see that competent and qualified staff in sufficient number is appointed, as and when the need arises, though no specific rules are formulated in this regard.

Teachers in the PG departments follow the self-appraisal method, to assess their performance and be guided by the same. The performance and good teaching of staff members is reflected in the examination results. The college keeps a continuous watch over the academic progress of the students through periodical tests and communicates the same to parents. This ensures seriousness on the part of the students to excel. There is a tutor-ward system in the college under which each faculty member is in-charge of a class. Academic, emotional and financial problems of the students are attended to by the tutor and a personal touch between teacher and students is developed. This needs further strengthening.

The post graduate students are doing a project work as part of their curriculum. The students are given guidance and helped to complete the work in a professional way.

The continuous teaching / evaluation process instills a sense of achievement and work satisfaction in the faculty. An open atmosphere exists in the institution in which the staff is encouraged to pursue research and add value to their qualifications.

The principal conducts periodic meetings with the faculty and the students to get their feedback. A number of activities for students like guest lectures, vocational training programmes, celebration of days like World Vegetarian Day, International Women's Day are organized in which teachers are also involved.

Criterion III : Research, Consultancy and Extension

Though teaching is the primary activity, there is an academic ambience in the college to nurture research work. This is achieved through the staff involvement


in the project works of the students. The college is a recognized center for pursuing PhD in Computer Science. The Principal is a recognized guide, with seven scholars doing PhD under her.

The Principal has been playing an inspirational role in encouraging colleagues to do research. However research activities should be given more thrust taking in to consideration the infrastructural facilities available in the institution. Though a few staff members contribute to academic journals a major endeavor has to be taken to further improve the research and publication activities of the faculty.

Staff members are assigned various responsibilities of service activities in the college like NSS, Rotract, Youth Red Cross, Departmental Association and Fine Arts clubs with active participation of a large group of motivated students. The NSS Units together with the Rotaract and the Red Cross have conducted blood donation camps, Aids awareness camps, construction of rural houses, road safety campaigns, computer literacy programmes for rural women etc. Rain water harvesting has also been receiving attention. Thus the college with wholehearted participation of its staff undertakes many extension activities.

It is suggested that the college puts in special efforts to develop effective contacts with industry, which will help in sowing seeds of entrepreneurship in its students. As the college is running self-financing professional courses Industry-Institute-Interaction may be established to devise ways and means for the benefit of students.

There is a good potential to take up consultancy services especially in the Computer Science, Micro-biology, Bio-chemistry and Fashion Technology and Costume designing departments. This could be given thought to by the college,


3/11/2003

which will not only tap the inherent abilities of the faculty, but could also generate revenue for the college.


Criterion IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college campus has 3.93 acres of land where main building consisting of Administrative Blocks, Science and Arts Blocks, two hostels, mess and canteen facilities are situated. The college has a good air-conditioned seminar hall and open air auditorium for curricular and extra curricular activities. The labs are also well equipped. The college has the good infrastructure facilities necessary to carry out its educational and related functions.

The infrastructure is well maintained. Since the day college and evening college run in the same premises, infrastructure is put to the maximum use. The computer Labs are also used extensively by the students even after class hours.

The Library is well stocked with 24,101 books with latest editions. The college subscribes to 168 magazines / journals. The college has also good number of collections of CDs and Floppies. The college has also some video and audio cassettes. It has an advisory committee which takes care of the purchase of books. Book bank facility is available for the students. The library has been computerized for both purchase and issue of the books. The Library and Computer facilities are easily accessible to all the staff and students. The librarian may institute a prize for the good reader for better utilization of the library.

Centers available for different games are adequate. Students have participated and won recognition in areas encouraged by the college.


30/12/003

The college premise have three hostels with adequate facilities. There is also a health center in the hostel. The hostels have good mess facilities that provide a good atmosphere. The college has three well equipped computer labs with more than 500 terminals.

Thus, there is adequate infrastructure and Learning Resources in keeping with the goals and growth of the institution. The infrastructure is effectively used. The Management is always ready to provide the necessary infrastructure for new courses either through lease or outright purchase.

Criterion V : Student Support and Progression

The institution offers good support services to its students. There is detailed information about the courses run, in the prospectus. The prospectus also contains all the necessary information as regards the college.

Financial aid is provided to students through government scholarships and other scholarships and fee concessions provided by private agencies. During the year 2001-2002 the college gave 126 SC, ST students Rs. 3,84,030 scholarships and 1069 students of BC/ MBC/ DNC - Rs. 12,92,792. In the year 2002-2003, 385 students availed the scholarship of SC and ST – Rs. 11,97,246 and 1209 students of BC/ MBC/ DNC - Rs. 15,07,102. Apart from this, the college provides merit scholarships to the students. Many endowment scholarships were also provided. The manangement also gives scholarships and fee concessions to the students.

Teachers help students to understand the various job options available to them. There is horizontal mobility as students who are doing their regular course, can enroll and procure diplomas and certificates at the same time by joining the evening college.

12m
3/12/03

Criterion VI : Organisation and Management

The College is managed by a society "Literary, Scientific and Charitable Societies Act 1860. The general body of the Society consists of 74 persons. The management of the college rests with a committee of 14 persons. The day to today administration of the college is being looked after by the Secretary appointed by the committee.

The college has an internal co-ordinating and monitoring mechanism. The efficiency of the office staff is checked by getting periodical reports from the Non-Teaching staff. The professional development programme for non-teaching staff should be further strengthened. A special committee prepares the academic calendar. The budget is balanced and there is an internal audit mechanism certified by the reputed chartered accountant.

The Management takes care of infrastructure requirements. The management and the Principal works in unison for the implementation of the various developmental activities of the institution. The Grievance Redressal Cell has a box kept in front of the college gate.

The offices and various departments of the institution are governed by the college committee. The college has a preference for old students when it comes to employment. Most of the teachers belong to Tamilnadu.

The management has a vision about the future development of the institution, taking into consideration the goals of the college. The management has assured that the college has a sufficient reserve fund for future developmental activities.

The management also gives scholarships and fee concessions to the poor students, who request for financial help. The management has an extremely cordial relationship with the academic and ministerial staff. An atmosphere of mutual respect and faith prevails in the college.

Criterion VII : Healthy Practices

The institution has evolved several activities based on the institutional objective of empowering the women especially in the rural areas. The institution displays sensitivity to changing educational, social and market demands. A number of activities relevant to the society especially to the women are organized through NSS, Rotaract, Youth Red Cross and Fine Arts Club. The institution promotes community participation and civic responsibilities in their students through the activities of these associations. The college focuses on the overall personality development of the students offering short term bridge courses to increase their communication skills.

One of the major achievements of the institution is the development of computer based learning packages for the physically disabled children and the organization of computer literacy programmes in several villages around Tiruchirappalli.

To realize the set objectives of the college the management should take the initiatives to develop collaborations and linkages with national or international institutions. Good performance of students in university examinations and securing of several university ranks makes the college to stand out from the other colleges.

Though further refinement is necessary, the teacher-ward system implemented in the college gives opportunity for students to seek help from their teachers on various learning and personal problems.

SECTION 3 : OVERALL ANALYSIS

The Shrimati Indira Gandhi College is one of the few women's colleges in Tamil Nadu. This college is unique as its objective is to empower the rural women of the state. With this objective in the mind a relatively low fee structure affordable by the marginalized groups is fixed by the management. The management has also taken steps to offer a number of scholarship endowments to the students coming from the weaker sections of the society. The courses are designed in such a way as to increase the employability of the college students.

Most of the courses offered are related to modern technical areas like computer application and bio-sciences to keep the quality of the education high. Adequate infrastructure facility has been provided in the campus. More than anything else the cordial relationship between staff, students and the management, efficiently nurtured by the Principal, gives an ambience for academic visibility of this college.

SUGGESTIONS

The Peer Team wishes to offer the following suggestions for the further growth and development of the institution.

- Self-appraisal of teachers of under graduate programmes may also be undertaken.

- Programmes for Faculty Development may be organized at the college level and teachers should attend refresher courses.
- Teachers should be constantly encouraged to attend National level seminars as resource persons and as participants.
- A separate room with modern facilities may be provided for the counselling center and a few more teachers may be trained as professional counsellors.
- Programmes in Home Science, Social Work, Nutrition and food processing may be started.
- A staff member may be identified as coordinator to tap funds from various funding agencies like UGC, CSIR, DBT, DST etc.
- Internal Quality Assurance Cell may be established to act as a mechanism to monitor academic and research activities.
- A global skill development programme to further increase the employability potential should be initiated.
- An employment and career development cell may be established.
- A women's study centre focusing on gender issues may also be formed.
- The government may take policy decisions regarding the recruitment and salary structure of the staff of self financing colleges. The University may prescribe the qualifications for the recruitment of academic staff for under graduate and post graduate courses.


The efforts of the benevolent Secretary, Principal, Teaching and Non-teaching staff in fostering and maintaining an academic and congenial atmosphere in the college are well appreciated. The Peer Team appreciates the dynamic and visionary leadership of the Principal Dr. K. Meena and wishes that the college will make great strides in achieving its goals in keeping with its vision in the years to come. May this institution of higher learning, catering primarily to the

K. M. Meena
30/12/2003

rural women students of this region grow from strength to strength in its pursuit of excellence.

Name and signature of the peer team members


1. Name of the Chairperson : Prof. B. Ekbal


Signature: 30/12/03

2. Name of the Member : Dr. Esthar Jayanthi



Signature: 30/12/03

3. Name of the Member : Dr. Meena Chandavarkar


Signature: 30/12/03

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

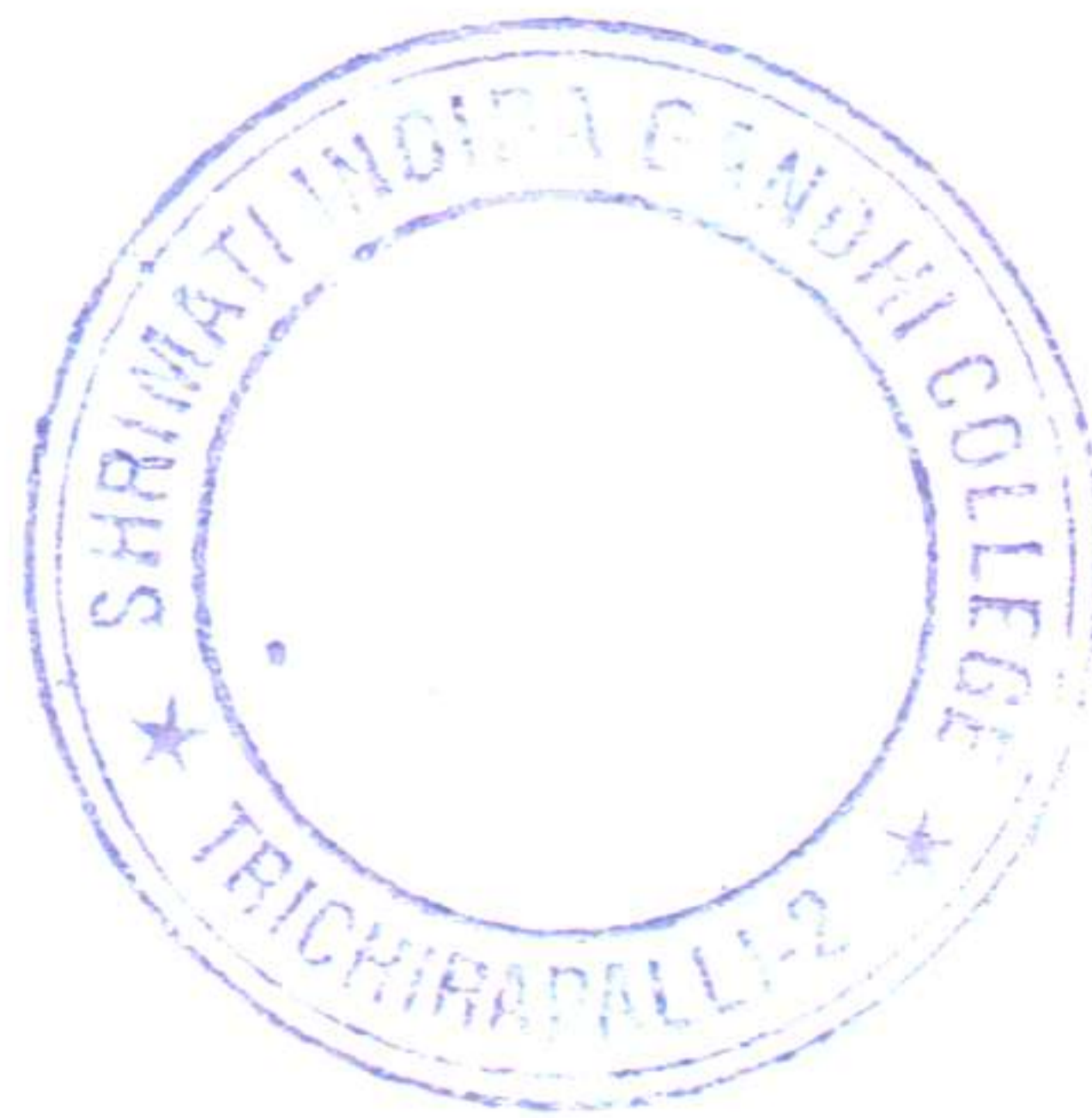
Name & Signature of the Head of the Institution


Dr. K. Meena 30/12/03

Principal

Date : 30th December 2003

Place : Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu



PRINCIPAL
Shrimati Indira Gandhi College,
Trichirapalli-2.