

DRAFT REPORT

ON

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

OF

SRI AKILANDESWARI WOMEN'S COLLEGE

WANDIWASH - 604 408

Thiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu

Visit Dates: 28th and 29th January 2006

National Assessment and Accreditation Council

Bangalore

**Assessment report for Institutional Accreditation of
Sri Akilandeswari Women's College, Wandiwash, Tamil Nadu**

Section 1: Preface

Sri Akilandeswari Women's College started in 1995 as a self financing institution was formerly affiliated to University of Madras and got affiliated to the Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore since 20.08.2002. The college is the first self-financing women's college in Thiruvannamalai District. It is situated in the rural area of Wandiwash on a 12 acres campus. The college was started with the objective of upliftment of rural girls from poverty and ignorance through higher education. It was started with four undergraduate courses and 35 students. Subsequently six undergraduate, six postgraduate and two certificate courses were added.

The college offers undergraduate programmes in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Nutrition Food Service Management & Dietetics, Computer Science, Computer Applications, Tamil, Commerce, Mathematics, Botany and Physics. The college also offers postgraduate teaching programmes in Biochemistry, Microbiology, Information Technology, Commerce, Bioinformatics and Mathematics. Short term certificate course in Computer Applications, Spoken English and Baking Technology are also offered. The College has 19 permanent and 43 temporary teachers, 39 administrative and six technical staff. There are 930 students in undergraduate, 94 in postgraduate and 429 in certificate courses pursuing their study in the current academic year.

The total number of working days in the last academic year was 193 for I year and 233 for II and III year students. The College has Annual system for the undergraduate and some of the PG courses and Semester System for M.Sc. in Bioinformatics and Information Technology programmes. The college has Central Library, Hostel facility, Health Centre, Sports facilities, Co-operative stores and Grievance Redressal Cell. The unit cost of education with salary component is Rs.5,918 and Rs.2467 without salary component.

Sri Akilandeswari Women's College volunteered to be assessed by the NAAC, Bangalore and submitted its Self Study Report. A Peer Team was constituted by the NAAC to visit the institution and validate the Self Study Report. The Peer Team consisted of Prof. P. Geervani, Former Vice-Chancellor, Sri Padmavathi Mahila Vishwa

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Vidyalayam, Tirupati as Chairman, Dr. S. Ramesh, Dean, Faculty of Commerce and Management, Mount Carmel College, Bangalore as Member and Prof. P.P. Mathur, Professor & Head, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Coordinator, Bioinformatics Centre, School of Life Sciences, Pondicherry University as Member-Coordinator. The Team visited the college on 28th and 29th of January, 2006.

The Peer Team examined in detail the infrastructural facilities available in the College, curricular and co-curricular programmes and the various aspects of the functioning of the institution. The Team also interacted with the Governing Body of the college, the Principal, Students, Teaching Staff, Non-Teaching Staff, Parents and Alumni of the College and elicited their views on the facilities and the functioning of the College. In addition, the Team also examined all the relevant records and paid visits to the different constituents of the College. Based on the above exercise, and the seven criteria identified by NAAC, the assessment of the institution is presented in the following sections.

CRITERION 1: CURRICULAR ASPECTS.

Sri Akilandeswari Women's College, even though affiliated to Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore, has been following courses of studies prepared by the respective Boards of Studies and approved by the Academic Council of University of Madras under the direction of Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore. The college offers ten courses in undergraduate and six in postgraduate courses. During the last three years the college started UG courses in Mathematics, Botany, Tamil and Physics and Commerce and PG programme in Mathematics. There is no provision for horizontal mobility or flexibility. However, the students can opt for certificate courses along with their undergraduate and postgraduate courses. The Boards of Studies are yet to be constituted by Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore. The Departments conducted a few activities like seminars, fairs, science exhibition and special lectures for the benefit of students.

CRITERION II: TEACHING-LEARNING AND EVALUATION

Admissions to the various courses of study are done on the basis of their academic records. Although it is a self-financing college, it has followed the rule of reservation for admission into all courses and has maintained transparency. The college

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provides some remedial courses in the form of extra coaching to the educationally disadvantaged students. One period is allocated for every subject in a week to conduct examination in the course covered in the week. Monthly tests, terminal examinations and model examinations are conducted. A few departments supplement teaching with field work, project work, seminars, assignments and group discussion. The college had 193 teaching days in the I year and 223 teaching days in II and III year. Full time faculty teaches one hundred percent of the classes. The college has recruited 37 teachers during the past two years on contract out of its own resources.

The college has young but qualified faculty to handle various teaching programmes. Out of a total of 62 faculty members two have Ph.D. and 31 have M.Phil. degrees. About thirty percent of the staff is qualified as per the UGC norms. The peer team observed there is a lot of turn over of staff every year; including the Principals. The staff student ratio is 1:17 and average work load of teachers ranges between 16 and 22 hours per week. Few teachers have participated in National/ State level Seminars and a few have acted as a resource persons. Three faculty members have attended orientation courses this year. There is an informal mechanism of performance appraisal of the faculty. The results of the University examinations are used as indicator of teachers' performance. Feed back from students has been collected and analysed by the heads of the departments. The results of feed back have been brought to the notice of the teachers. The faculty is provided incentives in the form of gift every year if the result in the subjects taught is one hundred percent. The learning experience of students is also collected to be used as performance appraisal method from the current year. Many teachers are serving on various committees of the college.

CRITERION III: RESEARCH, CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION

The college is chiefly an undergraduate college and postgraduate programmes have been added during the last five years. There is more thrust on teaching and extension than research. The college is not a recognized centre for Ph.D. The culture of research has to take off in this young college. Two of the faculty members have Ph.D. and 31 have M.Phil. degrees. Currently two and twelve faculty members are registered as Part-time Ph.D. and M.Phil. scholars, respectively. A few of the faculty members have research publications before joining this institution. The college is yet to take up any consultancy services.

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Extension activities are mainly through NSS programme. Some of the extension activities conducted are Medical Camp, Blood Donation Camp, AIDS Awareness Campaign, Health and Hygiene Awareness, Environment Awareness campaign, Adult Education and Literacy. In addition First Aid Training, Eye Donation Awareness and Tsunami Relief programmes were also conducted. There are two Programme Officers for coordinating these activities. Population Education, Human Rights and Adult Education Clubs are functioning in the college. Some of the extension activities are worked out with Lions Club and Youth Red Cross. Since the college is located in rural area and also the students are drawn from rural area extension activities are carried out with utmost interest, which is commendable.

CRITERION IV: INFRASTRUCTURE AND LEARNING RESOURCES

The college is situated in 12 acres of land in the rural area of Thiruvannamalai District. The total built up area is 6000 sq m. The college has spacious and well planned and furnished classrooms, lecture halls. The laboratories are also well equipped to meet the needs. The Management plans for further expansion of the buildings by way construction of a PG block and a Hostel. A civil engineer and a maintenance manager maintain the buildings. The college optimizes the use of classrooms and also allows use of its facilities by external agencies. The campus is maintained clean, green and tidy. The college has good dormitory accommodation for UG and PG students which can accommodate about 250 students. However, the kitchen and dining areas need some improvement. Facilities for indoor and outdoor games are, provided. Many students participated in intercollegiate sports such as Volley Ball, Shuttle Badminton, Kho Kho and Chess. However, it needs to further strengthen sports activities. Coaches for a few select games may be appointed as there are well laid out courts.

The Library with 140 sq.m. area holds about 4300 volumes. The reading space is only adequate for fifty students. The library subscribed for 32 journals and 30 popular magazines during the present academic year. It is suggested that computers are made available to the library and availability of information through electronic resources and internet be encouraged. The library is open between 9:00 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. on all the working days except holidays. The students are issued books for two weeks. A common

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generator for power back up and an ISDN internet connectivity is available on the campus. A water treatment plant is installed to reuse the waste water for garden.

The College has about 60 computer systems in the Department of Computer Science. A Certificate Course in Computer Applications is offered to all the non-computer science students. Computer literacy is offered to teaching and non teaching staff. The Office and Library needs to be computerized. The peer team observed the use of computers by faculty to be less.

The college has First Aid facility. A Medical Officer visits the college once a week and medicines are supplied to the students free of cost. A general and stationery store is also available on the campus. Transport facilities are provided for day scholars to travel to college from far off villages on payment. This facility seems to cater to the needs of students coming from remote areas.

CRITERION V: STUDENT SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION

The college prospectus is revised and printed every year which provides necessary details for the benefit of students. It contains all the essential information needed by the students like the details of courses offered, eligibility criteria, admission rules, fee structure and hostel related information. The drop out rate in UG courses in the past years have been around 13%. During the last year average pass percentage in UG and PG classes were 78 and 73 percent, respectively. Some of the departments have achieved hundred percent pass. There is a formal system to record the students' progression. The college has recently formed Career Guidance and Placement cells and has invited experts to talk to students on career guidance. Career oriented courses are conducted in the campus. Tutorial system is adopted in which personal and academic counseling is provided to the students. The college needs to bring potential employers to the campus and also restructure the placement cell. This was also expressed by the students.

The college has facilities of indoor and outdoor games. It encourages some co-curricular activities. Most students have to travel 2 hours by bus, and with parents keen on students returning home soon, time is seen as a major constraint to promote co-curricular activities.

There is an Alumni Association which keeps the records of past students. The Association has contributed books for Library, a rolling shield for the best outgoing student and free noon meal for select economically weak students. It is suggested to further strengthen the activities of the Association.

The College helps students to receive several scholarships and financial aids. In 2004-05 about 300 students received BC and MBC scholarships. About 160 students claimed SC/ ST scholarships provided by the State Government. Seven students availed of loans from Adi Dravidar Welfare Office. The management provides monetary incentives to the first year UG students who have secured more than 1000 marks out of 1200 in their higher secondary examinations.

CRITERION VI: ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The college has a Governing Body which takes all the major decisions. The peer team was informed that university is yet to nominate a member on the Governing Body. The College Council, comprising of Principal and all the Heads of the Departments, coordinates and monitors the academic affairs of the college. The administrative office, under the directions of the Principal helps in managing day- to-day affairs of the college. There are internal audit and grievance redressal mechanisms. Financial management is satisfactory.

The permanent staff has PF facilities. Loan facility is available after seven years of service. Rent free accommodation is provided to the staff residing in the hostel.

CRITERION VI: HEALTHY PRACTICES

The peer team during its visit to the college identified some specific features, which have contributed to the quality of education.

- Special care of the marginalized section of students and provision of scholarships
- Organization of Yoga and Personality Development programmes
- Organization of seminars, quiz and competitions
- Good interaction between students and teachers
- Transparent internal examination system

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- Inculcation of a sense of social commitment and discipline through co curricular and extra curricular activities
- Facility for poor students to pay tuition fee in installments
- Transport facility for the students and staff coming from distant villages

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The peer team after going through the self-study report and after its visit to various academic, infrastructural and support facilities appreciates the progress of the college in a period of ten years. It is noticed that the college is committed to the cause of empowerment of rural girls through access to higher education enabling them to be intellectually enriched, socially responsible and to constantly striving for professional growth. The college emblem carries the hymn “Let noble thoughts come from every side”. This speaks of the aims, objectives and philosophy of the college.

The peer team feels that there are many features of the college that deserve to be commended. At the same time the team would like to bring to the attention of the appropriate authorities of the institution certain concerns for their consideration and necessary follow up action. One of the constraint seem to be difficulty in getting experienced staff and their retention because of the location and the policy of management to recruit only women for teaching positions.

COMMENDATIONS

- Commitment of members of the management to the cause of rural girls
- The discipline and the desire to learn on the part of the students
- Transparency in the administration of the various wings of the Institution
- Motivation given to the students to participate in relevant extension and awareness programmes
- Introduction of tutorial system to help the students to improve their academic performance
- Appreciable student support
- Introduction of spoken English course to improve communication skills
- Good infrastructure facility

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- In the changing scenario of higher education the college may explore the possibility of introducing more diversified job oriented course options suited to rural girls
- The college should try to get UGC recognition under 12B and 2f and needs to get benefit of financial support available from various funding agencies
- ✓ ➤ Staff needs to be exposed to other colleges and universities by way of participation in summer institutes seminars etc. They may also be motivated to pursue their Ph.D and take up research projects from funding agencies.
- The library needs to be expanded and strengthened with more number of text books, journals and periodicals.
- Construct additional hostel in view of demand from students
- Activities of games and sports need be encouraged by providing special coaching
- ✓ ➤ Providing facilities to train students to do well in various competitive examinations
- ✓ ➤ Facilitate innovative and interactive teaching methodologies
- Innovative resource mobilization
- The college may also consider enhancing the utilization of computer facilities and computer education in a more comprehensive manner as computers are the contemporary and future technology in which students will have to work.
- ✓ ➤ Appraisal of faculty, staff and students need to be introduced and documented in a more comprehensive manner for better judgment and assessment of the human resources of the institution.
- ✓ ➤ A goal oriented approach to the various departmental extension activities may be envisaged.
- Placement and counseling cells to be established
- A STD phone facility may be provided in the campus
- ✓ ➤ The college council may ascertain feasibility and viability of new ' courses before their introduction

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The Peer Team thankfully records its appreciation for the cordial cooperation extended by all sections of the college during the Assessment exercise

Names and Signatures of the Peer Team Members:

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Prof. P. P. Mathur

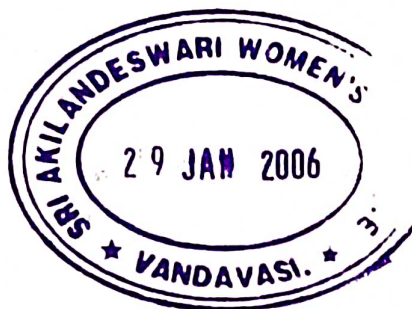
P. P. Mathur
29/1/06

Dr. S. Ramesh

S. Ramesh
29/01/06

I have read the report and agree with it.

January 29, 2006



Dr. Brinda Ramachandrar
Dr. Brinda Ramachandrar
Principal
Sri Akilandeswari Women's College
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