

Draft Peer Team Report  
on  
Institutional Accreditation of  
**DEVCHAND COLLEGE,**  
Arjunnagar, Kolhapur, Maharashtra.

23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2004.

Section I : Preface

Established in the year 1961 under the name 'Janata College' by the Janata Shikshan Mandal, Arjunnagar, the college was renamed in 1967 as 'Devchand College' in recognition of the great contribution made by its founder President late Padmabhushan Devchandji Shah. The main objective of establishing such an institution in Arjunnagar was to provide education to the poor and needy Marathi speaking people of the border area of Karnataka and Maharashtra states. The motto of the institution is '*Tamaso ma Jyotirgamaya*' and its mission is to remove illiteracy and provide light of literacy to the poor students in the border area. The college, started with the Arts, Commerce and Science streams enrolling nearly 200 students, presently has a total strength of 2,799 students in the junior college and 1,613 students in the senior College. The college is offering 15 (U.G. 8, P.G. 6, M.Phil.1) academic programmes. The college campus is spread over 45 acres of land in a rural area bordering Karnataka and Maharashtra states, with part of the campus within the Karnataka state and remaining major areas in the state of Maharashtra. Shri Kiran Devchand Shah, an industrialist and philanthropist, son of the founder President, Devchand Shah who was a well respected Agriculturist, social worker and philanthropist, is the President of the Janata Shikshan Mandal that manages the college. Devchand College is affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and is a grant-in-aid college. The college has U.G.C. recognition under 2(f) and 12(b) since 1961.

Being quality conscious, the Devchand College, Arjunnagar, volunteered to be assessed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, by

submitting the self study report in September 2003. The NAAC constituted a Peer Team to visit the college and validate its self-study report. The Peer Team consisted of Prof. R. Ramamurthi, Former Vice-Chancellor, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati as Chairman, Prof. P. R. Sudhakaran, Dean, Faculty of Science and head, Department of Biochemistry, University of Kerala and Dr. P. C. Upadhyay, Principal, Shri B. K. Patel Arts and Smt. L. M. Patel Commerce College, Savli, Vadodara as members. Prof. P. R. Sudhakaran was the Member Co-ordinator of the Peer Team visit and Dr. K. N. Madhusudanan Pillai, Academic Consultant, NAAC was the internal co-ordinator. The team visited the college on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2004 to validate the self-study report submitted by the college. During its visit, the team had extensive interaction and discussion with the Management, Principal, Faculty members, students, parents, alumni and non-teaching staff. The Peer Team visited all the Departments and support services and examined all the relevant documents. Based on the above and keeping in mind the criteria prescribed by the NAAC for institutional assessment, the criterionwise assessment of the Peer Team is given below.

## **Section II – Criterion-wise Analysis**

### **1. Curricular Aspects :**

The senior college has 13 academic departments conducting 7 undergraduate programmes including B.Com. and 6 PG programmes including M.Com. and an M. Phil. programme. The undergraduate programmes under the science faculty include B.Sc. (Chemistry) and B.Sc. (Physics), B.Com. and B. A. (Economics), B. A. (Political Science), B. A. (Sociology), B. A. (English), B. A. (Marathi), B. A. (Hindi) and B. A. (History). Post-graduate programmes in Arts include M. A. in English, Marathi, Sociology, Economics and History and M. Com., for which the lectures are given by the teachers recognised as post-graduate teachers by the Shivaji University. As the college is affiliated to Shivaji University, the curricula and syllabi for various subjects prescribed by the Board of Studies of Shivaji University are followed by the college. A few teachers of the college from the Departments of History, Political Science, English and Marathi have participated in the process of syllabus and curricula formulation in the University by serving as Dean, Faculty of Arts, Chairman, Members of BOS and Academic Council. It

takes a long time to conceptualise and formulate new scheme and syllabi and once it is approved, it takes at least one year to introduce it in the college. The syllabi revised in the light of the recommendations of the UGC curriculum committees are being introduced. The temporal pattern of academic programme is annual scheme. The three year degree programme consists of Part I, Part II and Part III for the purpose of examination and the examination for each part is held at the end of the year. These courses are generally conventional courses. Although there is not much flexibility in terms of the time frame and conduct of the programmes, the students have the option to choose appropriate combination of optional subjects. Non core options are also available to the students in Part I and Part II. Students of commerce faculty are given three options for selecting the special subjects during the third year.

Special coaching to students who want to appear for competitive examinations is given. Special attention is given to students who are talented. Most of these conventional courses were started in 1970s and no new conventional course has been started during the last 15 years. However, a course in B.Sc. Computer Science has been started in 2003 under self-financing stream. MSCIT is a short term course offered in Computer Science.

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

Rules and regulations prescribed by the Shivaji University and the State Government are observed for the conduct of teaching. Students are admitted based on their academic record; however no student from the border area who seeks admission has been denied it. Preference is also given to students who have credentials in sports and cultural activities. A total of 1342 students are studying for UG course of whom 472 are girls and 271 students are studying for PG courses. Knowledge and skills of students are assessed by the teachers by frequent interaction with them. Advanced learners are identified and guided for developing their talents. Instruction is offered following a teaching plan; monthwise academic plan is prepared by the teachers, twice an year. Teachers try to ensure that the academic programmes progress according to the teaching plan. In case of failure to complete the programme on time, teachers take extra lectures either after regular classes or Sundays and holidays and special time table is prepared for

that. Apart from lectures, other methods like discussion, question-answer sessions and class seminars are also conducted. Some teachers make use of charts, transparencies and models for effective teaching. Evaluation at the college level includes terminal examinations, unit test and assignments. Average number of teaching days is 180. Information regarding the evaluation at the university examination, model of examination etc. are provided to the students.

Teachers are recruited as per rules prescribed by the UGC and the University. The college has the freedom to appoint teachers on clock hour basis only. There are 42 permanent teachers of whom 6 are on ad-hoc appointment (not NET qualified) and there are 27 part time teachers working on clock hour basis; nearly 65% of the classes are taught by the full time faculty. Self appraisal method is followed to evaluate the performance of the teachers. It encourages the teachers to participate in Refresher and Orientation courses and seminars and workshops and during the last two years 4 teachers have attended orientation programmes and 19 teachers have attended refresher courses. The college organises study tours and field visits. Teachers have won awards which include award for best Marathi book, GEM of India, **Human Resource Development Award** and Best Sports Teacher Award.

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

Research work in the college though of a moderate level is carried out by the faculty members. M.Phil. programme in Marathi is conducted. There are 5 faculty members who are recognised supervising teachers to guide students for Ph.D., although the college is not a recognised centre for research. Faculty members have taken doctorate degrees; there are 8 teachers with Ph.D. and 1 teacher with D.Litt. 4 teachers are working for their Ph.D. Institution encourages teachers to carry out research by permitting to suitably adjust academic work. Two minor research projects with external funding have been undertaken. There is an ongoing minor research project funded by HRD, Government of India. Teachers have presented their work in seminars and conferences and have published books. Although papers have been published, the number of publications in peer reviewed journals are very few. **Attempts have been made to**

establish linkage with other laboratories in Germany by certain faculty members. The work of a faculty member has been recognised by a best poster award.

Faculty members are permitted to offer consultancy services. The nature of the consultancy services offered by the faculty members include labour laws, organisation and development, social work, administration and management; the clients include NGOs, Education Societies, Trusts, Bank, Industry, Co-operative Societies etc. Four faculty members offer such consultancy services.

The college has established a typical work culture to carry out extension work and community based activities at different levels. Personal social services of the faculty members are appreciated and contribution of certain faculty members in the area of social services have been recorded in the history of Nipani town. There are members in the faculty who has served as MLAs, and members and office bearers of the local bodies and are associated with political parties. Social movements like *marginal farmers movements, tobacco and bidi workers movement* have been spearheaded by the staff of the college. A number of community based and outreach activities aimed at community development, health and hygiene awareness, adult education and literacy, environmental awareness and women empowerment have been organised by the staff and students. Work done by the nature club and the **Swayamsiddha are particularly praiseworthy**. NSS and NCC units also are active.

#### **Criterion– IV : Infrastructure And Learning Resources :**

The college is housed in a 45 acre campus. The main building of the college is a two storied one. It has 37 rooms in the ground floor and 23 rooms in the first floor. It houses branches of Bank and Post Office. The college has hostels for boys and girls. A free hostel with facility for eight inmates is available with sponsorship from the Rotary Club.

It has residential buildings for the Principal and the Rector. A canteen is functioning in the campus. There is a central library with over 40000 books and a few periodicals. Science laboratories are adequately equipped though sophisticated instruments are lacking. Efforts are made to modernise the services of the library. There

is a room serving as Computer Centre where 15 computers (under LAN) and 3 stand alone systems and internet connectivity is available.

The college uses the adjacent high school building to cater to the demand of additional rooms for additional classes or divisions. It plans to overcome this difficulty very soon by converting the existing library into classrooms. Sanction has been accorded to construct a separate library building by the UGC, during the X Plan. Book bank and off-time reading facility is provided.

The college provides playground, gymnasium, sports material and ground equipments to community people at nominal rental basis. External agencies are allowed to make use of the academic as well as the infrastructural facilities of the college. Infrastructure facilities have been optimally utilised.

#### **Criterion – V : Student Support And Progression**

The student dropout rate is minimal. Teachers are cooperative and take interest in coaching the students for competitive examinations., The college is aware of the importance of the feedback practices.

The college updates its prospectus every year. Apart from the state government aid to students, the college provides certain financial aids to the poor and needy students through a registered Trust. There are a number of cash prize awards to encourage students in their studies. It is gratifying to note that more than 90% of the students get some scholarship.

Although there is no formal alumni association, a group of alumni willingly collects funds and donates to the management. In fact, the present Gymkhana Hall was constructed out of such a donation.

Students are provided with recreational facilities. It has a number of clubs and committees through which it organizes nature camps, dance, debate and sports competitions. The students have done remarkably well in intercollegiate and inter-university competitions, particularly in volleyball. Students union is active and class representatives who are selected on the basis of their academic performance, elect the office bearers of the students union.

Yashwantrao Chavan Open University Study Centre is functioning in the college and is providing academic and personal counselling to needy students from outside.

### **Criterion – VI : Organization And Management**

The college is working following basic principles of democracy. The academic and administrative matters are coordinated and managed by the Principal. The management has given full freedom to the Principal. The college manages its internal administration through a number of committees/ boards. The Local Management Committee consists of representatives of teachers and non-teaching staff. The college has an effective coordinating and monitoring system.

There are 55 non-teaching staff of whom 30 are in administration while 25 are supporting technical staff. The work efficiency of the non-teaching staff is evaluated through meetings where various administrative matters are discussed. The proceedings of these meetings are maintained. The non-teaching staff is sent for professional improvement trainings.

Both administrative and academic work is carried out by assigning work to various committees and helping them organize their activities according to a time plan.

Being a grant-in-aid institution, the salary of the entire regular staff is paid by the State Government. Only 50% of assistance received from the UGC for IX plan has been utilized and the remaining is being carried over for utilization. Fees other than tuition fee is the only source of internal revenue. Standard procedures are followed for expenditure and accounting and the accounts are subjected to internal and Government audit.

The college takes care to redress the grievances of the teaching and non-teaching staff although there is no grievance redressal cell; such a mechanism exists, however, for students.

The college provides loan facilities to both its teaching and non-teaching staff through its staff credit society. The non-teaching staff union has developed a scheme for emergency loan. There is no unfair or illegal practice regarding services of faculty members and non-teaching staff.

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

The authorities and management are quality conscious. The college believes in putting in place the latest strategies of management through strategic planning and team-work. Department and staff meetings are done regularly.

The policies of the college are explained to the employees, their cooperation is sought, their hard work is appreciated, and sincerity and honesty are respected.

Although the office is not fully computerized, pay sheets, tax calculations, correspondence, proposals and attendance sheets are done with computer.

The college takes care to inculcate civic values in students through community development work. In this, both teaching and non-teaching staff are actively involved.

Through 'Earn and Learn' programme, poor needy students are paid Rs. 10/ hour for off time duty in library hall where a book bank facility is available.

The policy of the college is framed to achieve the objectives and goals. Students are guided and counselled for personality development. Social activities and programmes aimed at community development are encouraged. The representatives of teachers and non-teaching staff work shoulder to shoulder with the top Management. Legal and fair practices are observed.

The work of Nature Club and Swayamsiddha is praiseworthy.

### **SECTION III : OVERALL ANALYSIS**

The college located in border area between Maharashtra and Karnataka states has been catering to the needs of the Marathi speaking people of the area since its inception 42 years ago. The college has strived to meet the purpose for which it was established and can be proud of the fact that many of the former students of this institution from this area has settled very well in different walks of life and has contributed / are contributing significantly to nation building process. The college has good infrastructure in terms of class rooms, laboratories, library, hostels, auditoriums and playgrounds. The management of the institution is organised on basic principles of democracy. Although the academic programmes offered are conventional in nature, it has helped the students to mould their future. The academic work is planned in advance and monitored regularly. Team work is evident. Evaluation is done regularly and students are guided and counselled. Extension

and social and community based activities carried out by the faculty, non-teaching staff and students deserve particular mention. Performance of the students is good. Students have done well in sports and cultural activities at intercollegiate and inter-university level and the performance of the volleyball players is remarkable. Interpersonal relations are very good and special efforts are made to motivate the students. Efforts have been made to establish linkage with other laboratory. The progress made by the college during the last four decades is commendable.

While appreciating the good work done by the college during the last four decades, since its inception, the Peer Team would like to suggest the following for the consideration of the college authorities for consolidation of the gains and further strengthening of the academic activities.

**Strengths :**

- The college is 42 years old and is located in a sprawling campus with adequate buildings, to house classrooms, laboratories, supporting units such as library, gymkhana, play fields, hostel for boys and girls, waiting room for girls, indoor canteen, outdoor facility for cultural activities, bank and post office. The whole scenario is impressive with facilities available from KG to PG study.
- The college has permanent affiliation of Shivaji University and is recognised by UGC for aid under 2f and 12B.
- The science laboratories are adequately equipped.
- The academic programmes at UG and PG level are well organised with good student-teacher interaction and inbuilt internal evaluation system alongwith remedial coaching to students who are academically challenged.
- The commitment of teachers for teaching and training in and out of classrooms is clearly visible.
- There is a computer centre with internet facilities, adequately catering to teaching, training and service oriented programmes.
- The students feel contented and confident about the training they receive which is remarkable.

- Scholarship is disbursed through the bank, which is praiseworthy.
- More than 90% students get scholarship.
- Drop out rate is relatively low.
- The library is equipped with text books, reference books, magazines and computer, is adequately staffed.
- The UGC made a provision in the 10<sup>th</sup> plan for a library building for which management is propping up with a matching grant.
- The college has alumni who are occupying very distinguished position in India and abroad and have expressed in an interaction meeting their willingness to participate in developmental activities.
- The departments organise seminars and group discussions effectively to improve knowledge acquisition as well as communication skills.
- The staff have been organizing many community service oriented extension programmes of which the women's programme of 'Swaymsiddha' is truly outstanding.
- The management is benevolent and proactive with keen desire to modernize the need-based academic programmes and resource generation.
- The faculty not only presented their credentials in terms of their qualifications, research done, academic programmes being conducted but also presented their views regarding future programmes aimed at imparting additional skills to students.
- The students have acquitted themselves creditably in sports, games and cultural activities at university and national level.
- Many members of the faculty are willing to embark on the multidisciplinary research and extension programmes.

**Weaknesses :**

- Majority of courses offered are of conventional nature except computer and electronics related courses.

- In view of the college being 42 years old, many senior faculty have either retired or about to retire with CHB staff bearing the brunt of teaching schedule. This situation has arisen due to State Government ban on filling vacancies.
- There is a lurking apprehension among the faculty about the possibility of starting need based courses in view of resource crunch and procedural wrangles. This can be suitably offset and tackled by management with appropriate assurances.
- There is water shortage in the campus which needs to be addressed.
- The pace of modernization of teaching, administration and support services is rather slow.
- The non-teaching staff though committed require upgradation of skills.
- Inadequate orientation and personal counselling to the beginners.
- Problem of communication in English.

### **SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- While the multiple institution cluster is located in a 45 acre complex there is scope for expansion to bring into existence new buildings as and when required and also to develop agroforestry system of commercial plantations. Semi arid and drought resistant species have to be selected.
- The campus has water shortage. The suggestion of agroforestry, works both ways. Once minimal irrigation facility is made available plantation scheme leads to watershed development and management and rain water harvesting can be tried. Water shortage problem is to be addressed as a top priority.
- The academic programmes and the associated seminar and extension activity though well run, the student aspirations in the modern competitive world demand introduction of need based regular and short term courses. It is recommended that the faculty should really come together and prepare a vision document outlining a perspective plan for a 10 year period with prioritized agenda. Based on the inputs received from the faculty, the following academic programmes are suggested to be offered either by a single department or through a multi-disciplinary system.

Diploma/ Certificate course

Vermi composting

Mushroom culture

Ecotourism

Women empowerment through  
'Swayamsiddha'

Biodiversity monitoring and conservation

Course on aptitude test and entrance  
examination

Banking and Business Economics

E-Commerce

Industrial Chemistry

Co-operative training

Spoken English

Taxation (Commerce)

Computer Application and IT (Computer  
Centre)

Yoga

Agroforestry (Biology)

Bioactive Compounds

(Chemistry and Biology)

Entertainment Electronics (Electronics)

Rural soil and Water Quality

Microlevel Planning and Resource Survey

Medicinal plants and plant products

Regular Courses including Biotechnology  
innovative courses Environmental Science  
Law  
Chartered Accountancy  
Management Information System  
BCA  
Mass Communication and Journalism  
Multimedia  
B.Ed. programme

Some of these courses could be run through grants obtained from UGC and other federal agencies which often need to run under self financing system.

- Every department should be provided with computer facility.
- There is a need to start a PG centre for Science courses.
- It is recommended that small 'Health Centre' unit be started in the campus.
- Girl students need a visitors lounge in the hostel. Fans may be provided in the girls hostel. It is desirable to appoint a lady staff member as Rector for Girl's Hostel. NCC for girls may be started.
- More text books are to be acquired by the library. CDs may be procured.
- Library has to be modernized with computerization and internet facility.
- The college may acquire LCD facility.
- Consultancy services are being offered by several faculty members. This needs to be formalized by starting a **consultancy cell** and the rules, financial or otherwise are to be framed.

- Very good extension programmes are done by faculty and students. It is desirable to have a **definite plan of action and programme** of events to be held through a co-ordinated mechanism with a designated official.
- It is good to see that the institution offers guidance for career development and for placement. This activity needs further inputs and encouragement.
- The concept of 'Modi Coaching Classes' at reasonable fee is to be encouraged.
- A **Campus Development Fund** may be established.
- Great promise shown by students in sports and games needs augmentation of gymnasium facilities and **sports complex** infrastructure.
- Women's forum is doing a great job and the agenda of 'Swayamsiddha' could be formulated into a course which holds immense promise.
- Time is ripe to bring out a '**State of the Art**' brochure of the college.
- Majority of the students of this college come from Marathi medium with poor background in English. To improve their communication skills suitable programme on communicative English may be started in view of its national and global importance. The proposal of the Department of English to establish a **language laboratory** must be pursued further and should be established as a common language facility with external assistance.
- The creation of a fullfledged centre for **coaching for competitive examination** may benefit the students. Information relating to various job opportunities in the State and the Centre and necessary information and literature for competitive examinations may be made available. Coaching classes for various competitive examinations may also be arranged.
- **Remedial teaching** to weak students may be strengthened. Intensive coaching to bright students may be provided in all the subjects.
- **Linkage** with industry, neighbourhood facilities be strengthened.

- Advisory Committee may be constituted with external experts from different fields and **periodical discussion** be carried out for the development of the college.
- An Internal Quality Assurance Cell to have internal quality checks throughout the year may be established in the college.

The efforts put in by the Principal, the Co-ordinator, the Steering Committee and others in preparing the Self Study Report are greatly appreciated. The Peer Team would like to thank the Principal-in-Charge and his team for all the help and co-operation extended in validation of the Self Study Report for assessment and accreditation.

**Dr. R. Ramamurthy**

Chairman

**Dr. P. C. Upadhyay**

Member

**Prof. P. R. Sudhakaran**

Member co-ordinator

I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the Peer Team in this report.

**(Dr. A. G. Joshi)**

I/c Principal

