

Executive Summary

Govt. Degree College Sopore is the biggest seat of learning in erstwhile district Baramulla & has played commendable role in the direction of the principles as laid down in its vision and mission document. Since its establishment in 1951, it has produced men of eminence in diverse fields of social life who made a mark in science, arts, literature, commerce & politics. The college started primarily as an intermediate college in 1949 & was shifted from Boys Higher Secondary School Sopore in the present building in 1951 and since then thousands of students have left the college and attained eminent positions in the social mainstream.

At present institution has 3532 students on its roll with 1310 girl students. During the time of turbulence in Kashmir unfortunately the college was consigned to ambers and the entire infrastructure along with a big treasure of valuable books and manuscripts got totally perished. The present main building has been built on the edifice of previous structure & in a way the college had its rebirth & as such is therefore 24 years old. However during the peak of turmoil the academics of the college was not allowed to suffer. Ceaseless efforts have been made to bring back the institution on the rails of academic excellence. Persistent efforts are being made to provide adequate facilities for co & extra-curricular & other extension activities for the development of overall personality of the student.

Besides formal education college imparts skill based and job oriented course at UG level in the form of UGC sponsored Add-On Certificate/ Diploma/ Advanced Diploma Courses. The college has submitted proposal for PG Course in some science subjects Viz. Zoology and is in process of affiliation/approval from academic body. Our endeavor is to take higher education out of traditional contours and make it more job & market oriented, accessible to all segments of society ensuring gender equity and increasing the role of employability by establishing academic-industry linkage in line with the market demand. Our efforts for extension & modernization of existing infrastructure for UG & proposed PG Courses are going on in respect of up-gradation of laboratories, library & smart class rooms.

Criteria Wise Reports

I. Curricular Aspects:

Our institution is basically a government institute, works in the administrative control of the government & academic control of the University. Only those courses are taught which are sanctioned by the government & curricula which are designed by the respective boards of studies constituted by the University. The subjects taught in the institution fall in three broad streams as Science, Arts/Social Science & Commerce & Management. The college does not enjoy autonomy in introduction of a new subject or designing of curriculum. However, University reviews the syllabi & updates it as per the employability of the students. Curricular changes are made on the basis of feedback from students with comments from the board of studies which include college faculty.

II. Teaching Learning & Evaluation:

Since this institution is a state run institutions as such is taking a liberal policy in granting admissions to the students and gives due importance to all categories of members of society- economically weak, differently abled and socially deprived. Due care is taken to cater to the student needs and remedial classes are conducted for non-creamy students. Since the institution is having a rural background and every care is taken to teach them in local language although the medium of instructions is English. College follows a learner centric teaching methodology & has the distinction of following its academic schedule and all activities are planned meticulously. The course work is completed in time and the pedagogy used by faculty members enhances teaching learning process. The teaching & learning is done using audio-visual aids like LCD projectors in some subjects and newly introduced smart boards. The evaluation of teaching is done by the students and continuous feedback from students, helps to improve the teaching methodology on a regular basis. In addition to the classroom teaching, student knowledge is widened by having access to web based resources through broadband connectivity.

Evaluation process includes continuous assessment and mid-term examination, practical examinations and finally annual examinations conducted by the university.

III. Research, Consultancy & Extension:

Being an undergraduate institutions there are no facilities available for research & consultancy services. As such no funds are allotted by the higher education department on this count. However institution has full-fledged research committee comprising of faculty members with additional qualification of M.Phil.& Ph.D.& a sound research background. They motivate the faculty to pursue their M.Phil.& Ph.D. studies through faculty improvement programme. As a part of research activity four faculty members Viz. Bashir Ahmad Shiekh (Zooloy), Feroz Ahmad (Zoology) & Peer Zahoor Ahmad (Physics) and Rehana Abdullah (English) are pursuing Ph.D. under FIP. The concern is to give flip to the research activities. Besides Mr. Tariq Ahmad Wani has also submitted his requisite papers for registration in the Dept. of Botany, University of Kashmir for pursuit of Ph.D. programme under FIP Scheme of UGC. The research committee also arranges for appointment of substitute teachers in place of faculty members under deputation for FIP Programme. It also recommends subscription for few international/national level journals to the library & to the departments.

The committee encourages faculty members & students to participate in national level research paper presentation to do some novel work in their field of interest.

In case of minor/major research projects sponsored by UGC, Principal investigator is given full autonomy with regard to space requirement and other logistic facilities. College is conducting training programme for teachers & B.Sc final year students with an aim to inculcate scientific temperament & research culture among them.

Besides imparting formal education, the college also conducts consultancy service to the nearby schools in imparting basic science courses, computer skills & spoken English. The institution makes its students to reach the community through NSS in addition to the services rendered through Red Cross and Red Ribbon Club. College organizes blood donation camps invariably and good number of blood bottles is contributed by students to the government hospitals of this region.

IV. Infrastructure & Learning Resources:

College has well-furnished class rooms , administrative building , faculty rooms and adequate facilities which include transport, sanitation, water, power supply, medical care, sports facility.

The laboratories of the college are well equipped and language lab., computer lab, tourism lab are the special attractions among all the lab. facilities available for all disciplines. Some of the departments have a separate activity rooms with a smart board and LCD Projector facilities to use information & communication technology effectively in the teaching & learning process. A state-of-art auditorium with about three hundred fixed seating arrangement and inbuilt AV System facilitate conduct of seminars, debates & cultural activities. The college also houses a state-of-art Green House in its botanical garden for growing exotic flora and propagations of medicinal plants, xerophytes & ornamental saplings. A seminar hall fitted with smart board and adequate power backup is used by the departments for purpose of staff meetings & class room presentations.

A spacious building with dimensions of about 300X150 feet is up-coming in the college campus and college plans to shift some departments like Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Travel & Tourism to that building. We also have a multimedia hall for students, placement cell and adequate parking facilities. There are indoor & outdoor sports facilities on the campus for carom, chess, volley ball, badminton, table tennis, football, cricket etc.

A canteen offers very healthy food for students & staff of the college, health care facilities are also provided to the students. Well-furnished residential facilities are provided to the students who are from distant locations to make them feel at home.

College has a library for all its faculties, departments also have their own collection of books in the departmental library. We have more than 35866 books, 10021 reference books, 24 journals/periodicals and magazines etc. It has a facility of automation which helps the students in searching the books and makes it easy to issue/return books. It also has reprography facilities made available to students at reasonable cost. Non-available books are procured immediately by the library staff upon the request of students and faculty.

V. Student Support & Progression:

Goal of Higher Education is not to award degrees only but to develop the students in a manner that they not only have a satisfying personal life but also become fruitful citizens. Therefore , the institution is conscious to provide all round development of students viz. intellectual, moral, spiritual, development of mind and body to disseminate knowledge, promote skills and develop outlook so as to produce persons who are intellectually alert, physically strong , morally upright,

aesthetically sensitive, socially committed & economically self-reliant. Student's skills & talents are exhibited through the opportunities provided to them as extra-curricular & co-curricular activities conducted by the college. Awards are given for performance in cultural activities & the services rendered through the National Service Scheme (NSS) and National Cadet Corps (NCC). To nourish and channelize the hidden intellectual and scholastic aptitude students are motivated to express themselves in college magazine. College provides travel assistance to students for participating in academic activities held anywhere in and outside the state. The academic environment at the college is congenial which makes the stay of students in the college comfortable. College has an alumni association and it has a very good strength in terms of the membership. College is proud of its members & as most of them have excelled in their respective fields. The association is being invited to the college and interaction with the students is being facilitated. The college publishes annual information brochure which enlists information about student services available, subject combinations, policies of admission, fee structure and other features of the college.

VI. Governance and Leadership:

The College is governed by the state government so far as its administration is concerned and academically it is governed by the University of Kashmir. At the college level Principal manages the college with the help of different committees, heads of the departments, coordinator of examination etc. Matters related to finance is decided by the state government. All the requirements in the terms of finance are being discussed in the advisory committee and submitted to the administrative departmental for approval.

A grievance redressal cell is in place which looks into the problems of students and staff and recommends measures to redress the grievances. At the beginning of the session an academic calendar is chalked out and followed meticulously. Routine checks are made to monitor the attendance and working of various departments and any dereliction is seriously viewed.

To groom leadership among teachers various committees are constituted in staff council and seniors are made convenors in order to work for the up-liftment of the institution. This provides them an opportunity to chisel out the leadership qualities inherent in them. Student class representatives are selected and they act as ambassadors of their respective classes. Leadership qualities in students are also developed through the activities like quiz competitions, class

seminars, debate competitions and subject/educational tours. Operational autonomy is given to all the departments to decide their internal affairs without deviating from the regulations of the college.

VII. Innovative Practices:

College is environmentally conscious & in order to ensure college campus is eco-friendly, most of its area has been covered with plantation of perennial avenue trees, ornamental saplings and enrich its aesthetic look. Department of Environmental Science organizes several sensitization programmes on the eve of World Environmental Day. Green March, Painting/on spot essay competitions, campus cleaning activities are organized to sensitize student community about conservation of nature& natural resources.

The assessments such as student evaluation based on the feedback given by the students is given due weightage by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell to ensure quality in the institution. Since the college has three vibrant NSS Units, community social service is being undertaken by them to reach to the needy persons and sensitize them regarding their role in keeping the environment neat and clean.

While summing up the entire presentation of the SSR of the institution one can easily say that college is on the road for achieving academic excellence although it is still very tough & tortuous. We at Degree College Sopore look forward for the cross fertilization of ideas when the team experts from NAAC visits our campus for inspection & review. We look forward to improving further to benefit all stakeholders.