

**Peer Team Report on Institutional Assessment and
Accreditation of Bharathidasan University,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 024**

SECTION - I

PREFACE

Introduction

The Bharathidasan University, named after the great revolutionary Tamil poet, Bharathidasan, was established in 1982 at Tiruchirappalli by converting the erstwhile post-graduate centre of the University of Madras. It is an affiliating University established by the State of Tamil Nadu.

This University was recognised by the UGC under 12B in the year 1984. The progress made by the University so far in promoting quality education greatly matches with the aims and objectives of the University. The University has jurisdiction over 7 Districts namely Tiruchirappalli, Karur, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Nagappattinam, Thiruvarur and Pudukkottai. The University is spread over 1038 acres of land.

The motto of the University is "We will create a Brave New World". This is adopted from the vision of Thiru. Bharathidasan encompassed in one of his poems. True to this, the University today has many academic innovations, programmes and departments to its credit.

The University has three campuses viz., Main Campus, South Campus and Khajamalai Campus. It has 27 departments and 8 specialised centres. The University offers Ph.D. programmes in 23 disciplines, 11 M.Phil. programmes, 21 PG programmes, 4 UG programmes, 3 PG Diplomas and 4 Diploma programmes.

Out of the above said programmes, 4 Under Graduate, 1 Post Graduate and 2 PG Diploma programmes are self financing. These have generated a revenue of Rs.2.70 crores during the last year. There are 143 faculty members, out of whom 135 are permanent and 8 are temporary. Among the faculty members, 91 are Ph.D. degree holders and 52 are P.G/M.Phil. qualified. There are 476 non-teaching staff. The ratio



between teaching and non-teaching staff is 1:4. In the current year in all, 126 students have registered for M.Phil., 192 for Ph.D. and 505 students for UG, and PG programmes. Out of 823 students, 109 students are from the other States. The University has a well-managed Distance Education Center as well.

The unit cost of education (excluding the salary component) at the University departments is Rs.10,416/- per student, whereas, it is Rs.3,096/- per student in the affiliated colleges. Many students of this University have passed State Level Eligibility Tests and National Level Eligibility Tests.

The Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM) - an autonomous institution established with the active support of BHEL, and functioning in the BHEL premises, has emerged as one of the reputed management schools in the country.

The University has now volunteered to be assessed and accredited by the NAAC. It has submitted the Self Study Report (SSR) to the national agency. Accordingly, NAAC constituted its Peer Team consisting of Prof. A.M. Pathan, former Vice-Chancellor, Karnataka University as Chairperson and Prof. Shivajirao Kadam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Bharathi Vidyapeeth, Pune; Prof. M.M. Salunkhe, Director, Institute of Science, Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai; Prof. D.R. Goel, Centre of Advanced Study in Education, M.S. University of Baroda, Vadodara, Gujarat; Prof. M.S. Pillai, Director, Symbiosis Centre for Management and HRD (SCMHRD), Pune and Prof. K. Janardhana Reddy, HOD, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad, as Members. Dr. G. Srinivas, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Co-ordinated the Peer Team visit.

The Peer Team visited the University from 26th March to 28th March 2003 and held discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Members of Syndicate and the representatives of the Principals, Teachers, Students and Employees. The Peer Team also visited various departments, central facilities like, Library, Computer Centre, Health Centre etc.

Analysis of the Self-study report submitted by the University, confirmation of data, information, its verification through site visits and discussions and information gathered from the representatives mentioned above, are the inputs for the assessment by the Peer Team.



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SECTION - II

Criterion-wise Assessment

Criterion – I : Curricular Aspects

The University offers a wide array of contemporary, futuristic and career oriented programs. The frequency of renewal of courses which is once in a three year by the respective Board of Studies is reasonable. The time taken to institutionalise a new course is 6 months for University departments and one year for an affiliated college. This is commendable. There is a sizable representation of external experts on the various Boards of Studies. The Choice Based Credit System gives enough flexibility and scope for students to take electives of their choice from other disciplines. It strengthens interdisciplinarity. The University encourages affiliated colleges to develop new courses by promptly approving the proposals.

A centre, National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NPMC), along with a facility for Bio-informatics has been set up in conjunction with the Department of Microbiology and offers P.G. Diploma in Bio-informatics. Likewise a Centre for Remote Sensing has been set up in the Geosciences and offers P.G. Diploma in Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Advanced P.G. Diploma in Geological Remote Sensing & Geo Informatics and Ph.D. in Remote Sensing. Likewise the School of Energy uses the resources of pure science departments and offers M.Tech. in Energy Conservation and Management. The Chemistry Department has interacted extensively with the industry. The Physics Department has done excellent work in the frontier area of Non-linear Dynamics. The Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM) is a unique feature, in that it has been set up using the physical and human resources available at the Tiruverumbur unit of the public sector undertaking BHEL. In a span of 15 years, it has been recognised as one of the top business schools in India. The DRDO, Government of India has recently selected BIM to impart managerial training to its scientists.

A good measure of work has been reflected in the quality of post-graduate and research programs. In addition, it has resulted in excellent placements of their students especially in Chemical Sciences, Physics, Biotechnology, Life Sciences and

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Business Management. Recognizing the need for more financial resources, the University has setup self-financing courses like B.Tech. in Pharmaceutical Engineering and Technology, Petrochemical Technology, Bio-technology and Information Technology. In the field of Education, emphasis has been given to Educational Technology. The diploma course in Videography is timely as it is perceived to be very valuable.

The University has recognized the importance of Distance Education both as a means to provide low-cost higher education and to generate funding. It has been able to generate significant revenue of Rs.21 crores per year.

It is heartening to know that most of the Departments have academic autonomy, with the freedom to frame their own syllabi and conduct examinations. Conventional programs are restructured as per the demand of emerging trends. They have Inter-Departmental programs such as Eco-Biotechnology. However the Inter-Departmental programs can be intensified as there is scope for more Inter-Departmental Collaborations. The Curricular structure of the University provides ample scope for practical and fieldwork, since all the PG programs have the Project work as a compulsory component. Affiliated Colleges are also encouraged to offer many programs in frontier areas. One of the most significant aspects of the low cost mass based education delivery by the Centre for Distance Education is that, it follows the same curricula of the regular courses and conducts the same examination for both and there is no discrimination with respect to certification and degrees. This is a very bold step and benefits thousands of the under privileged and the inaccessible.

In addition to the above, the University has initiated several curricular reforms during the last five years. Some traditional/conventional programmes were redesigned to elevate them to frontier areas (Plant Science, Animal Science and Microbiology restyled as Plant Bio-technology, Animal Bio-Technology, Microbial Bio-Technology, respectively). Inter-departmental programmes in Eco-Biotechnology is another example. Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM) is yet another unique example. It is fully autonomous (academic, administrative and financial). Project work is a compulsory component in all the PG programmes. About 50% of the colleges (44) offer PG programmes including in thrust areas of IT, Computer



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Applications, Bio-Technology, Microbiology and 25% of the colleges (22) offer M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes. Career-oriented Diploma/Certificate and Vocational Degree programmes total to 72. Facility for concurrent study of additional Diploma/Certificate programmes in the evening colleges and/or through Distance Education mode is allowed. Extension component is a prerequisite for qualifying for any Degree. Arts and Science colleges were encouraged to start computer and IT courses. Folk Arts sessions are encouraged. Autonomous programs in Health Care and Hospital Administration were encouraged in colleges. The curricular matters are guided and coordinated by Dean, Centre for Curriculum and College Development.

However to consolidate the bold initiatives and innovations, the University could improve in the following:

- (a) The syllabi updation and renewal period be reduced from 3 years to one year - which is possible.
- (b) Pro-active and aggressive marketing efforts be initiated and sustained for placement of students.
- (c) Skill oriented certificate courses could be introduced in affiliated colleges.

Criterion-II : Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

Students are admitted through entrance tests/sound selection processes. Reservations are adhered to as per Government rules. Full time teachers to part time teachers ratio is 1:0.08. Out of 124 teachers, 91 are Ph.D.s and 13 have M.Phil. to their credit. Teachers update themselves to certain extent by attending conferences, seminars, workshops and acting as resource persons in these. Many teachers are honoured with awards for their research and contributions. Full time faculty engages 92% of class sessions. Hence, class cancellations are hardly any.

The University has continuous internal assessment and semester system of evaluation. In the under graduate programmes there is a provision for revaluation

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whereas in PG there is retotalling as double valuation system is in practice. Providing of Xerox copies of the answer scripts is in vogue the evaluation system.

Field based and industry oriented project work is compulsory for all the PG students. Besides the central library every department is having a departmental library. It is noted that in some departments the dropout of students is significant.

The teaching-learning process is strengthened through periodical seminars, field visits, intensive lab-practicals and compulsory project work for all the PG programmes. The audio-visual equipments are very frequently used.

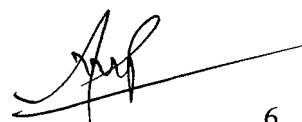
The teaching schedule and academic calendar are not affected on account of student unrest or any other disturbance. The classes are handled mostly by full-time faculty. But in the School of Engineering and Technology, BIM and some of the Departments with less-than-optimal faculty on position, the services of guest faculty are availed. The teachers keep abreast of the latest developments in the subject through library reference, seminar participation, internet browsing etc. Almost all the teachers have access to computers with internet connection. All the Departmental libraries enjoy sizeable recurring grant for the purchase of books/journals. As of now, there are more than 40,000 volumes in the Departmental libraries.

The pass percentage of students has been quite impressive in most of the disciplines taught.

Examinations are held as per the schedules notified. Results are announced in 45 days time and revaluation/retotalling are done in 15 days. The tabulation of marks etc are computerised and mistakes are rectified in matter of days pro-actively.

Teachers are evaluated by students at the end of the term. Self evaluation is also in vogue. Centralised assessment and revaluation is followed.

However, the Peer Team feels that there could be more faculty development programs. The continuous evaluation of the 40% internal component of the examination needs to include field assignments for applied insights as well. The

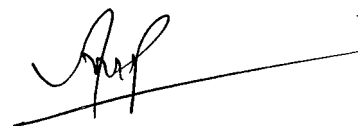


possibility of impersonation in the internal assignments by the distance learning students be studied. Students evaluation of teachers should be mid-course or earlier.

Criterion-III : Research, Consultancy and Extension

The research profile of the faculty of Bharathidasan University is quite impressive. Many of the Faculty members are awarded various fellowships including Commonwealth, Fulbright and other Exchange Fellowships. Two scientists have received prestigious Bhatnagar Award. Many departments have been recognized under special funding support, for example, Chemistry under SAP and FIST, Physics under FIST, Remote Sensing under AICTE and ISRO and so on. The faculty at the individual level and department level have established linkages with reputed national and international organisations. It is worthwhile to mention some of the research facilities developed by the University with the help of national funding agencies are such as National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NFMCC) – DBT, the Centre for Remote Sensing – AICTE, NMR – SAP and so on. The University Departments have 122 Full-Time and 70 Part-Time research students. They have good number of national and international publications alongwith one patent, which is in process, to their credit. University has also set up “BARD Business Development Cell” for co-ordination of the University-Industry R & D linkages. Some of the Departments are offering consultancy to Sugar Mills, Paper, Chemical, Textile and Pharmaceutical Industries as well as to Defence Ministry.

Though the scope for collaboration with and providing consultancy services to Industry and Government Organisations by the faculty of the pure sciences is limited, yet the faculty members of the Chemistry Department and those in the area of Geo Sciences and Life Sciences have commendable achievements like Chemistry with: Industry; Life Sciences established centre for: NFMCC; Geo Sciences established centre for : Remote Sensing.



The faculty members have organized numerous workshops and seminars and acted as resource persons in them and seminars held elsewhere thus providing academic leadership, which is one of the goals of the University.

The Peer Team is happy to record some of the achievements of the University in the area of Research, Consultancy and Extension as illustrative examples.

Research Awards and Distinctions

- Bhatnagar Award, Hari Om Trust Meghnad Saha Award, Royal Academy of Sciences, FNA, FNASC - (*Physics*)
- Bhatnagar Award, Commonwealth Fellowship, Young Scientist, Career Awards - (*Chemistry*)
- Sahitya Akademi Awardee - HOD *Tamil* (retired)
- Fellowship of National Academy of Sciences (FNASc), Indian Association of Angiosperm Taxonomy, Plant Tissue culture Association, Linnean Society of London, Fulbright Award, Fellow of Academy of Environmental Biology, Indian Science Congress Award, Indian Association for Angiosperm Taxonomy Award, National Environmental Science Academy Award, Fellow of Royal Entomological Society of London - (*Life Sciences*)
- Indian National Remote Sensing Award - (*Remote Sensing*)
- TANSA Best Scientist Awards - (*Physics, Chemistry, Plant Science, Bio-technology, Remote Sensing*)
- Dr. Malcolm Adiseshiah Award for Literacy Work - (*Adult Education*)
- Career Award - (*Economics, Chemistry*)

Other awards include: Commonwealth, Fulbright and other Exchange Fellowships.

Special Assistance & Funding Status

- **SAP-DRS Level-II** : Chemistry
- **FIST** :
 1. Animal Science
 2. Chemistry
 3. Physics
 4. Plant Science


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- **DST** : Non-linear Dynamics
(Intensification of Research in High Priority Areas around outstanding persons (IRHPA) DAE-NBHM)
- **DBT** : National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NFMC)
- **UGC** : Human Consciousness and Yogic Science programme under Physical Education

International and National Research Linkages

- **Animal Science** : University of Kentucky, Illinois, U.S.A.
- **Biotechnology** : Central Silk Board; Government of India; Indo-American Hybrid Seeds Bangalore, and Bar-Illam University, Israel
- **Insect Molecular Biology Lab** : International Foundation for Science, Sweden.
- **BIM** : DRDO, BHEL Linkage, MoU with IBM India for training in IBM software.
- **Physics & Centre for Non-linear Dynamics** : International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy and Japan Society for Promotion of Science, NBHM, DST.
- **Chemistry** : DRDO; Osaka University, Japan; University of Kalsrube, Germany; CNR, PARMA, Italy and Smithkline Beechem.
- **Plant Science** : Max Plank Institute for Infectious Biology, Germany and Centre for Cell & Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.
- **Microbiology** : University of Hong Kong; University of Leicester, London and Virginia Commonwealth University, U.S.A.
- **Remote Sensing** : Melbourne University, Australia; ISRO; Iran Mineral Exploration Group.
- **Energy** : Intense Industry Linkage; Approved Energy Auditor, Government of India.
- **Economics** : World Bank - Environment - Capacity - Building.



- **Social Work** : Campus Diversity Initiative, Extension linkage sponsored by Ford Foundation.

- **Canadian Studies** : CSDP - INDO-SHASTRI CANADIAN INSTITUTE

Note: The above list is not exhaustive; at the individual faculty level, there are many academic linkages.

- **Research Grants Generated so far** : 12 crores.
- **Ongoing Research Projects** : 66
- **Research Grants for the Ongoing Projects** : Rs.12.75 crores

During last five years

- **No. of Publications** : 1051
- **Journal Published** : Journal of Swamy Botanical Club
(*Plant Science department*) (included under *Ullrich's International Scientific Periodicals*)
- **Books**
(Publishers include Springer-Verlag, World Scientific Co., Manchester University Press, Narosa, OUP, CRC (USA), Oxford IBH) : 70
- **No. of Ph.D.s Awarded** : 210

Consultancy, Transfer of Technology and Patenting

- **NFMC** - 3 technologies transferred to M/s ABL Biotechnologies Ltd., Chennai (for a lumpsum of Rs.50 lakhs plus 1% royalty).
- One more technology for anti-viral drug is to be transferred shortly. (Consultancy earnings : Rs.2.36 lakhs)
- **Energy** - Energy consultancy to Sugar Mills, Paper, Textile, Chemical. Bio-mass based power plants, Disposal of hospital wastes through locally designed Incinerators. (Total consultancy earnings of over Rs.1 crore.)
- **Remote Sensing** - Soil erosion, reservoir siltation, hill eco-system, environmental geomorphology. (Consultancy earnings Rs.27.12 lakhs)



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- **Chemistry** - Pharmaceutical Industry and DRDO, Ministry of Defence (Project linked).

Patent in queue

- **Bio-Technology** - Engineering Silkworm, *Bomby mori* for enhanced silk production.

Criterion-IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Starting from a post-graduate centre of the University of Madras in 1982, the Bharathidasan University is today spread over 1038.49 acres. Contiguous to the main campus, is the South Campus where most of the academic departments and administrative complex along with the self-supporting ventures of the University are located. There is also a downtown campus at Khajamalai. The reputed Bharathidasan Institute of Management is located in the Tiruverumbur unit of BHEL, a reputed public sector undertaking.

The total built up area is over 61000 sq. meters. The building facilities are adequate for most of the existing programs. They have six hostels accommodating good number of students and 24 staff quarters. They have also created other facilities like an A/C auditorium, Convocation Hall, Guesthouse, Health Center with a resident doctor, Bank, Post Office and Telecom Center. There are well-maintained gardens, lawns and a few fountains. However, plantation in the campus may be further taken up with water harvesting technologies.

The Central Library has a good collection of over 67,000 volumes and subscribes to around 200 journals, including some journals on CD-ROM. The library is kept open throughout the year and there is open access system. They have INFLIBNET facility also. Book Bank scheme is available for poor students. Apart from Central Library, all the Departments have their own Libraries the stock of which exceeds 40,000 volumes. There are 600 computers in various Sections/Departments of the University. There are five central computer facilities and besides these

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individual faculty members have their own computers with Internet connection. Networking is possible for optimum usage.

It is noteworthy that the catalogues of the various departmental libraries can be accessed from the Central Library.

There is Central Workshop with glass blowing and machine shop facilities. There is also a video studio attached to the Department of Educational Technology.

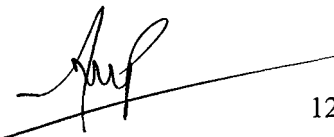
The sports infrastructure includes a gymnasium, yoga hall, courts, track fields and the necessary sports equipments.

The University teams are strong in Volleyball, Hockey and Cricket. There is scope for improving achievements in this area.

The infra-structural facilities are put to optimal, if not maximum use. Because of the distance from the city, the use of the central library and other facilities by the affiliated college students is limited. It is hoped that in due course, this would improve. The Departmental labs and computer facilities are fully utilised by most of the research scholars staying on the campus. Some labs are open round the clock.

The distance learning centre has excellent computer lab. They have also 13 personal contact centres with adequate computer facilities for students to avail of. The B.Tech. Information Technology has two well-established labs. The campus has an Informatic centre for students to have internet access. In addition to this, most of the departments including examination section has adequate dedicated computer labs. However, in the School of Engineering and Technology, more equipments and other machineries are being procured and installed.

However, the Principals felt the need for an instrumentation centre "USIC" for the use of faculty from these affiliated colleges. Campus wide internet is not available now. But it is in the plan. One unique aspect is the availability of the studio with digital imaging facility of the University department of Educational Technology which can produce telecasting quality outputs.



The equipments and technological facilities in the Centre for Remote Sensing in Geo-Sciences are excellent. The National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria is also outstanding. The instrumentational facilities including the audio-video at Bharathidasan Institute of Management are also exceptionally good. This is a facility extended by the BHEL - which is the only of its kind in India.

Criterion-V : Student Support and Progression

The National Service Scheme (NSS) centre of the University has involved 71 affiliated colleges alongwith the University Campus, with a total strength of over 16,500 students. Career counseling has been included in the NSS regular activities and 30 hours of regular NSS work is exclusively allotted for career counselling. There are alumni associations in some of the departments, but at the University level, it has been recently started and the Peer Team feels that this University should have an active and strong alumni association to tap their contribution in both academic and non-academic areas.

Students are encouraged to obtain scholarships sponsored by Government and other funding agencies. It is good to know that poor and weaker sections are given special support and they provide studentship for Ph.D. scholars belonging to reserved categories. University publishes annual "INFORMATION BULLETIN" giving detailed information of different programs. There is also "BARD News Letter" bringing out the current developments on the Campus.

The Placement Cell is very effective in case of MBA program, but this activity has to be developed for other departments also.

There is separate Resource Center for competitive exams (RCCE). The Department of Social Work encourages and helps students appear for competitive examinations as also the UGC-CSIR NET/SET examinations. This feature should be inculcated in other departments as well.



The career guidance and counselling are done under the aegis of Youth Co-ordinator, and at the Department-level also. The Peer Team had observed the efforts that are underway to collect the feedback from the current as well as past students about the various dimensions of University and its programmes.

The observation of the Peer Team is that,

- (a) with respect to student support - financial aid, scholarships, empathetic consideration of their concern, genuine approaches to solve their problems, timely conduct of examinations and publications of results, revaluation, subsidised hostel facilities etc., are being done.
- (b) At the knowledge imparting side excellent efforts, innovation and renewals are being done. But
- (c) At the "grooming level" a lot needs to be done. Particularly in the following areas.
 - i) pro-active and aggressive efforts are to be initiated with active involvement of students to place them.
 - ii) Efforts and activity based " learning by doing" assignments under intense faculty supervision to be initiated to make students more confident, communicative, assertive, independent and action oriented. Knowledge alone will not fetch them what they are seeking in a competitive environment.
 - iii) Students' involvement in
 - curricular research,
 - opportunity (placement research)
 - extension work
 - community work etc.

can be done " as assignments " .



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- iv) Linguistic skills including skills in English and in one of the foreign languages will boost their confidence and marketability and
- v) Proactive P.R and net working - lead by faculty involving students - to be initiated.

If so, this university has all potential to be a role model.

The authorities and faculty are full of energy and enthusiasm to elevate the university - through their functions and departments. If channelised by strategic actions and activeness - this university has tremendous opportunities. Marketing and customer relation management are very essential. Making the products marketable is also very important.

Criterion-VI : Organisation and Management

The organisational structure of the University according to the present Act are Senate, Syndicate, Finance Committee, the Standing Committee for Academic Affairs, the Faculties, the Board of Studies and the Planning Board. The Syndicate of this University is the supreme body. Transparency, delegation of powers and participative management are practised as a strategy to improve the functioning of the organisation.

The University is following the reservation policies in appointment of staff as per the Government of Tamil Nadu norms. It follows the confidential report system and self appraisal systems for performance appraisal of the staff. As a part of development programme the University offers training to different categories of staff in office procedures and computers, Middle level officers are deputed to undergo outside training programmes.

It is worth noting that the University has generated a good amount of resources through self financing courses, consultancy and fund raising drives. The resources generated through distance education in the last year was Rs. 21.05 crores.



The State Government is also given grant in aid to the University. Through these measures the University has comfortable amount of corpus for embarking upon development of newer programmes. Barring the self financing courses, the fee structure for other programmes are as per the stipulations of the government.

During the last two years the entire budget was utilised. The University adopts concurrent auditing by the Local Fund Audit Division of the State Government. The University also has provision for internal Audit. The University has also prepared a 10 year perspective plan detailing the goals and objectives and the process of achieving.

The University management enables wider participation of the faculty and others in decision making.

Powers are delegated to their next levels with a sense of involvement and speedy administration.

The Management deserves commendation for strengthening the resource base of the University. In the initial ten years, the university which was in difficult financial state turned the corner, through new methods of resource generation such as infra-structure development fees & youth development fees collected from affiliated college students, substantial hike in affiliation fees and revision in several other fees, diversification and broadbasing the distance education programmes, consultancy/R and D earnings etc, Today the University has a comfortable amount of corpus for initiating several new development programmes.

The University has well designed welfare schemes for the staff and faculty. The administration is being progressively computerised. Training programmes for the staff have been periodically undertaken.

But, the recent decision of the Tamil Nadu State Government to transfer all the government colleges (the largest number-(16)-under this University alone) as constituent colleges of the respective Universities is going to be a challenging task for the University in terms of administration and management burden. However,

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considering the past record of the University, the Peer Team feels confident that the University can cope with and overcome this new situation very smoothly.

The comraderie, transparency, warmth, energy, commitment, ownership and enthusiasm seen among the faculty, staff and executive committees are all pervading and highly commendable. This speaks of the quality and genuineness of the leadership of trust, autonomy and facilitation rather than bureaucratic. However, the peer team feels that if the departments could develop short duration training and workshop programmes for the corporates, college managements and teachers, entrepreneurs etc., can fetch revenue and also bring in new learnings.

The peer team keeping in mind the present conducive culture and potential of the university, feels that there is a need to revise some of the ordinances and statutes of the university. The staff especially who are staying in campus, expressed the need for a proper "Recreation" hall and facilities.

The medical centre could consider introducing health and accident insurance and periodical health check up to students, staff and faculty.

Criterion-VII : Healthy Practices

The Peer Team has identified several initiatives of the University as Healthy Practices. Some of them are:

- The University has created an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to review the quality of academic and administrative activities.
- The team work, decision making through representative committees and computerisation are adopted by the University.
- The Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) and the self financing courses of the University are worth mentioning.
- The University has established linkages with National and International institutions for training and research.



- The planting and growing of trees on the campus is inculcates sense of civic responsibility and environmental consciousness among the students but also gets resource for the University.
- Well execution of affiliating functions by organising regional-level Principals' Business Meet wherein all the top officers of the University and local administration would also participate for spot disposal of pending issues.
- Conferring autonomy to 8 colleges (including three Government Colleges) and giving them full academic freedom to make structural changes in their curriculum.
- Granting total autonomy (academic, administrative and financial) to one of its Schools of excellence, Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM).
- A pioneering effort in introduction of computer science education in the Arts and Science colleges, more than 20 years back; an academic innovation at that time. This now resulted in presence of alumni at every part of the globe.
- The Distance Education system, is offering same syllabi/examinations and certificates of the regular courses.
- The University has the distinction of winning laurels many times at the inter-university and inter-zone cultural competitions.
- Going-in for self-supporting programmes in a big way by establishing a School of Engineering and Technology as thrust areas.
- Ensuring University-Industry collaboration in R & D projects and also earning consultancy; for Co-ordinating this activity, a nodal agency called "BARD Business Development Cell" has been established, with a corporate working culture.
- Making the Tiruchirappalli City clean of the hospital wastages by erecting an Incinerator at the School of Energy and arranging for collecting all the hospital wastages and destroying them on a daily basis; this is one of the remarkable community services, using the R & D of the University. The School also makes a net income of Rs.5 to 10 lakhs per year, out of this. However, the School of Energy studies may consider establishing the incinerator in the Garbage grounds of the Tiruchirappalli Municipal Corporation (TMC).
- Planting and growing about 15,000 teak trees and more than a lakh Eucalyptus and other trees on Campus.



- Offering many welfare schemes to the University staff (e.g. giving fee concession to the wards of the class-IV staff, and also to the staff themselves if they do programmes in Distance Education).
- Giving incentive awards to the top performers in the school final examinations, from among the Children of the Staff.
- University's encouragement and assistance to faculty who are invited by foreign institutions is highly motivating.
- The magnanimity of conducting a special examination to a MBA student of one affiliated college who missed the original examination due to his participation in national level bodybuilding contest, is inspirational and highly motivating.
- The University's active encouragement to affiliated and autonomous colleges to come out with innovative and contemporary and futuristically relevant courses and its prompt affiliations, is trend setting and inspiring.

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SECTION – III

Overall Analysis

The University during the last two decades since inception, has registered phenomenal progress in various areas of higher education. It has pioneered into emerging areas of knowledge generation.

The University faculty have strong academic credentials and have made their impact and there is a perceptible improvement in the visibility of the University in the country and abroad. Some of the faculty have acclaimed global recognition in their fields of specialisation.

The quality of education in the affiliated colleges has been substantially improved and sustained over the years; some of them are reputed ones and the University is encouraging them to acquire the status of deemed University.

The linkages between the University and other user-agencies are to be strengthened further under the aegis of BARD Business Development Cell. All these would greatly enable this University to sustain success in the years to come.


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Commendations

- ★ The university has adopted choice based credit system.
- ★ The university gives computer training to village school children.
- ★ The university has been conducting examinations on the basis of examination calendar prepared every year and results published on time.
- ★ The university has published 1,000 and odd research papers in national and international journals and published 70 books, during the last 5 years.
- ★ The university is the first in the country to introduce degree programme in Computer Sciences and its Applications.
- ★ The university has 66 ongoing research projects worth over Rs 12 Crores generated from various funding agencies of the country.
- ★ The university has a National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NPMC) a premier research centre with the support of Department of Bio-Technology, Govt. of India and the Centre for Non-Linear Dynamics in the Department of Physics supported by National Board of Higher Mathematics, DST, Govt. of India and a Centre for Remote Sensing supported by AICTE.
- ★ The university has to its credit a number of faculty members who have been awarded prestigious awards like Bhatnagar Award, Hari Om Trust Meghnad Saha Award, TANSA Best Scientists Award etc.
- ★ The University has established good national and international linkages.
- ★ The University officials periodically visit the affiliated colleges to solve their outstanding problems.
- ★ The University depends least on Government grants, by generating internal revenues by innovative academic programmes and research/consultancy etc. This can be a model for others to follow.



Suggestions

While deeply appreciating several Healthy Practices initiated and sustained by the University, the Peer Team suggests to the University, State Government and Central Bodies that the following areas of concern may be taken care of to further facilitate the University in the path of academic excellence and glory.

- When students take subjects other than their own areas under choice based credit system, they may be encouraged to take basic or foundation course even in traditional subjects which will enable them to access knowledge of an interdisciplinary nature. Thus Chemistry and Life Sciences students should be encouraged to take courses in basic Physics and Electronics. Indeed special courses should be designed by the respective departments to cater to the special needs of these students keeping in mind their academic background. Likewise, Life Sciences students should take courses in Chemistry. Also Physics students should be given an opportunity to learn about basic Chemistry and Biology especially in those areas where application of Physics will be fruitful. A case could be made for introducing Science courses in Commerce and Management departments so that students are better adapted to face the developmental challenges.
- There is scope for pure sciences departments to interact extensively with the School of Engineering and Technology so that together they can offer their services to Industry and Government Organisations. It is suggested that Marine Science and Aquaculture can be developed and they may consider to have collaboration with NGO's.
- Many Universities today have introduced the idea of rotation of headship among the senior members of the department. This should be considered. When knowledge of the difficulties involved in running an educational



program/department trickles down to lower levels, more of the staff appreciate the difficulties the department face. It is hoped that the University structure will be better able to cope with the certain difficult challenges to be faced in the future.

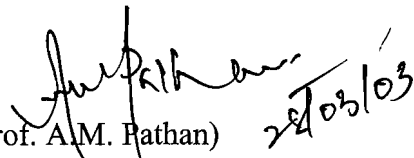
- In view of existence of three departments of Physical Education, Adult Continuing Education and Extension and Education Technology, it is suggested that these departments can be brought under Faculty of Education through its creation.
- It is suggested that student involvement in the teaching, administrative and maintenance of facilities be considered.
- The university in general revises the syllabus once in three years; in subjects like Computer Science, Life Science, Remote Sensing etc., the gap could be reduced from three years to one year. For this, the students' feed back could be obtained on the relevance of subject, syllabus, the method of teaching, etc., then the revision and updating could be meaningful.
- It is preferable to introduce tutor-ward system allotting a specific number of students to each teacher so that academic progress of each student can be monitored apart from extending the desired help in personal matters at the time of the need. A formal feed back in terms of questionnaire will enable faculty members to know the strengths and weaknesses in teaching and academic activities.
- Many other departments be encouraged to adopt the practice of consultancy.
- There is a need to strengthen the University Library by making more budgetary allocation for procuring more Journals.
- The university could consider strengthening the Department of Geology by providing necessary infrastructure for better output and for better research opportunities.

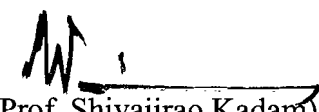


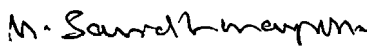
- In case of integrated programmes offering masters degree courses, there may be exit options at appropriate levels.

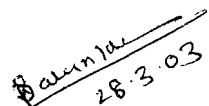
The Peer Team earnestly acknowledges the support and co-operation extended by the Vice-Chancellor, Syndicate, Statutory Officers (Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Finance Officer, Librarian), Co-ordinator and Members of NAAC Steering Committee, students and staff.

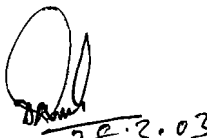
Wishing the University and its people a great success and honour.

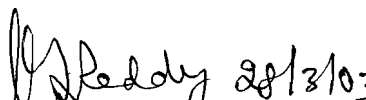

(Prof. A.M. Pathan)
Chairman 28/03/03


(Prof. Shivajirao Kadam)
Member 28/03/03

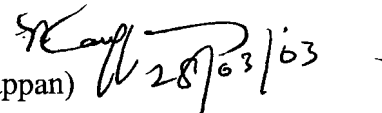

(Prof. M.S. Pillai)
Member 28/3/03


(Prof. M.M. Salunkhe)
Member


(Prof. D.R. Goel)
Member 28.3.03


(Prof. K. Janardhana Reddy)
Member

I accept gratefully the report excellently made by the
Peer Team


(Prof. Muthiah Mariappan)
Vice-Chancellor
Bharathidasan University.

Date : March 28, 2003

Place : Tiruchirappalli - 620 024
Tamil Nadu