Action Taken Report of Periyar University for the Recommendations of NAAC Re-accreditation, Cycle 2

Recommendation No. 1

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

Action Taken

University introduced PG programmes such as History, Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Textiles and Apparel Design, Data Analytics and UGC and NSDC approved skill based programmes such as B.Voc. Food Science and Nutrition, Textiles and Apparel Design, Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality and Digital Marketing during the assessment period. In addition, five years Integrated Programme in Journalism and Mass Communication and M.Sc. Environmental Science, and UGC approved D.Voc. Accounting and Taxation have also been introduced.

All Faculty members of Periyar University are enabled to handle classes using University Campus LMS platform and free online accessible LMS platforms such as Google classroom, OpenEdx, Google meet, Cisco WebEx, Zoom and Microsoft team. Faculty members are encouraged to access MHRD ICT initiatives based e-resources such as SWAYAM, SWAYAM PRABHA, National Digital Library, UGC e-PGPathshala, Shodhganga, e-Shodhsindhu, e-Yantra, FOSSEE, spoken tutorial, virtual labs and ICSSR-NASSDOC. Faculty members are also encouraged to adopt innovative teaching pedagogies using ICT tools and software for effective teaching learning process among the learners.

Recommendation No. 2

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

Action Taken

Out of the 27 Departments, four Departments are supported under UGC SAP/DRS, five Departments are assisted by UGC NON-SAP scheme and seven Departments by DST-FIST (Level 1). University is supported to establish Business Incubation Centre (Section 8 Company) of EDII-TN with the funding assistance of Rs.100 lakh. Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation has sanctioned Rs.266 lakh to Periyar University under DDU-GKY, MoRD, GoI scheme to impart skill based training on Business Analyst, UI Developer and Data Scientist.

Recommendation No. 3

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

Action Taken

Language lab has been established at the cost of Rs. 25 lakh and Clarity Software by Young India is used to enhance the spoken English skill of the students. Totally 165 students from various departments of the University and 10 batches of students of the Department of English from 2015 till date have been benefitted. Software for teaching three foreign languages such as German, Japanese and Chinese are procured for Rs. 27 lakh. Efforts are taken to initiate teaching of Japanese Language in 2021-2022.

Recommendation No. 4

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

Action Taken

The IQAC is effectively functioning to uplift the academic and administrative activities by framing policies, online feedback mechanism, conducting sensitising programmes, and computer training programme for non-teaching staff. FDP programmes for faculty and research scholars, Faculty Lecture Series are facilitated by inviting eminent scientists/professors. Workshop and training programmes on innovation process for research scholars are periodically arranged by IQAC. In addition, intensive training to all faculty members of the department is provided by IQAC to design and implement outcome based curricula. As a result, the University is following OBE curricula from 2018-2019. NAAC sensitisation programmes are also conducted by IQAC for University departments and affiliated colleges.

Recommendation No. 5

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

Action Taken

Library and Information Science faculty members are nominated to govern the various sections of the library. The Central Library is automated using Koha software in addition to UGC Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET). Further, the infrastructure facilities are extended by constructing four additional floors (from II to V floor) with a plinth area of 1246 sq. m at a cost of Rs.314.2 lakh.

Recommendation No. 6

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

Action Taken

Feedback is collected from the students by IQAC once in a year, analysed and action taken report is posted in the website for further action. Teachers are mandated to submit the self-appraisal annually, reviewed and suggestions are provided to Heads of the Departments for further action and capacity enhancement in terms of teaching, learning, and research. Academic and administrative audits are conducted by IQAC periodically and the reports are communicated to the concerned departments for corrective measures and quality enhancement.

Recommendation No. 7

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

Action Taken

Majority of the students studying in the University are girls from rural areas. The University focuses on the wellbeing of rural girl students by recognising their sports talents and provides the necessary sports facilities. Such facilities include: a high roof indoor stadium (987 sq. m) constructed with Gymnasium facilities under the financial assistance of Rs. 70 lakh by UGC and Rs. 79 lakh by the University.

In an area of 34,700 sq. m, the outdoor games and sports facilities are established to train the girls in football, handball, cricket, kho-kho and other athletic events. In addition, two basketball courts (2,000 sq. m), two badminton courts (2,000 sq. m), two kabaddi courts (1,980 sq. m) and two volleyball courts (1,980 sq. m) are also available. All-India South Zone Level kabaddi, volleyball, football and basketball tournaments are regularly conducted by Periyar University. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has sanctioned Rs. 700 Lakh under 'Khelo India Scheme' for laying of Synthetic Athletic Track. Measures are being taken for laying the track and the work is earmarked to the Public Works Department (PWD) with an additional share of Rs. 266 Lakh by the University, a unique feature among Tamil Nadu State Universities. The girl students from University departments and affiliated colleges are encouraged to perceive pre-event training in both indoor and outdoor sports and games through the Department of Physical Education. Utilising these facilities, 35 girls in sports and eight girls' team in games won prizes at State and National level.

Recommendation No. 8

More hostel and transport facility be provided to students.

Action Taken

A separate hostel for women research scholars is constructed at a cost of Rs. 800 lakh (4492 sq. m) and an additional floor in the existing men's and women's hostel is constructed at a cost of Rs. 86 lakh (1737 sq. m) to accommodate more than 500 students. Each hostel is enabled with Wi-Fi connectivity and uninterrupted power supply. University has augmented one additional bus and one van for transportation of students, faculty and non-teaching staff from various places.

Recommendation No. 9

Alumni Association to be made proactive to tap its potential

Action Taken

Periyar University Alumni Association is registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Act 1975. It has flourished in each department. A total of Rs. 9.75 lakh are contributed by alumni in terms of money and materials. In total, 2050 alumni are registered as member in this association and five programmes have been organised to express their views and suggestions.

Recommendation No. 10

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

Action Taken

University received a financial assistance of Rs. 89.9 lakh from District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) of Dharmapuri Collectorate under Socio Economic Development Programme (SEDP) to educate the youth and women in naxal affected areas. Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation has sanctioned Rs.266 lakh to Periyar University under DDU-GKY, MoRD, GoI scheme to impart skill based training on Business Analyst, UI Developer and Data Scientist to rural women. University is empanelled with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) division to impart training to science graduates, food handlers and food business operators on safe food handling and production. University is also linked with many NGOs like Sevak Foundation, USA; No Food Waste, Salem; Arokiya Bharathi of North Tamil Nadu; ERIA, Indonesia for its extension activities. The University departments have adopted villages to inculcate feasible welfare measures to the deprived community.

University has collaborations with many industries like ONGC, NLC, Green chem,

University may initiate its newsletter

Action Taken

The University has successfully published and circulated the University Newsletter biannually from 2018 onwards to report the events and contributions of the teachers and students in academic, research, and extension activities. This newsletter carries upto-date information about the institutional best practices and is circulated in both electronic and printed versions. So far 5 Newsletters have been published and a plan is on to publish e-Newsletter every month.

Recommendation No. 15

Remedial coaching, bridge-courses and care for advanced learners to be regularized and systemized.

Action Taken

Each University department conducts remedial coaching classes, focused group discussion, role play and flipped classrooms for the slow learners to equip them to face the university internal and end semester examination under mentor-mentee system. Bridge courses are conducted at the beginning of the academic year for all students to disseminate the information about POs, PSOs, COs and its mapping with University vision, rules and regulations, code of conduct, teaching-learning and examination process. Advanced learners are assigned as team leaders for peer based learning. They are encouraged to grasp programme specific graduate attributes and lead the peer learners. They are financially assisted by TNSCST student project scheme to execute research and 14 top ranking students have received DST INSPIRE Fellowship. The University has extended financial support to all the departments every year for the conduct of NET coaching, career and placement counseling to all the learners.

Recommendation No. 16

Some of the non-teaching employees to be trained for ancillary activities to strengthen academic ambience.

Action Taken

The University has arranged special training programmes through Anna Institute of Management (AIM), Chennai for file management, online administration, and computer typing to initiate paperless communication. Totally 190 non-teaching staff are trained to operate Microsoft word, spreadsheet, power point presentations, and online file management system through Computer Centre. This is evident from the conduct of entrance examination for M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes online,

Virbac, Sibar Institute of Dental Sciences, SAGOSERVE, TANMAC, Boston India Ltd., Nestle, Shahi Exports, Prisma to offer internship, training, and to conduct problem oriented and resource based research either through letter of interest or MoUs.

Recommendation No. 11

Land area and physical infrastructure facilities be enhanced for future expansion.

Action Taken

Initiated to acquire 17 acres of land from the Government Engineering College through Exchange Scheme. New buildings (31,326 sq. m), parking sheds (14,068 sq. m), roads (2.73 km), rain water harvesting system (27 Nos.) and treatment plants (120 KLd) worth Rs.6023.44 lakh have been established. Further existing buildings have been renovated at a cost of Rs. 633.79 lakh. Construction work to the tune of Rs.965.5 lakh is ongoing in the campus. A separate building (1931.50 sq. m) is established for Periyar University Business Incubation Confederation (Section 8 Company).

Recommendation No. 12

University may prepare its vision document and do strategic planning.

Action Taken

The University Planning Board has framed strategies for academic, research and extension. The suggested strategies are placed before the Syndicate for its approval and implementation. University has taken steps to fulfill its vision and mission statements through effective deployment of strategic plans.

Recommendation No. 13

Health Centre to be upgraded and to be well equipped.

Action Taken

The University Health Centre is housed in a new building constructed at a cost of Rs.61 lakh (330 sq. m). First aid and basic preliminary medical relief are provided by the University Health Centre with its diagnostic facilities. Through a special health campaign in association with Youth Red Cross (YRC), around 9,738 members have been screened and primary medical care is given to the needed individual through a Physician visiting the Health Centre regularly. Further, in order to support the society and public, the University embarks a COVID Care Centre to take care of the suspected individuals.

Recommendation No. 14

e-admission, e-fee payment and sending official communications through electronic versions to the departments as well as the affiliated colleges.

Recommendation No. 17

NSS may compile and use innovative and foster learning modules for literacy especially among girls.

Action Taken

The University has two NSS units in campus and 158 units in affiliated colleges. NSS units of University departments conducted several camps, awareness and training programmes every year and 436 girls have been educated for hygiene, sanitation, reproductive health, nutrition, and use of sanitary napkins.

Recommendation No. 18

Anti-Plagiarism process be introduced in Doctoral and Postdoctoral research.

Action Taken

The University has adopted anti-plagiarism process using Urkund/Ouriginal software in association with UGC INFLIBNET Centre for checking originality of writing in M.Phil., Ph.D. and Postdoctoral research reports, thesis, and dissertation. So far, 17,232 dissertations and theses have been checked for plagiarism.

Recommendation No. 19

e-governance including institutional email ID's be effectively implemented.

Action Taken

The University has provided institutional email ID to all the faculty, non teaching staff, scholars and students for effective communication. Faculty and non teaching staff are permitted to access the University portal and LMS only through the University domain email ID.

The University has implemented Student Management System and Research Management System for online admission and administration process. Learning Management System is followed for teaching and learning activities. Finance Management System helps in effective execution of financial transactions. Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is adopted for handling external financial assistance and also purchases are made through Government e-Market (GeM). University stands first among all Tamil Nadu State Universities by purchasing Rs.355 lakh worth of materials through GeM. Library is also automated by installing open source software (Koha 20.05) for its management. All these effective measures

followed by the University enhance e-Governance for a successful digital administration.

Director-IQAC

DIRECTOF IQAC 19.6.2).

Registrar(FAC)

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