

**DRAFT PEER TEAM REPORT
ON INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF
PERIYAR UNIVERSITY
SALEM
TAMIL NADU**

21st – 23rd March 2007

National Assessment and Accreditation Council

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Section – I Preface

Introduction

Periyar University is named after the famous social reformer "Thanthai Periyar". It originated from the Post-Graduate Extension Center of Madras University functioning from Salem with only three departments namely, Commerce, Geology and Mathematics. This University was established by the ACT 45 of Government of Tamil Nadu in 1997. The UGC granted 2f status on 9th March 1998 and 12B status on 17th May 2005. This is an affiliating University covering socially, and economically backward districts of Salem, Namakkal, Dharampuri and Krishnagiri. The objective of this University is to develop value based education with the mission "Wisdom maketh World". It has 110 affiliated colleges, out of which 3 are autonomous colleges.

The University offers 14 programmes in Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in its Post Graduate departments. It is also offering 10 off-campus programmes in innovative and job-oriented areas. The University offers 40 programmes in Under-Graduate (UG) and 46 in Post-Graduate (PG) levels through its affiliates. Besides 15 Certificate, 11 Diploma, 17 M.Phil and 16 Ph.D programmes are also offered to the students. There are 69 permanent and 16 temporary faculty members. Out of the permanent faculty 50 are Ph.D holders. From amongst the temporary faculty members 5 possess Ph.D degree and 13 are M.Phil degree holders. The University has 45 non-teaching, 6 technical and 360 NMR personnel. The total strength of students is 64500 in UG and 608 in PG.

The University has developed administrative and academic infrastructure facilities within a short span of its existence. The sustained effort of the University in this regard is reflected in the process of construction of 6 new buildings, some of which are nearing completion. The University is gradually developing a good culture of teaching and research. ICT supported teaching are taken recourse to by some of its teachers. Some teachers are engaged in research and consultancy services. The Economics and Commerce departments have earned Rupees five lakhs and Rupees one lakh respectively from consultancy services in the last academic session.

There are 24 ongoing research projects with a total outlay of Rs.1,46,62,900. The teachers of the University have published 287 papers / articles in national and international journals as well as 12 books. The University has a central library, which is



computerized and is equipped with reprographic and internet facilities. The library has 30655 books and it is subscribing to 151 journals, magazines and periodicals. 1237 back volumes of journals and 651 CDS/DVD are available in the library. The University has support services like teacher and officers quarters, hostels for boys and girls, canteen, transport facilities and play ground. The University is a surplus budget institution. The Unit Cost of education including salary component is Rs.74,389 and excluding salary component is Rs.39,860 only. The University has established a Distance Education Centre in a separate building. The Distance Education System has 310 centres throughout the country and abroad in Kuwait and Dubai. The programmes offered through the Distance Education Centre do not come within the purview of this accreditation as they are under the ambit of the Distance Education Council.

The University volunteered to be assessed and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and submitted its Self Study report in January, 2007. The NAAC constituted a peer team consisting of Prof. Anand Deb Mukhapadhyay, Former Vice Chancellor, VidyaSagar University, Midnapur (W.B.) as its Chairman, Dr. S.N. Ramaswamy, Former Professor, Department of Botany, University of Mysore, Karnataka, Prof. J.K. Mohapatra, Department of Political Science, Berhampur University, Berhampur, Orissa and Prof. S. Kumudhavalli, Dean, College Development Council, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai as its members to validate this Self Study Report and assess the institution. Dr. Latha Pilai, Advisor, NAAC coordinated the visit and assessment process. During its visit from 21st to 23rd, March, 2007, the peer team examined in detail the performance of the institution, visited the Departments and facilities and interacted with the Vice-Chancellor, Syndicate, Registrar, Finance Officer, Controller of Examinations other officers, Principals of affiliated colleges, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, alumni and went through all relevant documents, to gain deeper perspective of functioning of the University. On the basis of this exercise the team presents the following report.

Section II: Criterion Wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The institution offers courses in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Geology (M.Tech in Applied and Exploration Geology), Food Science, Biochemistry, Computer Science. Tamil, Economics, Business Administration, Education and Commerce (M.Com and M.Com in Computer Applications). It offers 38 programme options. Twelve inter/multidisciplinary programmes such as M.Sc. in Biochemical Technology, Bio-Medical

Instrumentation, M.Sc. in Biotechnology, Industrial Microbiology, Information Science and Management, M. Com. Computer Application, M. Com. Corporate Secretaryship, MBA (International Business) etc are offered by the University. The University follows semester pattern for both UG and PG courses. The courses are in CBCS pattern. The PG courses offered in the University departments are in modular form. In 12 such courses assessment of teachers by students is introduced. During last five years 14 programmes have been introduced. It is worth mentioning that major syllabi revision has been done in 26 subjects with active participation of faculty members in the year 2005 – 2006. The syllabi were updated keeping in view the UGC and AICTE guidelines. The Standing Committee on Academic Affairs takes care of the standard and utility of the courses. It takes at least one academic year for the institution to introduce a new programme after it is conceptualised. The University may consider including experts from the industry and corporate houses in the Board of Studies as members. For curricular revision feed back is received from the stake holders in an informal way. It would be better if the University develops a mechanism to receive feed back from the stake holders, academic peers and employers for review and redesigning of the syllabi and also for introduction of new courses.

The University has clear goals and objectives to (a) offer programmes in specific and need-based courses, (b) take efforts to make the students self sufficient, and (c) design curricula to ensure that the students are equipped to face the global challenges. It gives special attention for self-development, national development and access to disadvantaged community in academic curricula and programmes. It has introduced inter/multidisciplinary courses on Human Rights, Environmental Sciences, Human Resource Management and Development and Computer Application. Through its curriculum, the University is encouraging value education as well.

There is flexibility in the academic programmes and as a result, a student while pursuing a programme in the formal system can simultaneously pursue another course in Distance learning. Another aspect of academic flexibility is demonstrated by the departments where remedial courses are arranged for slow and disadvantaged learners through counseling. The University has recently introduced students' feed back system regarding teaching and learning. Each student has to do project work as a part of skill development. The programmes and courses offered by the institution are in conformity with its mission and goals.

Criterion II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

There are 73 regular teachers, 45 non-teaching, 6 technical staff and 360 NMR in the University. The total working days of the University during the last academic session was 200, out of which 180 were teaching days. The students are admitted in different courses on the basis of marks obtained by them in the qualifying examinations and for professional courses through the entrance tests conducted by the State Government and group discussion and viva at the University level. The reservation policy of the State Government is strictly followed in case of admission of students. One per cent of the seats is reserved for students having proficiency in athletics and sports. The University offers a bridge course but is yet to offer separate courses for advanced learners. The University prepares an academic calendar for both the University departments and the affiliated colleges and it is strictly adhered to.

While the lecture method of teaching is followed in most of the departments, few others use group discussions, case study, student seminars, projects, industrial visits and internship programmes to make teaching and learning more innovative and effective. The teachers of some departments use ICT aids during their class room lectures. In addition, there is also a tutorial system where a tutor serves as the counsellor for 5-6 students. The tutor monitors the performance of students and gives necessary academic and personal guidance.

Teachers are recruited by duly constituted selection committees and following UGC guidelines/State Government rules. The student : teacher ratio is 9 : 1 and the teaching : non-teaching ratio is 2 : 1. Seventy three percent of the teachers have Ph.D and Eighteen percent have M.Phil qualifications. The University makes efforts for Faculty Development. by (a) permitting teachers to participate in national and international seminars/conferences/workshops and (b) allocating funds for organising seminars/conferences/workshops. Twenty two teachers have availed of Faculty Development Programmes. The University has organised 8 seminars and 3 R & D programmes. Sixty two percent of the faculty members have served as resource persons in seminars/conferences/workshops and most of the teachers have attended/presented papers in seminars/conferences/workshops.

The University has introduced the Choice Based Credit System and students' performance is monitored through (a) periodical tests, (b) rigorous seminars, (c) assignments, (d) mini projects, and (e) end semester examinations. The evaluation system in the University is centralized and double evaluation is followed in all PG courses. A striking feature of the University is the publication of results within a month from the completion of examinations.



There is provision for supplying the students with a photocopy of the answer scripts after publications of results as part of transparency of evaluation. The examination system is fully computerized. The students are informed about the evaluation system at the beginning of the academic session. The University has a mechanism of evaluating teaching through performance reports obtained annually from teachers. On the whole, the teaching learning process of the University helps in developing the core competencies of the students.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

Seventy three per cent teachers are Ph.D degree holders and Eighteen percent have M.Phil qualifications. The University has a Board of Research Studies consisting of senior most professors and experts from other universities. The University promotes research activities by providing funds and facilities for research. It also encourages research at PG level where research projects are compulsory. The PG students also interact with industries and scientific laboratories for carrying out their project works. In addition to this the University has provision for 48 fellowships which span over all its departments. The University has identified some research institutes for undertaking research activities. An important feature of the University is the creation of research laboratories viz. (a) single crystal x-ray laboratory, (b) laser laboratory, (c) IBM work station for corrosion studies, and (d) providing data to Chandrayan and a moon vision project for ISRO.

The research output of the University is well reflected in its ongoing research projects as well as publications by the teachers. There are 24 ongoing research projects with a total outlay of Rs.1,46,62,900. The teachers have published 287 papers/ articles in national and international journals and also published 12 books. Some teachers/departments have established collaborative linkages for teaching and research with national and international institutions, such as Hungarian Academy of Sciences, ICCP Italy, Marx Plank Center, Germany, IGCAR, Kalpakam, JNC SAR, Bangalore, IUAC, New Delhi, DRDO Chandigarh, IIT Chennai and IIT Mumbai. Two teachers from Biochemistry department have received DST Young Scientist and DBT overseas Awards. One teacher of the Geology department is a reviewer of the Journal "The Researcher". Another teacher from Mathematics department is Editor of Far East Journal of Applied Mathematics. Commerce and Economics departments offer consultancy services. During the last academic session, the Departments of Commerce and Chemistry have earned Rupees five lakhs and Rupees one lakh respectively from consultancy services.

The University, through its affiliated colleges, offers various types of extension and outreach activities through the NCC, NSS, Youth Red Cross Society and Red Ribbon



Club. NSS is conducting literacy programmes, health & hygiene, community services, village reconstruction, mass tree planting, environment protection and social awareness programmes. The NSS has contributed in building social assets like check dams, water tanks, bus shelters, desilting of ponds, white washing of school buildings, sanitary latrines etc. The NSS volunteers donate blood regularly and the University has published a three volume Blood Donors Directory. The NSS has also adopted 110 villages for conducting awareness programmes about health and hygiene, girl child education, women empowerment, self help, skill development etc. NSS volunteers also participate in communal harmony programmes. The Red Ribbon Club has campaigned for awareness about HIV/AIDS/STD. The extension and outreach activities of the University are impressive, however there is further scope for improvement.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning resources

The University is situated in a rural setting with a campus area of 98.46 acres of land. The built in space in the University is 36,360 square metres. The offices of the Vice chancellor, Registrar, Controller of Examinations and Finance Officer are situated in the main block of the campus. In another three blocks there are 27 class rooms, 21 faculty rooms and 15 laboratories. The University is developing its infrastructure facilities keeping pace with its academic and administrative requirements. The University from its own funds has started the construction of two science blocks, students amenities centre, central library, sports complex, University guest house and construction of the auditorium is in progress with support from the State Government. The students of the University have contributed Rupees Seven lakhs for the construction of the Students' Amenities Centre. The maintenance of the buildings of the University is taken care of by SPWD.

The University library has a carpet area of 2590 sq.ft with a seating capacity of 80 students and teachers. It has 30655 books, out of which 25954 are text books and 1046 reference books. The Library subscribes to 22 magazines, 113 current journals, 12 foreign journals, 1237 back volumes of journals and 651 CDS/DVDS. It has also reprographic and internet facilities. On an average 350 students and 43 faculty members are visiting the library every day. There are departmental libraries. The library services are computerized. The University has signed MOU with INFLIBNET, ERNET of UGC for setting UGC INFONET connectivity in order to have access to more than 4450 full text of on-line journals. The library is open 9 hours/day and its total number of working days is 343. The Library Users'



Committee performs the advisory role of budget allocation for departments, procuring books and upgradation of library facilities.

There are computer facilities in all the departments as learning resources. The University has 7 computer terminals, and one server. The setting up of central computing facility is in progress with UGC support of Rs.36.5 lakhs. All the departments are equipped with OHP, LCD and other teaching aids. There are seminar halls in the University. The University has sufficient number of vehicles and is well connected with public transport facilities. The University has residential facilities for students with one hostel for boys and another for girls. The efforts of the University in developing its infrastructure in a planned and phased manner, incorporating latest architectural and landscaping trends needs special mention.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The total strength of students in PG, M.Phil., and Ph.D levels are 608 (385 female), 127 (59 female) and 154 respectively. Only 7 students are from other States in PG, 1 in M.Phil. and 1 in Ph.D levels. The students generally come from backward classes like SC, ST and OBC. One percent of the seat is reserved for students showing proficiency in sports. The drop out rate of students is only 2%. The success rate of the students is high. Two students have passed NET and 3 in SLET examinations. A good number of students move for higher studies while others undertake either professional courses or join services. The University annually publishes the updated prospectus and students' handbook containing details of University programme options, CBCS pattern and calendar events.

The University offers financial assistance to students through endowments, free studentships, Government. scholarships and loan facilities. It provides scholarships and free studentships to SC/ST students. The University has a Placement Cell and through its recent efforts 64 students were recruited through campus interview. The Cell may have to be further strengthened and its activities made more visible on the campus. The University presently has a temporary canteen facility and the proposed Students' Amenities Centre has provision for a modern cafeteria.

The University has in the recent past shown initiative and interest in a number of extra curricular activities. Some students have shown proficiency in sports and games and the Kabadi team (Men) were runners-up in South Zone inter University tournament in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007. The Athletics (Men and Women) team secured two gold, one silver and one bronze medals in All India Inter-University Meet 2005-2006. The University is yet to form an alumni association.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management

The University is governed as per the provisions of its Act, Statutes and Regulations. The Vice chancellor and the Registrar are heads of the academic and administrative wings. The finance officer looks after the financial administration. The management has taken conscious steps for the sustained academic development of the institution which is evident from the introduction of innovative teaching-learning methods, courses in emerging areas of studies, large number of research publications, computerisation of examinations works, development of infrastructure and progression of students. An important feature of the organisation is its participatory management culture. The participation of teachers in decision making bodies like syndicate, senate, standing committee on academic affairs, helps the institution to take well thought out policies and decisions. The University follows a decentralised system of administration. It has an effective internal coordination and monitoring system by holding meetings of the syndicate, senate, standing committee on academic affairs, planning board and syndicate of sub-committees like establishment committee, finance committee, affiliation committee, examinations reforms committee, audit committee and meetings of heads of the Departments with the vice-chancellor. The University has a master plan according to which its infrastructural development takes place. The Planning Board is entrusted with the planning of the institutional development and submission of plan proposals to the Government, the UGC and other funding agencies. The University is yet to constitute a College Development Council with a Director / Dean.

The recruitment of teaching staff is as per UGC and State Government norms. The ratio of teaching and non-teaching staff is 2 : 1. The University follows self appraisal method of evaluation of performance of teachers and teaching, research and extension activities. Self appraisal report submitted by teachers is analysed by the University through an expert committee. The University may develop a system for the self appraisal of the non-teaching staff.

The University has a healthy finance culture and its accounts are regularly audited. The institution has mobilised resources to the tune of Rupees Six lakhs from consultancy. It is a surplus budget institution. The unit cost of education including salary component is Rs.74389/- and without salary Rs. 39860/-. Out of Rs.180 lakhs granted by UGC during the X plan, the University has utilized Rs.130 lakhs received so far.



Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The peer team has identified a few features which are conducive for promoting the academic ambience of the institution. These are as follows :

- The University within a short span of its existence has shown efficiency in providing quality education to the students.
- It has been able to gear up its academic and administrative quality so that its students and teachers can face global challenges.
- The University has introduced innovations in teaching and learning through application of modern technology.
- The University has taken positive steps in curriculum development by restructuring some of its existing courses through interaction with teachers and experts.
- It has integrated value based dimension into the existing curricula by offering a compulsory course on Human Rights.
- The University envisages social and citizenship roles among students by inculcating team spirit and associating the students, teachers and other staff with various societal development programmes.
- The University promotes a research culture by offering University Research Fellowships to 4 students of each department.

Section III: Overall Analysis

The peer team after going through the self study report, visiting the institution and interacting with the different stakeholders of the institution is happy to note record that the institution is progressing steadily towards translating its vision and goals into academic practices. The peer team considers that the following features of the University need commendation:

- Progress achieved in academic and administrative aspects through collective participatory management system.
- A good culture of teaching and research.
- Academic flexibility offered in various programmes through the CBCS system.
- Curricula of the University are redesigned taking into consideration the career requirement of the students.
- Efforts to update the syllabi and the recent revision in 26 subjects.
- Development of ICT aided teaching learning packages.



- Enhancement of skills among students through compulsory project work in each course.
- Evidence of research culture through 24 ongoing research projects with a total outlay of Rs.1,46,62,900.
- Publication of 287 papers/articles and 12 books by the teachers.
- Sixty two per cent teachers have acted as Resource persons/Visiting faculty in different institutes.
- Collaborative linkages with national and international institutions for research and teaching
- Recognition and awards conferred such as the DST Young Scientist and DBT Overseas Award.
- Computerization of examination processes and the publication of results within a month from the date of completion of the examination.
- The dynamism of the Vice chancellor, his ability to motivate the teachers and staff and sustained efforts to obtain grants from State/National agencies has provided the desired academic and administrative leadership to a young University.

To accelerate the growth and development of the University, the peer team would like to make the following **suggestions** for consideration by the appropriate authorities.

- Arranging for more bridge and remedial courses to facilitate disadvantaged learners
- Introducing courses for advanced learners
- Interaction between different departments is necessary for inter/multidisciplinary research and teaching
- Organising more Faculty Development Programmes
- Establishing a Counseling Cell
- Enhancing students' support services
- Creating a mechanism to monitor student progression in a sustained manner
- Filling up the vacant teaching positions may be given first priority
- Non-teaching posts may be created as per requirement of the university
- Organising Parent-Teacher-Head of the Department meetings periodically to assess the learning outcomes
- Translating some books and literary works of Tamil language for national and international recognition



- Immediately establishing an alumni association
- Augmentation and strengthening of the placement cell
- Developing a mechanism to get feedback from academic peers, alumni, parents and employers on the various programmes and for starting new courses.
- Improving the student's feedback system to make it more effective and user friendly
- Enhancing the text books holdings in the University library.
- In some departments, teachers need to be more communicative in the class.
- Introducing programs for improving communicative skills of students and the staff.
- Considering to gradually constitute a College Development Council with a Dean to meet the affiliation needs of many new colleges coming under the University.
- Appointing a Dean of Students/Dean of Youth Welfare.
- Initiating Group Mediclaim policies for the insurance of staff and students
- Some departments like Physics, Chemistry, Bio chemistry and Tamil may be encouraged to apply for UGC DRS/SAP grants and DST FIST grants.

The peer team would like to record its appreciation for the cooperation received from the University administration and the stakeholders during its visit. The team would like to thank the coordinator and members of the steering committee for the constant support extended to the peer team during its stay. The team is of the opinion that this exercise will be useful to the institution to develop quality enhancement strategies for the further growth and development.

Ananda Deb Mukhopadhyay
23/3/07

Prof. Anand Deb Mukhapadhyay
Chairman

Prof. J.K. Mohapatra
23/3/07

Prof. J.K. Mohapatra
Member

S.N. Ramaswamy
23/3/07

Dr. S.N. Ramaswamy
Member

S. Kumudhavalli
23/3/07

Prof. S. Kumudhavalli
Member

I have gone through the report and agree with the observations.



Prof. (Dr.) T. Balakrishnan
Vice-Chancellor

**VICE-CHANCELLOR,
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