

**REPORT
OF
THE PEER TEAM
ON
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION
OF
KARNATAK UNIVERSITY, DHARWAD
(9TH – 12TH OCTOBER, 2000)**

**National Assessment and Accreditation Council
Bangalore**

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

Karnatak University is a major higher education institution in the State of Karnataka catering to the higher educational needs of people in the north-western part of the State, which formerly belonged to the then Bombay Presidency and the princely state of Hyderabad. Having been founded in 1949, it is also the second oldest University in the state. With more than half a century of existence, the university is proud of its traditions and conscious of the need of modernisation with all round development through its in-built self driving awareness. In the light of this, the institution has volunteered to be assessed and accredited by NAAC and submitted a detailed self-analysis Report to the national agency. Accordingly the NAAC constituted a Peer Team consisting of Prof. Malla Reddy, Chairman, Formerly Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Hyderabad, Prof. A N P Ummerkutty Member, Formerly Vice-Chancellor of Calicut University, Calicut, Prof. Harish K Puri, Member, Professor, B.R. Ambedkar Chair, Dept. of Political Science, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Dr. (Ms.) Mamata Sathapathy, Member, Professor, Dept. of Physics, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.

The Peer Team visited the campus from 9th to 12th October, 2000 for the purpose of Assessment and Accreditation. They visited all the Departments, Central Facilities and other centres like Academic Staff College, USIC etc., at the Head quarters, also the University PG centres at Belgaum and Dandeli. Representatives of Bijapur and Karwar campuses also interacted with the team. The team held extensive discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, the members of the Executive Committee, the faculty, the representatives of the students and non-teaching staff. They also had interactions with other stake - holding groups such as parents and alumni to get detailed information of the various aspects of the functioning of the University. This report is the culmination of the information gathered on the basis of the Self-Study Report and deliberations with the

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various functionaries. It is presented within the framework for evaluation based on the parameters identified by NAAC.

Karnatak University, Dharwad has witnessed phenomenal growth during the last 5 decades of its existence. It has now 243 affiliated colleges of which 77 are professional. The University Campus is located in a sprawling 750 acre greenish, fertile land designed and developed aesthetically. It is also unique in having 5 constituent colleges which are functioning under its direct academic and administrative supervision. It has 44 PG Departments in the main campus, 3 PG Centres at Karwar, Bijapur and Belgaum, 7 Training and Research Centres and a sponsored department at Dandeli.

SECTION 2. CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The University has nine faculties, consisting of 44 Departments. The PG teaching is mainly done at its main campus at Dharwad and three PG centres at Belgaum, Bijapur and Karwar. Some of the affiliated colleges also offer PG teaching. The undergraduate studies are mostly carried out in the affiliated colleges, spread over seven districts of northern Karnataka and its five constituent colleges located at Dharwad.

The various academic programme options include 51 PG courses, 20 M.Phil. courses, 25 diploma and 10 certificate courses. The University has facilities for carrying out research work leading to Ph.D. degree in almost all subjects. The university is to be commended for introducing many innovative/interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary and need based courses like Microbiology, Computer Information Technology, BCA, MBA, MIEB, Pulp and Paper Technology, Mineral Processing and Exploration, Criminology, Gandhian Study, Yoga, Sericulture, Agricultural Marketing, Folk Literature, Art History and Tourism, Women's Studies etc. both in colleges and University. Introduction of courses like Marine Biology including a Fisherman's Guidance Bureau is undoubtedly a novel attempt. Such innovative curriculum of social relevance goes a long way in fulfilling the local needs and aspirations, in addition to fostering higher education.

The University has a well defined mechanism for formulation of curricula through Boards of Studies (BOS) consisting of atleast two subject experts each from other

Universities. It also seeks suggestions from expert Committees and follows UGC directives. Modernization and introduction of new courses are done through these bodies and reviewed by Faculty and the Academic Council (AC) for their implementation. It takes about a year's time to implement a new course from the day of its conceptualization, as it has to pass through strict scrutiny by the Faculty and AC. All departments revise and update their curriculum every three/five years which seems to be a long interval in the light of rapid developments in various disciplines. In this fast changing scenario a quicker mechanism for the revision of syllabi and curricula may be attempted to keep pace with the expanding frontier of knowledge. Semi-professional courses are designed in consultation with the reputed institutions, universities and relevant industries. Adequate options are available in PG courses. In the absence of horizontal mobility between learners' course options, students are not able to make full use of the range of the subjects available in the university. Introduction of suitably evolved credit system and choice of subjects, outside the present combinations would greatly enhance the academic value of the available facility.

Apart from the classroom teaching, 40% of the curricula of the science departments pertains to laboratory work and practical training, which is traditionally followed in most universities in the country. In some of the courses in other departments like History, Archeology, Anthropology, Business Management and Science it is obligatory for the student to undertake projects and field studies.

The university has instituted chairs in subjects of social-cultural importance in the name of distinguished social reformers and philosophers of our country. Besides furthering the knowledge in the relevant areas, it deepens awareness of our heritage and culture among the students. It is heartening to note that the university is exploring the possibility of establishing collaboration in many areas with foreign universities to promote research, teaching and exchange of ideas.

The University has instituted in memory of Dr. D.C. Pavate, the architect of the University a fellowship at the Cambridge-School of International Studies. The scholarship is awarded through a national selection process which is indeed a tribute to Dr. Pavate for his services to the University.

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Criterion II: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

The University is actively engaged in creation and propagation of knowledge through effective teaching and research. Proper admission procedures are adopted to induct deserving students into the university. The fact of the performance of the students in the degree examination cannot be the sole parameter to judge the suitability of students especially in courses like MCA, MBA etc., which are in great demand. For such courses the university is conducting entrance test by an outside agency and interviews for processing admission and for other courses, traditional method is followed.

The introduction of bridge/remedial courses in Communication skills in English for the benefit of students coming from socially and economically disadvantaged sections and for the first generation learners is a significant step which ensures not merely compensating learning opportunities but also equal opportunity for equal success.

The teaching and research programmes of the university are implemented and monitored in each department by the Departmental Council, a statutory body. The university provides a well planned calendar of events at the beginning of the academic year for the regulation of teaching and examination with a time frame. Apart from regular class room teaching, laboratory work, field studies, seminar, group discussions etc. form a substantial part of teaching learning process. In many of the departments, modern equipments like Computers, TV, VCR, Internet and multimedia facilities are used for imparting effective teaching. Students and teachers also extensively use central facilities like Library, Instrumentation Centre, Workshop, Computer Centre, Internet and E-mail for their study and research. Almost in all departments in the faculty of science and a few in the Arts and commerce faculties project work and dissertation form a part of the curricula. Further, Foundation Lecture Series, Memorial and Special Lectures by distinguished scholars of national and international standing are organised to promote all round development of the personality of students. Self-appraisal by the teachers is followed as per UGC norms.

The University follows the annual examination system for the conventional courses and semester system for emerging job oriented programmes such as MCA, MBA, MIEB, M.L.I.C., MSW etc. It is commendable that invariably the examinations are held and results are announced strictly as per the schedule. The University adopts double

valuation system for the PG courses and single valuation system for UG courses. It is worth noting that central valuation system is adopted both for University and affiliated colleges. Provision for re-totaling, re-evaluation, challenge valuation and supply of photo copy of the answer scripts to the students on demand is officially permitted by the university. This mechanism is adopted precisely to make the entire evaluation process transparent and for the redressal of the grievances which normally centre around the traditional examination system in the country – this is indeed a very progressive step. Internet facility is used for publishing results and all aspects of the functions of the exams are fully computerised and degree certificates are laser printed from the current year.

The practice of getting 3 sets of question papers prepared by the paper setters out of which one is selected at random by Registrar evaluation is a rational procedure adopted by the University. In view of the skills required on the part of the students to face written viva-voce examinations for all types of employment, adequate emphasis should be laid on appropriate course design, question patterns and examination system which may develop analytical abilities.

In view of this the University may consider initiating enrichment programmes to train the student for better performance in competitive exams such as NET/GATE/Civil Services. It is also necessary that teachers should be conscious of the academic needs of the students outside the class room teaching / learning climate– lest it is construed as a failure on the part of the faculty in general and the University in particular.

Departmental library is a must in every department to generate necessary academic atmosphere. Most of the departments do not have this facility. So the University should take some steps to strengthen departmental libraries.

It is to be appreciated that during the last 3 years more than 160 teachers participated in Seminars and about 40% of them served also as resource persons. The recruitment procedures of the University are determined by the State Govt. and UGC Rules which ensure to a great extent the induction of meritorious scholars into the faculty. Reservation rules are strictly followed in the appointment of teachers. It is worth mentioning that 90% of the teachers in the Science faculty and 70% in other faculties have Ph.D. degrees. The University is aware of the importance of Faculty Development Programmes, and takes a liberal attitude in granting the teachers various

types of leave to enable them to participate in Conferences, Workshops, Refresher Courses and visit to other Institutions and Universities such as BARC, IUCAA, NCS. The University, provides adequate funds to the departments to organise Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, Orientation and Refresher Courses etc.,

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The faculty members in various departments have established National and International linkages through teaching and research collaboration with various Institutes and Universities in India and abroad such as TIFR Bombay, NEERI Nagpur, ICTP Trieste Italy, Petrologic University of Bonn Germany and University of UTAH during the last three years with an objective of enhancing the quality of teaching and research.

The University encourages teachers to undertake research. The Karnatak University has built up a good research culture and research capability particularly in the Science subjects. Its faculty seems to be inspired to respond creatively to the needs of emerging disciplines, recently introduced in the institution. There are 18 on going research projects, in addition to 29 already completed, funded by major national agencies such as UGC, AICTE, DAE, DST, CSIR, DRDO, DBT, DOE, ICAR, ICHR. The ongoing projects include LASPEC laser spectroscopic studies, genetics, animal behavior, etc. which bear scientific significance. The University is also receiving funding from State Pollution Board, State Forest Department and State Science Technology Council. It is highly appreciated by the Peer Team that many collaborative works have been undertaken by teachers in a number of departments, particularly Marine Biology, Physics, Geology, Chemistry, Paper and Pulp Science, Zoology, History and Archaeology and Anthropology. It is commendable to note that most of the Science Departments have been recognised for special grants from UGC under schemes such as SAP, DSA, DRS and COSIST. The number of students registered for Ph.D. is quite large i.e., 346. Out of them about 100 receive some financial assistance. During the last five years 386 candidates have been awarded Ph.D. degree. However, it is surprising to note that the University with such a research culture does not have any Post Doctoral Programmes. The number of research papers published in national and international journals and conference proceedings during the year 1998-1999 is 271. Though it is a significant

contribution it works out to be slightly less than one paper per person per year. The faculty of the University are taking deep interest in publications and were able to publish 46 books within one year.

On the whole the teachers commitment to teaching and research deserves appreciation in the academic ranks. In addition to such research culture the Peer Team was deeply impressed with the contribution of Prof. Saidapur of the Zoology department, a Bhatnagar awardee. This has brought laurels not only to himself but also to the University.

For co-ordination and monitoring of research programme the University has constituted a Scholarship Committee consisting of senior professors and an Academic Committee consisting of Deans and Co-ordinators of SAP and COSIST.

The Publication Board is a statutory body and provides funds for various types research publications and journals, Ph.D. theses, classical works, special lectures, booklets in Kannada etc. It is gratifying to note that 13 departments of the University have good expertise available for offering consultancy to interested agencies. The University takes care to make due publicity through press, radio and TV announcements etc. It has earned an amount of about 10.11 lakhs of rupees under this programme. This is in conformity with the New Policy of UGC/Govt., which encourages the Universities to generate their own funds through consultancy.

The University has undertaken extension activities under the Prasaranga - a concept conceived by the University for extension programmes. Some of the important programmes under the scheme include arranging lecture series and lecture camps in the rural areas to inform and educate the common mass on various topics of current interest. The Peer Team however feels that this dimension needs to be strengthened and must form a part of the University's strategic plan. The University's Employment Information and Guidance Bureau renders valuable services to the student community.

The university has also signed MOU with some local industries. The M.Sc. tech in Paper and Pulp Science is an excellent example. The course is conducted partly in the campus of an affiliated college, the Arts and Science college at Dandeli and partly in the R&D centre of the West Coast Paper Mills which manages the above college. However the course is designed, supervised and monitored by the University. Since the college is

running a UG programme in the same subject for several years, core faculty is provided by it. Competent guest faculty are made available by the paper industry which also meets a necessary extra cost. Thus the University able to master adequate financial support from a leading paper company to run a highly specialised technology course without extra burden. Though presently only limited number of students are admitted, this University-industry collaborative programme helps to impart high quality technical education to students who in turn could contribute towards upgradation of industrial technology and practices

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The Karnatak University is endowed with an impressive infrastructure for offering its present programmes as well as for its future growth and expansion. It is in possession of a thousand acres of land in Dharwad, 750 acres in the main campus and the rest in the constituent colleges. In addition, it has ample land available in the 3 PG centres of Belgaum, Bijapur and Karwar.

To make it more explicit the number of buildings in the headquarter is adequate for the present needs of the institution. The "Vidhyasoudha" the main building houses several departments such as Maths, Geography, English, Statistics and the entire set of social sciences. Separate blocks are available to many Science departments such as Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Geology, Journalism, Management Studies, USIC etc. Administration (including VC's Office) examination etc., have other imposing structures. Engineering section, Central Workshop, General Services, Student Home, Academic Staff College, IAS Training Centre, Canteen, Health Centre etc., are all given adequate space separately. Additional amenities like Post Office, Bank, Police Outpost etc., are well provided. Students are provided with seven hostels in addition to hostels built by the MHRD for working women. The campus is well-endowed with covered space to meet all its diversified needs and wide range of activities.

Quite a good number of quarters provide residential accommodation to all levels of University employees. The campus is well planned with an aesthetic touch. Gandhibhavan (open air theatre), Manasollasa (Auditorium), Faculty Club, Channamma Auditorium etc., add to the enrichment of campus life.

A good library is the nerve centre of a University. The central library of Karnatak University is housed in a building, built in a lush green surrounding and is well equipped in many respects like books, journals, computer, E-mail and Internet services. It has also facilities like inter library exchange service and photocopying for its users. The budget allocated to the central library is 1.29 crores. The library contains an extensive collection of books covering almost all academic disciplines. It has about 3.7 lakhs of books, journals and back volumes. In the year 1999-2000 the library has purchased 1363 books and subscribed to 462 journals with an expenditure of 73 lakhs. The ratio of library books to number of students comes out to be about 100.

It is worth mentioning that library automation was undertaken in this university with UGC assistance under INFLIBNET programme. An on-line public access catalogue (OPAC) including machine readable catalogue has been installed on which, books, theses and periodical publications are available. Content Page of Periodical in Science and Technology (COPSAT) service is also available on it. It is important to note that the first phase of networking of all Science departments, main building and library is completed and work on the second phase will commence soon. The library advisory committee and library automation committee look after the proper functioning of the library. It has many audio and video tapes, films, CDs. However, access to the library for longer working hours and on holidays is desirable.

It is noted that there is no system of maintaining departmental libraries in the University with a few exceptions such as Management, law, educational. In view of the fact that books have become prohibitively expensive and not within the easy reach of the students, the University may create the departmental library facility.

The university maintains a central computer facility. Presently the computer centre carries out various examination work of the university, pension work and also registration of students. It should be used for the computerisation of the administration and accounts. This facility may also be used to develop computer aided learning packages.

The university provides reasonable health services to its community through its health centre. The health centre offers only the out patient services with 3 medical officers and some visiting specialists. Basic diagnostic facilities and 24 hours ambulance

service are available in the campus. Compulsory annual health check up for students and provision for health insurance for the students, teachers and employees and their family members are welcome features. Weekly visit of the doctors to all the hostels during the examination time is a healthy system. The health centre also maintains the health records of all its employees, students and teachers.

The University may consider giving a further thrust to sports and games in general and the Physical Education Dept. in particular. The Peer Team suggests that the University should allocate adequate finances for organising sports and games and create necessary infrastructure for the training of sportsmen and sportswomen.

The large campus is well managed and maintained by Statutory Body, the Estate Board. There is also a Campus Amenities Committee, which keeps watch over effective use of facilities on the campus and helps the Estate Board. The Engineering wing, Garden Department and Central Workshop are also involved in the upkeep of the campus.

There is a very useful item in the Central Library make namely the United Nation Depository Section, where they get all the publications of UNO, FAO, UNESCO, IMF, World Bank etc., free of charge. This is a valuable collection for research purpose particularly in the field of economic development and related areas.

One of the most useful and functional central facilities of the University Campus is the USIC, which is widely used by research scholars of Science departments. Almost all the servicing and repair works of the university including those of the very sophisticated equipments and electronic gadgets are undertaken by the centre. There are also qualified engineers on USIC staff. USIC also organises outreach programmes for the benefit of laboratory staff of the affiliated colleges. The university printing press and the workshop are worth mentioning. The press attends to all the printing works of the university including examination wing, textbooks and university journals.

The Botanical garden stretching to more than 40 acres of plain fertile land is a particularly notable. It is reported to be second largest of its kind in the country. The garden is very well maintained containing more than thousand species include very valuable medicinal plants. The garden is very useful for many research activities.

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Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The campus experience is normally an outcome of the positive influences and learning climate available in the institution. The various inputs related to health, sports, games, library and recreation create a positive impact on the overall personality development of students. The Karnatak University Campus seems to provide many of these inputs in adequate measure.

The university publishes a prospectus and brochures annually giving details of the academic programmes, course contents, profiles of the members of different faculties, information about the student scholarships, fee concession, infrastructure facilities etc., and make it available to the students.

The pass and dropout rate are important measures of the success and failure of the institution. 80-90% of the students pass in their end examination after a period of two years with a minimum dropout rate of 4 to 9% which is laudable. The regular collection of feedback from students regarding academic and administrative matters is helping in the smooth governance of the University. The participation of the students in the Senate to express their views on various issues pertaining to the progress and development of the university is a very proactive policy.

Financial aids to needy and meritorious students are provided in the form of scholarships instituted by University, State Government and Central Government. Certain percentage of students are also awarded free studentship by the University. Special financial assistance is given to the SC and ST students. To encourage sports and games, some scholarships are also available to the students excelling in sports. It is worth noting that the University has adopted an outstanding sportsperson by extending necessary financial support with view to prepare her for competitions at the national/international level. Number of beneficiaries from scholarships and financial assistance in the year 1998-99 is 1986, which is more than 50% of the total student strength in this university.

The academic and career counselling to the students by the University Employment and Guidance Bureau is available in the campus. An employment cell headed by one of the senior professors, assisted by a placement officer from the state government is helping the students to find suitable job. It is reported that the Bureau also

organises campus interviews by inviting various industries and companies. The employment rate is reported to be more than 50% in science subjects and about 90% in professional courses like MCA, MBA etc. It is indeed heartening to learn that 80-90% of the teachers participate in academic and personal counselling of students.

Some departments have alumni associations through whom they have received some books and equipments such as in Statistics. However the alumni association for the whole university does not seem to be active, nor is it formed in major departments.

The university has shown sensitivity regarding the importance of recreational/cultural/social activities by providing adequate infrastructural support.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

Karnatak University is governed by Karnataka State Universities Act, 1976. The Act has laid down organisational structures, which consist of Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council with specific powers and functions applicable to all other universities of the State. However, the dynamism and imagination in the application of the provisions of the Act may vary depending upon the Vice-Chancellor. The traditions built over the years also play an important role in the overall governance of the University.

Karnatak University has grown under the dynamic leadership of many outstanding Vice-Chancellors who have carved a niche for the institution, both at the national and international level.

As stated in the Self Analysis Report, the university functions with the help of several academic bodies, where powers are well defined in the Karnataka State Universities Act. This not only ensures the effective implementation of the provision of the Act, but also creates a climate of participative democracy in the institution. The various statutes, ordinances, rules and regulations of the University, provide a supportive structure for the organisation and governance. Some of the committees are: guest house committee, international student advisory committee, library automation committee OBC and minority cell, P.G. Centres Committee, University Campus Amenities Committee, SC and ST Welfare Board, SC/ST Cell and Viswachetana (unit for cultural and other activities for the benefit of teaching and non-teaching staff and students). In addition to

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these committees the Syndicate is empowered to constitute sub-committees on adhoc basis for specific purposes.

It is significant to note that to ensure effective and efficient administration, review committees are constituted, which meet regularly to follow up and monitor the functions of the above mentioned committees constituted as per the Act.

It is also important to note that Karnatak University Act provides opportunity for faculty participation in academic financial, and management of the university with a proviso, that the faculty members carry out with out prejudice to their normal activities.

The Departmental Council is an important body and a mechanism for participation of the faculty in the decision making process of their respective departments.

It is evident from the organisational structure that the teaching faculty play a dynamic role in managing, conducting and organising various academic and extra academic-administrative, cultural, sports or any other institutional activity.

The associations of teaching and non-teaching staff are registered bodies recognised by their representation on various committees to ensure a harmonious relationship between these associations and the university administration. The academic planning of various departments is carried out by the respective Boards of Studies, subject to the approval of the Academic Council. Though the resolutions of the Academic Council are final for all academic and administrative purposes they are implemented with the approval of the Syndicate or the Finance Committee. Such an approval becomes imperative for ensuring harmony in the implementation of academic and executive decisions of the University.

The University has created a massive administrative machinery consisting of 1500 persons working in different sections like academic section, examination with 12 sub sections, department of personnel and administrative reforms, development and planning section, finance section, general administration, scholarship section, senate and syndicate section. These units contribute in terms of miscellaneous service not only for the governance of the institution on the campus but also to look after the academic matters of the affiliated colleges outside the campus. The university is able to grow into a leading institution by creating rich physical infrastructure: construction of new buildings,

introduction of new courses, establishment of PG centres within the jurisdiction of the university. The university is also striving to acquire latest facilities in Information Technology and has been able to avail funds from state and national agencies for the purpose.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

- ✓ During the last 5 decades of existence the university has been able to build up some healthy traditions. These include policy issues as well as procedural and administrative matters contributing to the nourishment of a good academic culture in tune with the aims and objectives of the University.
 - ✓ The new guidelines adopted for operation of R&D Grants to remove administrative hurdles in the operation of research projects is a welcome step. The sanction of a one time grant by the Vice-chancellor to a project coordinator with regard to all expenditure is a very healthy move.
 - ✓ The tradition of transparency in the preparation of budget is a healthy practice. The allocation of funds for organisation of seminars and special lectures to each department facilitates academic, curricular and co-curricular activities.
 - ✓ Preparation of a calendar of all activities in the beginning of the year with a definite time frame and its implementation over the year without deviation is worth emulating by other universities.
 - ✓ The concept of "Open House" interaction including students and functionaries of the University with a purpose to receive regular feedback contributes to a culture of harmony and cooperation on the campus.
 - ✓ The policy of imparting communicative skills in English to willing students by the Department of English is a progressive measure.
 - ✓ The policy of supplying photocopy of an answer book for personal verification by the students enabling them to challenge evaluation, though on payment, is a healthy practice.
 - ✓ The organization of foundation lectures by eminent scholars on vital themes of contemporary relevance and the publication of the lectures delivered is a healthy tradition.
- H. M.

- ✓ Regular medical check-up and health care which is in vogue for several years is another healthy practice.
- ✓ The Fishermans' Guidance Bureau attached to the department of Marine Biology at the Karwar PG centre of the University is an innovative useful instrument for giving necessary advices to the local fishermen on various aspects of fishing. The consultative works undertaken by the Bureau as well as their help in soil and water testing are also notable.
- ✓ The University has constituted a Students Grievance Redressal Cell to help the students solve their problems if any.

Section 3. Overall Analysis

Karnatak University was established in the year 1949 through an Act of Bombay legislature in April 1949 which is popularly known as Karnatak University Act 1947. Creation of this prestigious university was an outcome of the demand for higher education under the influence of the growing national consciousness and also on account of popular opinion, insisting on the need for Karnatak University. The University came into existence from August 1949 with Sri R.A. Jahagirdar, formerly judge of Bombay High Court, as the first Vice-Chancellor. Within a period of two months the University moved into Dharwad and was housed in a portion of the government college for men. During this formative stage of the University, the task of framing statutes, ordinances and the regulations of the university were completed and University started functioning in the frame work of these regulations from 1st March 1950, virtually with one research institute and a dozen colleges affiliated to it.

Behind its impressive growth into a prestigious University in the region there were many men of vision and foresight, who guided and nurtured its development. An area of 350 acres was donated in a beautiful ambience at "Chota Mahabaleshwar" by then Government of Bombay, for translating its mission into reality. A master plan for university was conceived and foundation stone was laid by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the then president of India, on 30th March 1951 and the building was declared open by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then vice-president of India, in 1953.

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From its inception the Karnatak University was headed by many outstanding Vice-Chancellors like Sri R.A. Jahagirdar, Dr. C.C. Hulkoti, Dr. D.C. Pavate and many others. By virtue of their rich experience and vision they could transform a single faculty University into a leading multiversity, comparable to other prestigious universities in the country. Significant developments have taken place during the tenure of Dr. Pavate who with his dynamism, wisdom and unique organising capacity, succeeded in converting this institute into a vibrant university and an important centre of excellence. Thus, in a short span of 50 years Karnatak University, emerged into one of the prestigious centres of learning with a tradition of excellence. It is recognised today for its outstanding contribution to knowledge and for social transformation.

The University, at present has five constituent colleges and 244 affiliated colleges. The academic programmes of the University include 44 PG, 17 Diploma, 11 Certificate courses in addition to M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes on its main campus at Dharwad and several other courses at PG Centres at Belgaum, Bijapur and Karwar. The jurisdiction of university extends over 7 districts of Karnataka State – Dharwad, Bijapur, Belgaum, Bagalkot, Gadag, Haveri and Karwar.

Commendations

The Karnatak University, Dharwad has many achievements to its credit and the Peer Team has recorded the University's past glory, continuous contributions to social transformation, its ethos, throughout this report which needs no repetition. However, a few commendations are presented which need special mention.

- ❖ Karnatak University is recognised all over the country for its work ethos, interpersonal relations, general discipline and culture of accountability. During our interaction with several sections of the University community- principals of affiliated colleges, students and alumni, we found that the people of Karnataka hold this University in very high esteem, which is commendable.
- ❖ Karnatak University is actively engaged in teaching, research and extension. University gives equal importance to these three dimensions of University education. In general, criticism that the Universities are institutions operating sitting in "Ivory

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Towers" is not true in the case of this University-which is a commendable achievement.

- ❖ The programmes of the university are designed keeping in view the needs of the region and also with a focus on changing global market employment possibilities. For its future development, the university has conceived a master plan and aims at starting new courses at the cutting edge of innovations - a commendable policy.
- ❖ The faculty members are actively engaged in teaching, research and extension activities. The faculty in general are able to integrate their field experiences with classroom instruction.
- ❖ The Peer Team is impressed with the fact that the faculty of the University are playing a crucial role in realization of historical mission of the University with their identification with their departments and students. Involvement of faculty in policy making bodies of the University and their active participation in planning and important policy decisions is commendable. During our interaction with students and alumni we found that the teaching faculty are working with a sense of conviction and ready to help and guide the students in all their problems - academic and personal.
- ❖ Another important achievement of the Karnatak University lies-in the establishment of 4 PG centres. The concept of PG centres almost in the form sub-campus conceived for benefit of rural students is a very progressive decision. The Peer Team which visited two PG centres i.e. Belgaum and Dandeli was impressed with the quality of work, infrastructure and commitment of the faculty. These centres deserve autonomy not merely to maintain their own distinct identity but also to exercise some freedom in organising academic programmes and other co-curricular activities, for creating social awareness among the people of the respective districts. The Peer Team recommends that the PG centres should be provided with sufficient resources for further expansion and quality improvement. Courses offered in the PG centres like Food processing, Marine Biology, Paper and pulp technology have rendered a special status and image to these PG centres. This is indeed a positive and meaningful expansion.
- ❖ There are 244 colleges affiliated to Karnatak University. The University provides very effective guidance and support for the management of these institutions with a

special focus on quality in teaching learning process, and interpersonal relations. The principals of more than 30 colleges expressed their appreciation for the continuous assistance and guidance they receive from the University in addition to several kinds of material they borrow from the University for enriching their class room instruction and organising extra curricular activities.

- ❖ The University has constituted an advisory committee for the functioning of academic staff college comprising of 12 members from different disciplines including 5 principles of affiliated colleges there is a very sound policy which ensures organising programmes relevant to their respective areas of specialisation and useful to their research and teaching.

Suggestions

- There are more than 3000 students pursuing their studies in 44 departments and the number is likely to increase especially in some courses like MBA, MCA, Microbiology, Food Processing, Marine Biology etc., in the near future. While one may welcome this rise in the student enrollment, particularly in the job-oriented courses, high priority has to be given to quality. Therefore any increase in the student enrolments would require a corresponding expansion of infrastructure in the respective disciplines.
- During the last 50 years of its existence the University has added a large number of disciplines in various faculties especially in Sciences and Liberal Arts. It is necessary to undertake an extensive and intensive academic exercise for restructuring of the courses in conformity with the emerging trends in higher education. The interdisciplinary approach for the pursuit of excellence through research and teaching is imperative. It is therefore crucial that the University organises a special workshop to examine the need for integrating some of the departments into one interdisciplinary area of specialisation. For instance the three existing departments, Psychology, Philosophy and Education can be integrated into one interdisciplinary area for both teaching and learning purposes. Similarly in the case of subjects like Ancient Indian History and Epigraphy and department of History and Archaeology the manpower and other resources can be pooled for optimum utilization.

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- The reconstruction of the University involves a number of challenges arising out of its resource crunch. Infrastructure acquired over the years in the form of building, equipments, class rooms and laboratories etc. may not be adequate enough to meet the emerging academic needs, especially for introduction of innovative job-oriented courses. The trend towards de-valuation of Social Sciences is evident from quality of teaching and research in some of the departments in the faculty.
- The University may consider the provision of continuous assessment and semester system for all programmes. For the successful implementation of innovative improvements, it is suggested that the University may consider the introduction of choice based credit system permitting wider flexibility in the choice of courses, cutting across conventional boundaries of disciplines.
- The growing demand for technical education and new job-oriented courses is also likely to effect the importance of Social-Sciences, in the near future. Therefore the teachers in the Social Sciences should examine this problem and re-construct the curriculum with an in-built opportunity for horizontal mobility in the wide range of courses offered by the University.
- The University is able to keep up its prestige and image despite certain unfortunate political decisions in the recent past. Shifting of some of the important faculties like Engineering and Medicine, in our opinion is injurious to the philosophy of a modern University. These decisions cannot be supported by the academic community. The academic community on the other hand should mobilise popular opinion against such questionable decisions.
- University has demonstrated its considerable ability in maintaining high standards which is evident not only from the fabulous performance of the students in their end examinations but also from the generation of scholars occupying important position in society. The strength of the alumni should be exploited to marshal and manage the financial and professional resources.
- Universities all over the country are experiencing serious financial crunch and many state governments are not in a position to support the needs of higher education. It is crucial therefore that the university should create resource mobilization cell to

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marshal and manage resources by optimum utilization of its physical human infrastructure.

- With a view to match the academic programmes of the University to the extent of resources likely to be available, it may be necessary to scale down some conventional programmes and introduce some new job-oriented courses.
- The University should also explore the possibility of building its resources through a wide range of services, consultancy programmes, international linkages etc. The University can design and offer short term courses for the benefit of in-service employees and generate additional income by charging reasonable fees.
- The growing need for technical manpower is overwhelming. The reality dictates that more and more number of job oriented courses should be introduced by charging reasonable fee applying the principle of "self-supporting courses".
- It is desirable to recruit the faculty members on tenure basis which ensures greater accountability on the part of the faculty. However, the faculty which is a crucial dimension of "University resource" should be protected from any kind of exploitation and oppression. The retention of services of competent faculty must be ensured, based on their performance.
- The University should address the needs for comprehensive faculty improvement activity. The existing Academic Staff College needs to be further strengthened to enrich the teachers professional skills, confidence and their performance. In the context of exponential growth of knowledge, the teachers should update their knowledge from time to time which alone reduces the intellectual gap between present generation of students and faculty in the Universities.
- The University should prepare a strategic plan visualising its future goals and development. While preparing this plan the University should take into consideration the manpower needs of this region and demand for innovative courses which have global employment opportunity. An empirical survey on needs of industry, business, organisations, openings in the State and Central government service plus the projections of World Bank on human resource development shall help in reconstruction of the curricular programmes of the University.

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The University is located in a beautiful ambience where nature blooms in all its glory. We pay our tributes to all those men of eminence who conceived the idea of starting this centre of excellence- Karnatak University though at its inception a small step but with a great vision. We place on record our appreciation to the Vice-Chancellor, faculty, staff, members of the management and students for their total cooperation and support extended to the Peer Team in completing the task of assessment of such a major University.

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