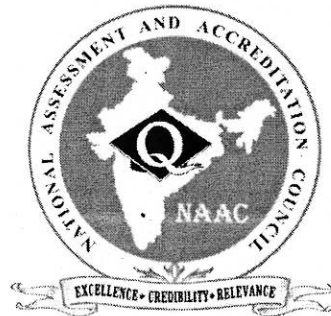PEER TEAM VISIT REPORT
ON
Second Cycle
of
INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION
OF

Periyar University

Periyar Palkalai Nagar,
Salem – 636 011, Tamil Nadu

Dates of Visit : March 18 - 20, 2015

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
P.O. BOX NO. 1075, NAGARBHAVI , BANGALORE – 560072

Section I: GENERAL	Information
1.1 Name & Address of the Institution:	**Periyar University** Periyar Palkalai Nagar Salem, 636 011, Tamil Nadu
1.2 Year of Establishment:	17th September, 1997
1.3 Current Academic Activities at the Institution (Numbers):	
Departments/ Centres:	23 Departments, 5 Centres
Programs/ Courses offered:	UG : Nil PG: 26 Ph.D. : 24 M.Phil : 24 Others (certificate) : 05 Total : 79
Permanent Faculty Members:	137
Permanent Support Staff:	54
Students:	1659
1.4 Three major features in the institutional Context (As perceived by the Peer Team):	• State affiliating University catering to students from rural & disadvantaged sections of society especially the girls • Strong student support and financial incentives • Appreciable promotion of research culture
1.5 Dates of visit of the Peer Team (See Annexure I for detailed visit schedule):	18th – 20th March, 2015
1.6 Composition of the Peer Team which undertook the on- site visit:	

Chairperson	**Prof. Bhoomittra Dev** (Former Vice-Chancellor, Gorakhpur University; Rohilkhand University, Bareilly; Bhimrao Ambedkar (Agra) University and Mangalayatan University, Aligarh (146 Ga, Shakti Nagar, Lucknow – 226016)
Members	**Prof. V. G. Talawar** (Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Mysore)
	Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar (Former Vice-Chancellor, Rajasthan Vidya Peeth University, Udaipur)
	Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Singh (Former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar)
	Prof. Y. M. Jayaraj (Former Dean, Dept. of Microbiology, Gulbarga University)
	Prof. Ashok Kumar (Professor, School of Biotechnology, BHU, Varanasi)
	Prof. Venkatesh V. Kamat (Professor & Head, Dept. of Computer Science, Goa University)
	Prof. Dr. Sudhir Gavhane (Professor & Head, Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Marthwada University, Aurangabad).
	Prof. Nambakkat Lakshmi Radhakrishnan (Professor & Head, Dept. of Physics, Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur)
NAAC Coordinating Officer	**Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar** (Advisor (i/c), NAAC, Bangalore)

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Section II: CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

2.1 Curricular Aspects:

2.1.1. Curricular Design and Development:	• Courses designed are in tune with University's vision and mission • Curriculum design and development process in place • Several new M.Sc. courses introduced since last accreditation
2.1.2 Academic Flexibility:	• Choice Based Credit System followed in the University departments and in 86 affiliated colleges • All PG programs offer core, elective and support courses • Provision of lateral entry in MCA program • Students have an opportunity to complete a course by combining conventional and distance mode of learning
2.1.3 Curriculum Enrichment:	• Curriculum reviewed and updated periodically with inputs from various stakeholders • Inter-disciplinary programs and some value added courses are introduced • Enrichment training programs offered by various study centres on renewable energy, biodiversity, nano technology, forest and women studies • Skill development programs offered in Department of Management in collaboration with industry and skill development agencies
2.1.4 Feedback System:	• Feedback from various stakeholders on curriculum is obtained • Special workshops/seminars organized to discuss various facets of curricular design and development • Syllabi available on University website for comments • Formal mechanism need to be in place for taking feedback from Industry/Alumni for curriculum enhancement

2.2 Teaching-Learning & Evaluation:

2.2.1 Student Enrolment and Profile:	• Admission based on merit-cum-reservation policy through publicity of entrance test method in few departments • Significant (63.4%) enrollment of women, 90% of students belonging to marginalized sections of society. • Satisfactory demand ratio (1:2) in Chemistry, Commerce, Education, English, Mathematics, Physics and Biochemistry.
2.2.2 Catering to Student Diversity:	• Orientation cum induction programs for freshers on programs, methods, departmental evaluation, student support and facilities, emphasis on anti-ragging, POSH, value system and culture, human rights and legal aid. • Select Departments such as Microbiology, Food Science, Biochemistry and Psychology offer bridge course • Remedial coaching and peer based tutoring for slow learners and seminars, assignments, courses in special areas for fast learners.
2.2.3 Teaching-Learning Process:	• Academic calendar and teaching plan are prepared and circulated in advance • Conventional teaching is supplemented by participatory learner centric methods like project work, seminars, field studies. Internship has been made compulsory.

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	- ICT enabled teaching-learning methods are initiated, but needs strengthening. - Hands on training given to PG students in handling sophisticated analytical instruments.
2.2.4 Teacher Quality:	- Out of 137 teachers (37 professors, 12 Associate professors and rest assistant professors) 57 teachers have been recruited recently. 28% teachers are women, 99% from same state. - 125 teachers possess Ph.D., 31 NET, 26 SET/SLET; 20% of teachers have industrial background and select few have international exposure - Faculty recharge strategies through deputing faculty to attend orientation/refresher programs, seminars and conferences - Some teachers have received national awards for teaching and research
2.2.5 Evaluation Process and Reforms:	- Semesters have 25% of marks as internal assessment component - Question papers are set by external examiners whereas evaluation of answer books is totally done by internal examiners. - PG results are announced within one week of completion of examination and UG results are announced within 30-45 days after the examination. Instant supplementary for UG programs introduced. - Provision to provide photocopy of answer book and grievance redressal mechanism. - Automation of examination data is initiated.
2.2.6 Student Performance and Learning Outcomes:	- Pass percentage of PG examination is on average, 68% and 58 % for UG examinations - Outcome of skill development training programs are correlated to placements and progression. - Limited number of students have cleared NET/SLET/GATE - Graduate attributes and learning outcomes need to be well defined and articulated.
2.3 Research, Consultancy & Extension:	
2.3.1 Promotion of Research:	- University has a Board of Research Studies (BORS) across departments to promote culture of research. - University research fellowships and financial support to conduct seminars/conferences are provided to each department. - Best researcher teacher award instituted and many MoUs' with national/international institutes undertaken - 177 national and 16 international conferences organized during the last 5 years.
2.3.2 Resource Mobilization for Research:	- About 5 to 8% of University budget allocated for research - 82 On-going research projects amounting to Rs. 1213/- lakh and 70 Research projects completed (635.66/- lakh) - 400.40 lakh generated by several departments through DST-FIST, UGC SAP, Non SAP, ICSSR, DRDO etc.
2.3.3 Research Facilities:	- Certain science departments have good research infrastructure/facilities. - Three research centres of basic facilities established with 1 crore grant from TN government. - Centre for instrumentation and maintenance facilities established under UGC merged scheme.

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2.3.4 Research Publications and Awards :	• Faculty has published 92 books, 1088 national and 1801 international publications having highest impact factor of 9.82, 2267 citations and h-index up to 24; 4 in-house journals initiated • Faculty participated and presented papers in National/International Seminars and workshops, and reviewed papers in national/international journals • 2 patents granted, 5 filed (1 international); teachers and students received many awards
2.3.5 Consultancy:	• An amount of Rs. 12 lakh generated through informal consultancy • University participated in ISRO Chandrayan Project for lunar soil simulation. • Formal consultancy policy not in place
2.3.6 Extension Activities and Institutional Social Responsibility:	• The University has active NSS, NCC units, Red Ribbon Club, women's studies centre and centre for Swami Vivekanand studies. • Many community oriented awareness programs have been undertaken • One student awarded with the Indira Priyadarshini Best Volunteer award
2.3.7 Collaborations	• 8 National and 2 International Research collaborations including chamber of commerce, press club for training programs. • 42 MoUs signed for academic, student support and extension activities

2.4 Infrastructure and Learning Resources:

2.4.1 Physical Facilities:	• University has campus area of 90 acres and built up area of 23,192 sq mts having adequate class rooms, laboratories, staff rooms, seminar halls, auditorium, computing facilities for running the programs and power back up. • Science labs, language labs, computer centre and CIMF are well equipped and separate cabins for each faculty with internet connectivity provided. • The University has outdoor and indoor games facilities, a gym, women's rest rooms, yoga center and health center. • Ramp facilities in some buildings for differently abled are available. • Current hostel accommodation one each for boys and girls needs further expansion.
2.4.2 Library as a Learning Resource:	• Library Advisory Committee is functional; Central library housed in an independent building; most of the departments also have libraries. • Library equipped with 79407 books including 180 print journals (13 international) and 107 e-journals • Library automation, INFLIBNET, OPAC facility, open access and e-resources are in place.
2.4.3 IT Infrastructure	• 121 computers in 2 Internet centres, campus-wide fiber-optic network, Wi-Fi enabled campus having a total of 1107 computers. • Network security policy in place and user level protection via anti-virus software. • University has 1GPBS Bandwidth and NSA E5500 model • NKN Connectivity and smart classrooms need to be provided.
2.4.4 Maintenance of Campus Facilities:	• Engineers deputed by State government for estate maintenance • Botanical garden and children's park available on campus • Annual Maintenance Contracts for the maintenance of costly equipment. • Centre for Instrumentation and Maintenance Facility in place

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2.5 Student Support and Progression:	
2.5.1 Student Mentoring and Support:	• Student mentoring, Orientation program, different cells and committees are functional. • Career guidance and campus placement services, EDP, Coaching classes for SET/NET examinations and public service examinations are in place. • The Periyar University Free Education Scheme, free coaching for civil services, free health, accident insurance coverage, earn while you learn etc. are provided • Alumni Association and students' nomination on various statutory bodies/committees requires to be activated
2.5.2 Student Progression:	• Students progression is regularly monitored and, in some cases, parents are informed • Good track record is maintained – PG to M.Phil./Ph.D., NET/SET/GATE • Students are motivated to undertake creative writing and research articles based on their project work
2.5.3 Student Participation and Activities:	• Student council organizes various activities including tournaments/cultural events/academic competitions and community outreach programs • Magazines/newsletters WISDOM, ABORGINAL, NSS, YRC, Subject clubs, RRC, etc. are in place • Student participated and won medals in sports and cultural activities at national and zonal levels • Students conduct seminars, conferences, awareness and training programs which are socially beneficial
2.6 Governance, Leadership and Management:	
2.6.1 Institutional Vision and Leadership:	• Well defined vision and mission are stated • Functional Statutory and other bodies are in place • Decentralized functioning under various committees and dynamic leadership of the present Vice-Chancellor
2.6.2 Strategy Development and Deployment	• There are active departmental committees, Academic Council, BoS, Planning Board etc. for effective functioning. • The grievance redressal committee is in place.
2.6.3 Faculty Empowerment Strategies:	• Professional development of the faculty is ensured by organizing seminars/conferences, attending orientation/refresher courses • Free health service at health centre provided for teaching and non-teaching staff. • Research, teaching awards instituted
2.6.4 Financial Management and Resource Mobilization:	• The University maintains a corpus fund of 96 lakh • Regular external audit of accounts conducted annually • Resource mobilization through funding agencies and self financed courses
2.6.5 Internal Quality Assurance System:	• IQAC formed in 2010. • Some quality enhancement activities are undertaken • IQAC is yet to be pro-active

2.7 Innovations and Best Practices:	
2.7.1 Environment Consciousness:	- University conducts green audit of the campus regularly - Botanical garden, regular tree plantations, Solar lighting, LED lights, e-governance to reduce paper usage, vehicle free campus one day in a month are in place
2.7.2 Innovations:	- Allocation of 5 research fellowships to each department 4 Study centres and 2 study chairs are instituted 'Earn While You Learn' program, collaborative/consultancy projects with ISRO - Autonomy to university departments through decentralization of administration - Introduction of concept of social laboratory, adoption of Sangeethapatti Village of Omalur block at Salem District
2.7.3 Best Practices:	- Establishment of separate board of research studies - Impressive increase in publications, departmental funding, projects, patents etc. - Training on emerging thrust areas of various disciplines - Compulsory internship along with project work for PG students 'Sir C. V. Raman' best teacher award instituted - Research journals with ISSN numbers published by four departments

Section III: OVERALL ANALYSIS

3.1 Institutional Strengths:	- Deep sense of vision and mission for catering to rural, economically weaker students. - Good research output and adequate infrastructure. - Appreciable placements and career achievements. - Harmonious relationship among faculty, students, management and community - CBCS under the semester pattern - Good student support and progression
3.2 Institutional Weaknesses:	- Poor communication and spoken English skills among students. - Lack of innovative and ICT based Teaching-Learning - Limited University-Industry linkages and collaborations - Inadequate space for future expansion - No formal academic audit
3.3 Institutional Opportunities:	- Creation of vibrant learning environment - Adoption of ICT based pedagogic and Information Science based innovations; and production of creative teaching modules. - Initiatives for introducing more skill based Job oriented, innovative

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		programs; and efforts for retraining & retooling
		• To explore potentials for establishing centres of excellence
		• Strengthening of departmental clusters under school concept to promote comparative and interdisciplinary teaching and research
3.4 **Institutional Challenges:**		• Empowering rural and marginalized students with enhanced skills
		• Introduction of collaborative courses under meta university system
		• To introduce inter-disciplinary centres of higher learning in existing departmental provisions
		• To introduce innovations and best practices to meet the global needs in the prevailing environment
		• To introduce new courses in emerging areas such as bioinformatics, materials science, media and mass communication

Section IV: Recommendations for Quality Enhancement of the Institution

- PG courses in upcoming areas like social work, nano-science and also job oriented courses be initiated; innovative methods and ICT-enabled and Information Science-based teaching-learning be strengthened.

- Efforts be made by most of the departments to achieve SAP status and to establish centres of excellence from UGC and other national/international organizations.

- Language lab be strengthened and optimally utilized to enhance communicative and spoken English skills of the students; and starting teaching of at least few foreign languages.

- IQAC be made pro-active for quality enhancement and academic excellence.

- Strengthening of qualified human resource, infrastructure facilities and automation activities in the Central Library be expedited for Quality Intensive Knowledge Flow.

- Feed back from students, self appraisal by the teachers and academic audit be regularized and systematized for proper utilization

- Sports facilities be strengthened further for enhancing talent and achievements in sports especially among large number of rural girl students

- More hostel and transport facility be provided to students

- Alumni Association be made pro-active to tap its potential.

- University may establish linkages with industry and GO's/NGO's for pro-active extension activities and social upliftment efforts.

- Land area and physical infrastructure facilities be enhanced for future expansion.
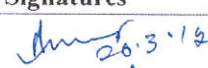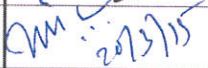
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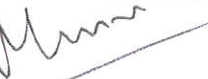PERIYAR UNIVERSITY
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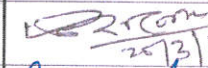
- University may prepare its vision document and do strategic planning
- Health centre be upgraded and be made well-equipped
- University may initiate its news letter
- Remedial coaching, bridge-courses and care for advance learners be regularized and systematized.
- Some of the non-teaching employees be trained for ancillary activities to strengthen academic ambience.
- NSS may compile and use innovative and faster learning modules for literacy especially among girls.
- Anti-plagiarism process be introduced in doctoral and post-doctoral research
- e-Governance including institutional e-mail ID's be effectively implemented.

I agree with the Observations of the Peer Team as mentioned in this report.

Signature of the Head of the Institution
Seal of the Institution

Prof. Dr. C. Swaminathan
Vice Chancellor
Periyar University
Periyar Palkalai Nagar
Salem-636 011.

Signatures of the Peer Team Members:

	Name	Signatures		Name	Signatures
Chair Person	Prof. Bhoomittra Dev	20.3.20	Member	Prof. Ashok Kumar	20.3.15
Member	Prof. V.G. Talawar	20/3/15	Member	Prof. Venkatesh V. Kamat	20.3.15
Member	Prof. B.P. Bhatnagar	20/3/15	Member	Prof. Dr. Sudhir Gavhane	20/3/2015
Member	Prof. (Dr.) Satinder Singh	20/3/15	Member	Prof. N. Lakshmi Radhakrishnan	20-3-2015
Member	Dr. Y. M. Jayaraj		NAAC COORDINATING OFFICER	Dr. M. S. Shayamasundar	

Place: Salem, Tamil Nadu

Date: 20th March, 2015

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