

Report on the Peer Team's Visit to  
Basavaprabhu Kore Arts, Science and Commerce College,  
Chikodi – 591 201, Karnataka

*For the purpose of Assessment and Accreditation*

**Section I : PREFACE**

The Basavaprabhu Kore Arts, Science and Commerce (BKASC) College, a constituent college of Karnatak University, Dharwad, volunteered to be assessed and accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore. For this purpose it submitted a well-prepared self-study report in 2003. The director, NAAC constituted a peer team committee consisting of the following members

1. Professor H. Surya Prakash Rao, Professor and Head, Department of Chemistry, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry as the Chairman and
2. Professor John Kattakayam, Director, Academic Staff College, University of Kerala, Trivandrum, as the member

Unfortunately, Professor V. Ramakistayya who was initially appointed as the Chairman of the committee could not participate in the visit.

The peer team visited the college during Feb 9 and 10, 2004.

The BKASC College is located in a serene atmosphere at a well-maintained 23.25-acre campus located in Chikodi, 70 kms from Belgaum city in rural Karnataka. Professor B. S. Gavi, a distinguished teacher and acknowledged academician is the present principal of the college. Professor M. S. Doddamani, Department of Economics acted as the coordinator for the preparation of self-study report and facilitator for the Peer team visit. Well-known Karnatak Lingayat Education Society (KLE'S) established the college in July 1969 to cater to the higher educational needs of predominantly rural and agricultural society. The University Grants Commission recognized the college in 1972.

Before the visit to the college the peer team members carefully studied the self-study report and analyzed various parameters. During their stay in the campus, the peer team interacted with the Chairman, KLE Society, the Principal, members of the management committee, faculty, students, non-teaching staff, representatives of associations, parents, alumni and others concerned. The team also carefully went through all the pertinent records and documents made available by the college authorities. Through these activities the peer team had a real feel of the institution.

The BKASC College, Chikodi, is a constituent college of the Karnatak University, Dharwad, imparting undergraduate education in arts, science and commerce disciplines to different cross sections of predominantly rural students. It is an institution run by KLE society and is located in

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the vicinity of Chikodi town and close to Kolhapur in Maharashtra. The principal under the guidance of a board of management administers the college. It is one of the earliest colleges established in northern Karnataka. The KLES, is the oldest society in Karnataka whose main activity is to promote education among rural people. At present the BKASC college offers the various grant-in-aid and self-financing program options only in undergraduate programs such as B.A., B.Com. B.Sc. B.C.A. given by 16 departments. The college does not have autonomous status. The college that started with a small strength, is now striving to impart higher education to over thousand students drawn from essentially agricultural communities.

The Institution has faculty strength of 47 including 32 permanent, 9 temporary and 6 part time teachers. Out of the 32 permanent teachers 7 have Ph.D. and 7 have M.Phil. as highest qualification.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The objective of the college is to provide qualitative superior education to rural students on par with urban students and encourage rural women to pursue higher education as a means of empowerment. The mission of the college is to make provisions for imparting relevant undergraduate education in arts, science and commerce subjects to rural and economically weaker sections of the society and also impart physical and moral training to the students. To meet the mission statements the college strives to offer education to socially deprived sections, particularly students belonging to poorer sections of the agricultural society, scheduled caste and schedule tribes. However, as a matter of principle the college does not discriminate students on the basis of caste, creed or religious background. This aspect is laudable as the institution was established by a community based Lingayat society. In fact about twenty percent of its student strength is from deprived sections of the society and about eight percent are women.

## **Section II: Criterion Wise Analysis**

### **Criterion I: Curricular Aspects**

The college offers three years undergraduate programs with different combinations from 16 departments leading to B.A., B.Sc. B.Com. degrees under annual pattern of education. In recent years B.C.A. degree under semester system was introduced to meet the growing demand of job-oriented courses. However, there are no takers for this course in the current year. Innovative job-oriented programs such as food science, agricultural economics, microbiology, cell-biology, biotechnology, bioinformatics, communication and journalism can be introduced in future as program options. Two language courses are compulsory for all students. They can choose from the courses offered by the Departments of Kannada, Hindi, Marathi, Urdu and English. There is further room for improvement in the communication skills of students. Communicative English and a course on Writing Skills can be introduced to all students on a

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broad basis. In addition, students should have options to study various Indian languages on private basis though diploma courses that can be offered by the college.

The curriculum design and syllabus for different courses are upgraded normally once in three years through deliberations in the University constituted, Board of Studies. The college has freedom to design new, innovative and job-oriented courses through Board of Studies. To cater to the growing demand, the college introduced computer science as one of the optional subjects in B.Sc./ B.A. under self-financing basis. It is desirable that all the students in the college should be made to take one applied paper on computer familiarization. Presently such paper is offered to only B.Com. students. It is desirable for every student to learn value-based education, particularly with respect to Indian Culture. This can be made a part of the curriculum. Presently there is no choice for selection of courses across disciplines once student is admitted to a program. The college can strive to introduce Choice Based Credit System. Choice based course selection will help students to design their own curriculum depending on their abilities and inclinations. Credit mode coupled to semester pattern of education will promote this aspect of learning process. It will also inculcate interdisciplinary attitudes among students. In addition, the college may also consider offering introductory courses on management, yoga and music to cater to interdisciplinary aspects of learning process. Such courses within the selected discipline will make the student life in the college more lively and wholesome.

#### **Criterion II : Teaching Learning and Evaluation**

Teaching and learning programs are consistent with the goals and objectives of the institution. There is ample evidence that the college follows open system of admission primarily based on merit. Guidelines framed by the University and the Government are strictly adhered to during the admission process. To encourage girl students to take up higher education tuition fee is waived for B.A. and B.Com. programs. Similarly, very poor students get financial support from Vidya Poshak Scheme. There are 1061 students and 47 staff members which works out to be a healthy student teacher ratio of about 22:1. Being a rural institute it is not surprising that there are hardly any student from outside the state and no student from foreign countries.

Students who were found to be weak in English language are given remedial classes. Weak students are identified in all subjects through tests and extra classes are given to them. Bright students are also identified and are given extra coaching for getting admission for higher studies. The peer team was happy to note very high levels of communication skills among many of the students especially girls. However, there is room for improvement with the introduction of methodical bridge courses in all subjects to the deficient students particularly to those who come from a vernacular background. Recognition and rewarding of teachers who introduce innovative teaching methods to weaker students will also promote the same cause.

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The teachers are encouraged to make a teaching plan at the beginning of each term. Syllabi are unitized according to the annual system of teaching. In Botany department students prepared chart and models for teaching purposes. Field trips formed integral part of Botany, and History department teaching activities. Botany faculty and students are maintaining a garden of medicinal plants under a shade house. Commerce and Economics students go to local banks to study banking and auditing procedures.

The college has provided facility for the use of teaching aids including overhead projectors, audio-systems etc. The college may encourage faculty to use power-point presentation extensively. The college library has audio and video hardware for the benefit of students. Wide use of computers to visualize molecular modeling and dynamics of chemical reactions will enhance grasping powers of students. There is one internet connection available in the college for use of the students. A wide net work of computers with internet connection is desirable. Most of the faculty members have computer awareness. However, not all departments are provided with computers. LAN with at least one computer to each department is desirable.

The college follows annual system of examinations. The University conducts examinations at the end of academic year through pre-constituted board of studies (UG). A Committee consisting of two or three senior teachers set the question papers for the entire university. The Controller of Examinations in the University gets the answer scripts evaluated centrally by a team of teachers having at least three years experience. The success rate of students is about 75%. In some departments like Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology and Commerce few students got University ranks.

Even though the college is constrained by the rules and regulations of the University, it can consider introduction of some form of well-designed continuous internal evaluation through session examinations, seminar talks, quiz programs etc. Internal evaluation should be transparent and should reflect overall performance of the student. The student evaluation of the teachers is conducted at regular intervals on topics covered in the syllabus and teaching methods adopted. This has helped the teachers to improve their teaching skills.

The selection of the faculty in the college is based on University rules and regulations. Norms prescribed the UGC and the state government is followed in the selection of the permanent faculty. The college encourages up-gradation of teaching abilities of the faculty by deputing them to orientation programs and refresher courses run by the Academic Staff Colleges. It also encourages faculty members to participate in regional, national and international seminars by giving funds from KLES. However, at present only a few teachers are utilizing this benefit. The college may insist all the teachers to participate in regional/national seminars/conferences at least once a year. It is noteworthy that some senior faculty members are serving as resource persons in school-teacher training programs.

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The college may consider deputing even the temporary faculty to academic staff college programs.

### **Criterion III : Research Consultancy and Extension**

The college is an undergraduate institution. There is no provision for research activity in student curriculum. However the college encourages the teachers to contribute to articles to local journals/news papers. Only a very few faculty members are doing research at high level. Special mention is made on the research activity by a young faculty member in the Botany department who published two books, seven papers in national journals, several news paper articles and delivered many radio talks. One faculty member in the Commerce Department is a recognized research guide and supervising three research scholars. Two faculty members from Kannada and Sociology departments have published several books and their books have been selected as text books by the concerned Board of Studies. The faculty member from Marathi has published many articles in vernacular dailies.

The expertise developed by the faculty members can be aptly utilized by offering consultancy services to nearby industries/institutions. Presently, the consultancy activities are in the form of extension activities, and are mostly concentrated in the Departments of Chemistry and Commerce. In future, all the faculty members may be encouraged to take up at least one funded research project. One faculty member can be made in-charge of coordinating research and consultancy activities in the institution.

The National Service Scheme (NSS) is active in the college under the able leadership of a faculty member from Kannada department. It organizes camps in rural areas to promote student-people interaction. Through this movement students experience enormous social obligations that they need to discharge in future. Blood donations camps are periodically held to augment blood bank in local health centers. NSS activities include community service on every Sunday morning for four hours and ninety students are participating out of which seventeen are girls. The NSS organized aids awareness program, polio vaccination, and Akshara Prabha, a literacy mission.

National Cadet Corps (NCC) Scheme is active the college. Some of the cadets are girls with genuine interest to join Army or Airforce in future.

The Department of Politics and Sociology help senior citizens, participate in 'each one teach two' program, conducted election analysis studies etc. The Department of Politics celebrated the "youth parliament" and "Human rights day".

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#### **Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

The institution augments the infrastructure to keep pace with academic growth. It has effective mechanisms for timely maintenance and optimal use of infrastructure. The college functions in two shifts; morning shift for arts and humanities streams and afternoon shift for science streams.

The institution has good library facilities. All the books are catalogued according to international system of cataloguing and the inventory is computerized. The Central library is interconnected with other libraries for inter-library borrowing. It has a total of 31,208 books. Open access to books and journals and increasing of library time upto night 10 pm, at least during examinations. With the new library block being constructed, more space is expected to become available for students to browse through the books. The management can think of providing cubicles in the new library. Book bank scheme is a good practice in the library. It is laudable that the librarian has developed useful software for library automation.

There is a Central Computer facility in the college. Appointment of permanent faculty or amalgamation of mathematics or commerce faculty into computer science department may facilitate its effectiveness. It is proposed to interconnect all departments with LAN.

Professional caterers run the canteen. The College also has two hostels and it shares this facility with the Law College and Polytechnic College, which are located in the campus. All the rooms are double bedded and have adequate facilities. The hostel facility is extended to students on need basis. Economically deprived students get free lodging facility in the hostel. The college has a well equipped Gymnasium, Open Air Theatre and a large Play Ground. The timings of Gymnasium are from 8 A. M. to 5 P. M. This facility may be made available from 6:00 A.M. to 9 P. M., so that the campus inmates can effectively make use of this opportunity.

Computerization of the office and other Departments are in progress. The institution has adequate physical facilities to run the educational programs and administrative functions efficiently. The college is having well furnished rooms for the Principal as well as non-teaching staff. The management can think of providing a separate staff room for all the departments with exclusive spaces for each faculty.

#### **Criterion V: Student Support and Progression**

The college publishes its updated prospectus annually. It gives guidance to students about admission and completion requirements for all programmes, the fee structure, financial aid and student support services. Dropout rate of the institution is very low. Various kinds of financial aids are available to students from the Central Government, State Government, the institution and others.

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The college has a career guidance cell for the benefit of students seeking jobs or for higher studies. Each student in the college may be attached to a teacher to develop teacher-ward relationship.

The college has an Alumni Association. The alumni association could become active in areas concerning student progression and creating healthy atmosphere in the campus. It is laudable that Alumni association is planning to conduct tutorial/coaching classes for students attempting national level tests.

Recreational facilities are available to students including audio video facilities, outdoor games, debate clubs and cultural programmes. Establishment of Adventure club, Nature club, photography club for students with one faculty member in-charge will help healthy growth of students. "Work while you learn" scheme developed by the college is helping poor students to generate funds to finance their studies.

#### **Criterion VI: Organisation and Management**

The BKASC College is managed and governed by the KLE Society. The college has an internal coordinating and monitoring mechanism. It has an inbuilt mechanism to check the efficiency of the teaching and non-teaching staff. The principal and the staff council of Heads of all departments do the internal co-ordination and monitoring. The college conducts professional development programs for non-teaching staff. The Institution has an internal audit mechanism. There is a Grievance Redressal Cell in the college. Less serious grievances are left to the HODs to be disposed. Serious grievances are handed over to the inquiry committee. The college undertakes various welfare programs for the teaching and non-teaching staff. There is a cooperative society in the college for the benefit of teaching and non-teaching staff. Academic and administrative planning of the institution goes together. The college may work in tandem with local banks to generate loan facilities to the needy students soon after their selection to the college. The college has got a separate governing body drawn from local area for the smooth running under the overall control of the KLE Society.

#### **Criterion VII : Healthy Practices**

The institution has adopted mechanism for internal quality checks. It is sensitized to latest managerial concepts such as strategic planning, teamwork, decision-making and computerization. The institution promotes creativity and innovations among the students. It makes various efforts, such as personality development, Debating Union etc. for all round development of the learners. It also makes efforts to bring community orientation in its activities. It also includes computer application in all its curricula.

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### Overall Analysis

The peer team after going through the self study report and after visiting various sections of the institution, verifying the record is very much impressed by the college aiming at the set goals of imparting higher education to rural youth and women empowerment. The college has earned a reputation in this remote area of Karnataka for imparting quality education, personality development and a sense of discipline to the younger generation.

Peer team would live to commend different features of the college aimed at transferring knowledge through quality assurance and high standards. Some of the unique quality features of the college include

- Dedicated Principal, faculty and non-teaching staff members create healthy atmosphere in the college.
- Students are admitted on the basis of merit and needy and poor students are accommodated through scholarship and tuition fee waiver.
- Students are assessed for their deficiencies and remedial steps taken to elevate them to higher standards.
- The governing council has adequate freedom to appoint temporary / part time staff members to augment teaching activities.
- The college encourages progression of faculty in academic advancement.
- The administration is transparent and well coordinated.
- Several extension programmes for the benefit of the local community through NSS, Handicapped Cell etc.
- Presence of Grievance Redressal Cell, Staff Co-operative Society for the benefit of students and staff is noteworthy.
- Location of Principal's quarter in the campus helps to effectively maintain the functions of the college.

In addition to those mentioned in this report the peer team would like to place below few suggestion to help the college realize its objectives even more effectively.

- The college may enlist the support of local community to sponsor books to needy students.
- Well organized research and consultancy work can be attempted, by mobilizing support from national funding agencies.
- Greater level of involvement of accomplished individuals from local community and nearby institutions to promote academic activities.





- College may strive to improve communication and writing skills through language labs.
- All faculty members could be encouraged to take up atleast one funded projects.
- The faculty strength of the English department may be increased as it is important for overall development of students.

The NAAC peer-team would like to place on record sincere thanks to the Principal, co-ordinator, faculty, staff, students, organizing committee, K.L. E. Society and other concerned citizens of Chikodi for making their visit memorable. The peer team also would like to thank NAAC organization for inviting them to conduct this frutious visit.

*H.S.P.R.*  
10/02/2004

Professor Dr. H. Surya Prakash Rao  
(Chairman)

*[Signature]*  
Professor Dr. John Kattakayam  
(Member)

*I agree with the report.*

*[Signature]*  
Prof. B. S. Gavi  
Principal



Date: 10/02/2004

Place: Chikodi