

**REPORT OF
THE EXTERNAL ACADEMIC AUDIT COMMITTEE (2020-21)**

**JSS COLLEGE OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND SCIENCE
OOTY ROAD, MYSURU – 570 025**

Introduction

JSS College of Arts, Commerce and Science is a first degree college established in 1964 by JSS Mahavidyapeetha and is situated on a sprawling 7.08 acres plot with a spacious building and a girls hostel in a picturesque surrounding at the foot of Chamundi Hills. The college is a Multi-faculty, Co-educational and autonomous College affiliated to the University of Mysore. The college is re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade (CGPA: 3.21) and recognised as College with Potential for Excellence by UGC. The college is contributing to the Vocational Education at Graduate and Postgraduate levels through Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushal Kendra and Kaushalya Karnataka schemes of UGC and GoK, respectively. The College has been recognized as 'Research Centre' under University of Mysore to undertake research in nine subjects, namely, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Kannada, English, Commerce and Social Work. The college has been approved by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Govt. of India to host Community Radio Station with the name 'JSS Radio 91.2 FM'. The College aims to provide need-based, skill integrated, cost-effective, quality and holistic education for transforming the students into globally competitive, employable and responsible citizens. Totally 55 programmes are offered in the college and they are 10 in BSc, 11 in BA, 5 in B Com, BCA, BBA, B Voc, 8 in MSc (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Computer Science, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Botany, Zoology), M Com, 2 in MA (English, Kannada), MSW, 2 in M Voc (Food Processing & Engineering, Software Development), 9 in Ph D (Kannada, English, Social Work, Commerce, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics) in addition to 2 Advanced Diploma programmes (Animation & Multimedia and Retail Management) and PG Diploma in Protein Scale up and Expression [sanctioned by Government of Karnataka under BiSEP]. Besides, COCs and PG Diploma Programmes are also offered. The college is well prepared to start the MCA Programme approved by AICTE from the academic year 2021-22.

The academic activities of the college are well supported by the dedicated and qualified 162 teaching staff of which 58 have PhD and 11 have MPhil and supported by 63 non-teaching staff. The total student strength of the college for the year is 3378 which is composed of 2349 from

UG, 994 from PG and 35 from PhD programmes. The students from other Countries and States studying in the college are 6 and 65, respectively. The college has a tradition that the three top scorers of each programme will be rewarded with cash prize and endowment awards with certificates in addition to being felicitated on the annual Graduates' day. The Alumni of the college are successful researchers, litterateurs, politicians, administrators and bureaucrats. They have nostalgic relations and maintain emotional attachment with the institution. Students are encouraged to take part in extracurricular and co-curricular activities like NCC, NSS, etc. A large sports ground, indoor and outdoor stadia are also available. The volunteers of NCC & NSS units have participated in state and national level camps and Republic Day Parades and have actively participated and created awareness on COVID-19 in various online and offline programmes. The Youth Red Cross Unit and quite a few student-centric clubs are also functioning. Several activities such as National and State Level Seminars, Workshops, Special Lectures etc, have been organized. Curriculum development and examination reforms are being implemented on a continuous basis.

As a regular annual assessment of academic and administrative activities, the outcome, benefits and other results are evaluated by the External Academic Audit Committee consisting of well known experienced Academicians and Administrators. The external academic audit also helps in ascertaining the quality and performance of the academic activities of the college in addition to augmenting the vision, mission and objectives of the college. The desire to constitute an external academic audit committee is a clear indication of the commitment on the part of the management towards maintenance of quality in higher education.

Thus, the JSS Mahavidyapeetha has constituted the following External Academic Audit Committee to review and audit the academic activities of the college for the year 2020-2021:

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| 1. Prof. P. Venkataramaiah
Former Vice-Chancellor
Kuvempu University | Chairperson |
| 2. Dr. K.A. Raveesha
Professor (Retd., UoM)
Head, Department of Water and Health, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences
JSS AHER, Mysuru | Member |
| 3. Prof. G. Kotreshwar(Retd.)
DOS in Commerce
University of Mysore | Member |

REVIEW BY THE COMMITTEE:

The audit committee arrived at the college by 10 AM on 21-09-2021 and started the review process in the Seminar Hall. The Principal, Dr. H C Honnappa welcomed the Committee members and presented the details of the academic activities of the Institution for the year 2020-21. The IQAC Coordinator, Dr. N. Rajendraprasad presented the objectives, role and functions of IQAC with the details of the plan chalked out at the beginning of the academic year and action taken on the major initiatives. The Committee observed that the Institution has adequate number of class rooms, laboratories, equipment, spacious sports ground, technical and other related infrastructure. Some of the laboratories, namely, PG Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Chemistry and Physics have been modernized and enriched with sophisticated instruments. The academic activities are going on in a systematic manner in a student-centric atmosphere. Some of the major equipments for research have been procured through research grants from funding agencies. A spacious Auditorium to accommodate 600 persons is well equipped with all the essential audio, stereo and other add-ons. The college has lift facility for physically challenged candidates.

The institution is administratively managed by the Principal, supervised by the Chief Executive who is a senior academician.

Governing Body:

The Governing Body (GB) has been constituted under the Chairpersonship of His Holiness Jagadguru Sri SriShivarathriDeshikendraSwamiji, the President of JSS Mahavidyapeetha. The composition of the body is broad based with the inclusion of several eminent academicians.

Student Profile:

The college has adopted some innovative methods to enhance the demand for the admission. The publicity of the admission notification through, Print, electronic and Social media is very effective. In the present academic year 2349 UG and 994 PG students are studying in the college. Thirty five research scholars are pursuing for their doctoral degree. In the College 6 international and 65 outside the state students are also pursuing education. It is significant to notice that more than 65% of the students are from rural areas. A healthy teacher to student ratio of 1:20 is seen and this reflects the enriched learning opportunities for students.

Diverse teaching learning methods such as ICT-enabled, seminar ,group discussion, project work, field work, internship etc, have been adopted for the effective learning of the students. The evaluation system has adopted the components of internal assessment and external assessments. The internal assessments of students are by the tests, assignments, seminar, project etc. The external assessment will be made through end semester examinations.

Quality of Faculty:

Through the presentation made by the Principal, IQAC and Heads of the Departments, it is noticed that the college has good number of qualified and experienced staff members. Out of a total teaching staff strength of 162, 58 faculty members have PhD and 11 are with MPhil. Seventeen teachers of different subjects are pursuing doctoral studies. Out of the rest of the faculty 08have cleared KSET examinations.

The study of Internal Academic Audit Report submitted by the college made the Committee to come to the opinion that the Statutory bodies like Governing Body, Academic Council, Board of Studies and the Finance Committee have been duly constituted as per the guidelines of the UGC and others. The college has also constituted a total of 36 committees and of which 03are of non-statutory. Through these various committees the smooth execution of various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of the college is being managed.

Infrastructure for Teaching and Learning:

The college possesses excellent infrastructure facilities for teaching and learning for the UG and PG programmes. There are 71 spacious lecture halls, 01 seminar hall, 01 auditorium with Air Conditioning facility and 48 laboratories. Sufficient research laboratories have also been provided for the teachers and researchers of the college. The college has sufficient number of ICT enabled classrooms. The other add-on facilities in the college are Math-lab, language lab, incubation centre, board rooms, internet centre in the library etc.

The creation of sports facilities with spacious play grounds, indoor game facilities and multi gym speaks of the importance given by the college towards extracurricular activities. The college has hostels for women accommodating 277 girl students in addition to a canteen and well maintained garden.

Teaching-Learning:

Many departments have been using the ICT in their teaching-learning activity. Most of the teachers have the practice to prepare e-content such as PPT, video, study materials etc, and will share to students for learning. Some of the departments have also created library of video lectures down loading them from NPTEL, TED talks and EDX platforms. This has provided wide opportunity to the students to expand their horizon of learning.

In the teaching programme scope is provided to the students to involve in discussion. A few teachers have enriched in making use of Flipped classroom methods for advanced learning. The e-content or study materials are made available to students through either e-mail or Whatsapp or through LMS. The teachers of each department also found creating repository of video lectures delivered by eminent scholars available in the internet to help the students to get an opportunity to listen to those lectures which are available on Swayam portal, NPTEL and EDX platforms and can easily be downloaded. It is important to note that these video lectures are available even on subjects under social sciences and humanities like literature and social work.

During the year, a few teachers have attended refresher courses, some have served as resource persons in various academic platforms, and 04 have undertaken and completed Swayam/MOOCs. In this year 05 teachers were awarded Ph D degree from University of Mysore.

To give exposure to the students on the hands on training industrial visits are organized.

Research Activity:

In the College research leading to PhD degree has been undertaken in nine subjects, namely, Kannada, English, Social Work, Commerce, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biochemistry and Biotechnology. There are 18 teachers who have been recognised as Guides for PhD and under their supervision a total of 35 research scholars are working for PhD degree. One research scholar from Social work department has been awarded Ph D degree in this year.

It is noticed that 05 teachers have attended Orientation/Refresher programmes, 02 teachers have served as resource persons in various academic platforms and 05 teachers have been awarded PhD from University of Mysore. 06 Teachers of PG departments have served as members of Editorial Board or as reviewers in several International/National Journals/

Periodicals. Research papers numbering about 44 and 6 books have been published and 11 Research Papers/Posters have been presented in various International/ National Conferences.

The teachers are working on 02 major projects. The college has organized 02 workshops, 17 webinars/seminars, 16 special lectures, 01 orientation programme for the benefit of the students and faculty. The practice of the college encouraging some of the PG students to attend seminars and present papers at different places is highly appreciated.

Research Facility:

The college has established excellent research and training facilities for biological sciences. The facilities created in the department of Chemistry are also good. The department of Physics is slowly improving its research facilities.

Empowerment of Teachers:

The college is using the talent and expertise of the teachers to its best possible extent by involving them in various committees so as to provide them an experience both in academic as well as administrative aspects. Further, as part of Faculty Development programme, teachers were deputed to various orientation programmes, refresher courses, seminars and workshops at different places at state, national and international levels. It is also noticed that 09 teachers have qualified K-SET and 11 teachers have served as resource persons in various platforms. The teaching faculty have attended 414 seminars/webinars/conferences organised by other institutions.

The college is making constant efforts to improve the academic profile of the teachers by encouraging them to involve in research activities by encouraging them to submit proposals of research projects, both minor and major, to the national funding agencies, to present the research papers in conferences and to publish the work in reputed international and national journals of good impact factor and also to publish books/ book chapters. However the number of projects obtained during the period of audit appear very small.

Extension Activity:

Another important dimension that determines the quality of higher education is Extension activity. The college has made significant efforts in hosting the extension activities, but the number of activities could have been higher in relation to the number of departments and also the

strength of the faculty. Extension activities help to gain skills in terms of organization, evaluation and the experience. A good number of students have conducted survey and presented the reports which help them in building the capacity and also enhance their knowledge in both learning and analysis. This eventually leads the students to develop aptitude towards research. Students of PG Social Work have interacted with 10 NGOs that focuses in different activities. This gives an excellent exposure to the students of MSW to get good orientation for the course.

A number of social service camps have been organized in the rural areas through NSS unit of the college. During these camps development of government school in the adopted village, blood donation, tree plantation and health and environmental awareness programmes are organized.

Student Support:

It is observed that the college is providing Uniforms for sports, NSS and NCC students. Students are allowed to pay the Admission Fee in Instalments. Efforts need to be made to strengthen the Alumni Association with a view to help the institution in establishing more scholarships to the students under the banner of Alumni Association and also help the deserving students in vocational placements.

Students' activities and performances:

Two students from PG Department of Commerce have presented papers in the International Conference. Twenty students from several PG Departments have qualified for NET/K-SET/GATE. Good number of students have attended national/international conferences/seminar.

The students of the college have participated in many inter-collegiate sports at city level, university level as well as national level and some of them have won prizes. Adequate opportunities have also been given to the cultural activities where in students have secured many prizes in different competitions. However, the number of such activities appears small compared to the total strength of the students in the college.

The results of examinations are impressive. The college has made earnest efforts to improve the system of evaluation in order to make it more error free, efficient and transparent. The system of quick announcement of results is laudable.

Career Guidance and Placement:

The college is responsible in educating and empowering the students to choose their career by providing opportunities to understand the methods of training, availabilities of opportunities and also to face the interviews. These are important areas for making students' career stronger and the college has conducted supportive programmes in this regard. Good number of Campus Interviews were organised by the Career Guidance and Placement Cell inviting reputed organizations to visit the college. But there is scope for increasing the number of recruitments. This important responsibility on the college management through Placement cell to initiate more training activities to improve the placement should be taken on priority.

Library:

The college library is housed in a large area of 14,400 sq. ft. with a seating arrangement for 150 students. A spacious reading room facility has been provided for students and teachers with a seating capacity of 200. Library is completely computerized and the open accession system is followed and it is highly students' friendly. The library also has an old book bank facility created with the assistance of UGC for the benefit of the students.

The library of the college is rich having 76858 books with 47404 titles, 97000 e-books (NLIST), 144 National and 2 International Journals, 10000 e-journals (NLIST), 422 AV Materials and 54 general periodicals. These resources, more particularly, through INFLIBNET facility need to be made more useful for students, teachers and researcher scholars.

The library has a section with an adequate number of book collection that meets the requirement of students aspiring to attend competitive examinations. A small book bank facility is also available in the library. The library needs to develop a repository of the research publications of the faculty members of the College.

Performance Evaluation of Teachers:

Quality of teachers in the Institutions offering higher education always reflects the quality of education provided to the students. Hence the performance appraisal of teachers becomes an important component in the functioning of the college. The college has been adopting the practice of obtaining the students' feedback about the performance of the teachers on a five point scale. The present practice of analyzing the students' feedback on teachers need to be made

proactive towards the improvement of faculty performance and accountability. IQAC need to adopt a system of getting the feed back forms evaluated by an external agency familiar with statistical analysis.

The college has to take self appraisal reports from the teachers and get them evaluated on the agreed system of weightage. This evaluation also needs to be got done externally. In addition to this, it is also essential to introduce 360 degree appraisal system including peer appraisal. If the college wishes to enhance its reputation as an Institution of Excellence it is essential to be innovative in assessing the performance of teaching faculty where a very good performer is rewarded and a poor performer is given one or two opportunities for improvement through intensive faculty improvement programmes. This will also bring in the concept of accountability among the teachers.

General Observations:

The Committee had an extensive discussion and interaction with the Principal, CEO, IQAC Coordinator, Controller of Examinations, faculty members of both UG and PG departments, Librarian, Director of Physical education and Editor of Internal Audit Report. Based on the input from all the groups and individuals the Committee makes the following observations:

The **Green Initiatives** of the College with the installed solar power capacity of more than its requirements is praiseworthy. The college has adopted self evaluation system through both internal and external academic audit so that all the existing activities stand the test of scrutiny. In spite of the efforts made by the college on several fronts the Committee is of the opinion that additional efforts are needed by the Institution to move in the direction to achieve excellence, so that the autonomous college will ultimately get the status of a University.

Other general observations:

- The College has established a very useful Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushal Kendra, funded by UGC to impart skills to the students, thus increasing the employment opportunities of the students.
- The college has good academic ambience with the required number of Class rooms , Laboratories and basic sports facilities
- JSS Community radio has been established.

- The college offers 29 UG, 15 PG, 12-Diploma and 11 Certificate Programmes in addition B.Voc and M.Voc courses in Soft ware Development and Food Processing and engineering,
- MCA programme is recognized by AICTE.
- Nine Departments are recognized as Research Centres by the University of Mysore, through which the Ph.D Programmes are offered in the respective Disciplines/Subjects
- The faculty have published 44 research articles in peer reviewed journals, 6 books.
- Result analysis reveals 100% success rate in Computer Science, and a few other departments with more than 75% in most of the Science Subjects.
- Research publications of the departments of History, Mathematics, Commerce, Botany, Zoology are poor.
- The teachers were trained for Online classes using Digital teaching tools. Further students were also trained for learning through online learning methods.
- Teachers have imparted knowledge to the students through many online classes.
- To help students who did not have the Internet connectivity, the video recorded lectures were sent by mail or through WhatsApp group.
- The strategic action plan for implementation of Multidisciplinary Four-year UG programmes with multiple entry and exit options under NEP 20 has been prepared and necessary infrastructure are attempted to be augmented.
- The Committee observed that the individual departments both UG and PG are yet to get prepared for the implementation of the NEP 20.

Suggestions:

- Efforts are needed to increase the admission to Vocational courses
- Taking advantage of the Autonomous status, college should introduce more skill based/oriented courses in partnership with industries.
- Internship with appropriate credit weightage may be introduced in both arts and science UG courses
- A separate placement cell and College-Industry interaction cell be established.
- A sophisticated Instrumentation Facility be established for the benefit of Faculty and Research scholars.
- Wi-Fi facility need to be enhanced in the college campus.

- The newly established JSS community Radio shall be utilized for outreach activities for the benefit of society. The same be fully exploited to train Journalism and other students. The multifarious talents available with the students should be identified and opportunities be provided through Radio for their all-round development.
- E- resources in the departmental Library and central library be enhanced with rich collection of educational videos and lectures of eminent scientists and academicians
- All classrooms to be ICT enabled
- Outdoor and Indoor sports infrastructure shall be upgraded
- Faculty need to be motivated to undertake research projects with external funding from national funding agencies
- Foreign languages such as French, German and Spanish be introduced to attract foreign nationals.
- Language lab to be fully exploited to train teachers, non-teaching staff and Students.
- Students' progression should be tracked at departmental level
- Alumni association need to be made more visible with greater involvement for academic growth of the college.
- The College has to take immediate steps to strengthen the human resources by filling up vacant teaching posts and by implementing appropriate promotion policy.
- The College may create visiting professorships for inviting eminent scholars and professionals to support major disciplines with doctoral degree programmes. This would augment acute shortage of senior faculty in some departments headed by Asst. professors on temporary basis.
- The faculty recruitments policy to be fine tuned to reflect inclusivity with in the broader framework of roster system.
- The College needs to organise workshop on NEP to create awareness about its expectations and implications. Every faculty should understand the importance of skill enhancement – not just from the angle of employability, but also from the angle of entrepreneurial acumanship.

- A special Committee comprising of the experts from a wide range of disciplines may be constituted to design and implement Multidisciplinary programmes.
- The digitalisation plan of the Library may be completed at an early time.

Acknowledgement:

The members of the Audit Committee would like to offer their Pranams to His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Sri Shivarathri DeshikendraMahaswamiji for reposing faith and nominating them to the committee. Further, the committee members express their great appreciation to the Chief Executive, the Principal, teaching staff and all the supporting staff members for the co operation and courtesy extended to the committee during their visit to the college. The members also wish to thank Dr. KumudiniAchchi for coordinating the entire visit.

The members of the AAA committee earnestly hope that the college will make efforts to adopt the suggestions given through this report and achieve the status of excellence in the field of Higher Education at an early date. We wish the College all the best for its future growth.

Names of the Members:

1) Prof. P.Venkataramaiah

2) Dr. K A. Ravisha

3) Dr. G. Kotreshwar

Signature.





