

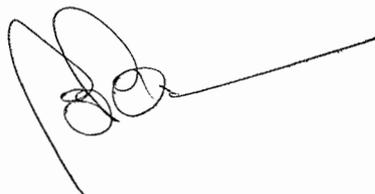
Report on
the Institutional Accreditation of
the Mula Education Society's
Arts, Commerce and Science College,
Sonai – 414 105, Taluk - Newasa,
District - Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Section 1: Introduction

Mula Educational Society, Sonai established, Arts, Commerce & Science College, Sonai at District Ahmednagar in June 1989. The College is affiliated to University of Pune, Pune and is a Grant-in-Aid College.

Mula Educational Society was registered in 1979. The aim of this society is to impart education to the people belonging to all castes, creeds and communities irrespective of their sex and to make educational facilities available in rural areas and to promote the education among the rural masses in the adjoining areas.

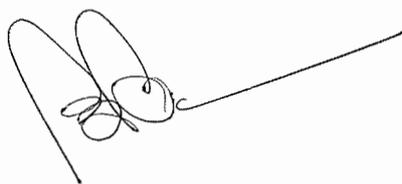
The college campus area is 20 acres and is located in rural area. The college was started in rural area because the students had to go to Newasa (40Kms), Rahuri (25Kms.), and Ahmednagar (45Kms.) for higher education. Most of them were from agricultural background and socially and economically backward. Their parents could not afford the higher education though they were willing to educate them and they have to spend nearly Rs.10,000/- per student per year for the education.



Most of the students admitted in the college are below average level. In addition they are repeater more than twice at (12th) twelfth standard. The strength of such students during last five years is on an average 12.28%. Generally, they are not admitted in urban college since admission is on merit basis. So they are also admitted in this college and thereby an opportunity is given to them to take higher education. 29.02% girls have taken the benefit of higher education during the last five years.

The college prepared the self study report and submitted to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore. NAAC constituted a peer team comprising of Prof. P. S. Bisen (Formerly VC, Jiwaji University), presently working as Director, Madhav Institute of Technology and Science, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh as Chairman, Prof. Susila Mariappan, Director, University Students Advisory Bureau (USAB), University of Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Prof. George Thomas, Principal, Christ College, Rajkot, Gujarat as members. Mr. B. S. Pommudiraj, Academic Professional of NAAC ably coordinated the peer team visit.

Before arriving in the college the peer team studied and analysed the self study report submitted by the college. The peer team visited the college during 27th – 29th Jan 2003 to validate the self-study report and see the physical and infrastructural facilities available in the campus. The team also interacted with the management committee, the secretary, the principal, members of the faculty, administrative staff, technical staff, students alumni and parents of the students and verified all documentary evidences. The following is the evaluation report of the peer team.

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Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The college is conducting the following programs.

1. **B.A.:-** English as compulsory subject and any five out of seven available subjects, i.e., Marathi, Hindi, Geography, History, Economics, Politics, and Additional English.
2. **B.Com.:-** Along with the core subjects Accountancy, Business Economics (Micro), English, Marathi. Students have the option to select the subject of their choice from the following groups.

Group (A):- Marketing, Salesmanship & Publicity, Banking and Finance, Secretarial Practice and Company Management.

Group (B):- Cost and work Accountancy, Business law, Taxation and Auditing, Business entrepreneurship, Purchasing and store keeping.

3. **B.Sc.:-** Following group options available.

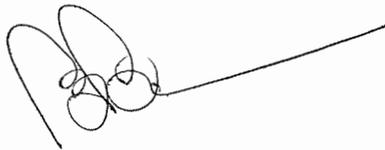
Group (A) :

1. Mathematics
2. Physics
3. Chemistry
4. Botany

Group (B) : Students are offered to take either of the following sub-groups.

Group (I)

1. Physics
2. Chemistry



3. Botany

4. Zoology

Group (II)

1. Chemistry

2. Botany

3. Zoology

4. Geography

4. M.A.:-

1. Hindi

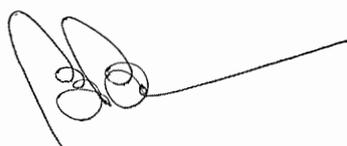
2. English

University of Pune, Pune, circulates the curriculum of the above programs for the purpose of teaching and evaluation. Thus the college has no power and jurisdiction to bring any change in the curriculum with a view to restructure. No doubt the "The University of Pune, Pune." Act provided the scope of autonomy to the college but this college has yet not availed this scheme. It was, however, seen that two of the teachers of this college are members of the board of studies of the university and they are involved in restructuring the curriculum.

It takes a year to start a new course within the present university system. Industry - neighborhood network does not exist.

The college has not obtained any feedback from academic peers and employers with reference to teaching-learning in undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The college conducted seminars to frame the syllabus for the certificate course in e-Commerce.

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Along with above undergraduate programs the college is conducting a Certificate Course in Beauty Techniques for girls in collaboration with Vocational Education and Training, Government of Maharashtra.

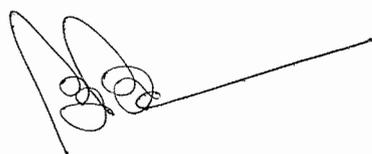
The peer team felt that the goals and the objectives of the institution viz. providing low cost higher education to the rural backward children of the region were more or less achieved.

Criterion II: Teaching–Learning and Evaluation

The college runs in three shifts from morning 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs for Arts, 1205 hrs to 1630 hrs for Science and 1000 hrs to 1400 hrs for Commerce.

Most of the students are average and some are below average level. The number of students who are admitted is less than the admission quota allotted to the college by the university. The teachers on their own level tried to help the students regarding their admission and motivated them to take higher education.

The college conducts class tests and terminal examinations in order to evaluate the student performance during the course of the academic year, even though these tests marks are not counted for the award of the university degree, the students seems to take it seriously. Teachers correct the answer books and return them to the students with necessary feedback. The college needs to provide bridge and / or remedial courses in multi disciplines to the educationally disadvantaged students.

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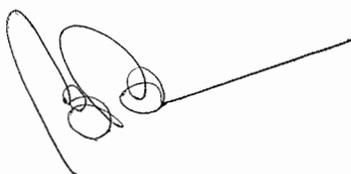
In the beginning of the academic year, the staff meeting is held to distribute the subjects to the teachers. At the departmental level the teachers can share the courses and topics to be taught in the year.

Out of the 29 teaching staff only 18 members are eligible to do university evaluations and only three are eligible to set question papers for university examinations.

The college follows the lecture method of teaching in most of the classes. Teachers may be encouraged to use novel teaching methodologies like Charts, OHP, Computer Multi media projectors, seminars, group discussions, etc. to make the teaching-learning process effective, informative and meaningful. Though college has a few CD's and audio-video cassettes for teaching-learning but rarely used. The Botany, Zoology and Geography departments conduct study tours.

The college conducts various co-curricular and extra curricular activities through literary, arts, commerce and science associations, women cell, NSS and NCC.

The procedure laid down by the State Govt. and University of Pune are followed for the recruitment of teachers in the vacant posts. The committee finds procedure hurdles and delays thereof in the recruitment of the teachers. Under the principal and management authority the college has freedom to appoint and pay temporary / adhoc teaching staff in certain circumstances. Even though the current teaching staff members are committed and motivated the peer team suggests that the number of teaching staff members available are quite inadequate to meet the academic demands.

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Though the teaching staff members have attended orientation and refresher courses organised by different Academic Staff Colleges, which is the basic requirements, they have not been exposed to the recent trends in their subjects by attending conferences, seminars, symposia, etc. at state and national levels.

There are two faculty members who received state / university teaching awards. There are no national and international level linkages for teaching and research.

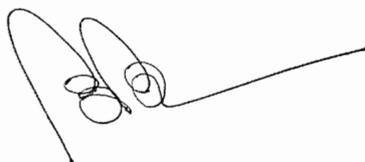
Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The college runs two postgraduate programmes viz., M.A. in Hindi and M.A. in English. There is no project work for the postgraduate students. There are 29 full time teaching staff drawing UGC scales from the government of Maharashtra. Out of 29 there are 2 teachers with Ph.D. and 7 with M.Phil. degrees.

During the last five years there is no publication from any faculty. The team suggests that the college should take immediate steps towards promoting research culture among teachers and postgraduate students. Teachers may be encouraged to register for Ph.D. degree in their respective subject. The college may try to attract funding from academic bodies for research and development by submitting project proposal through research committee.

The college doesnot provide any consultancy services.

The college conducts various community oriented extension activities through NSS and NCC. The extension activities are blood donation camps, medical camps, plantation, AIDS and environment awareness, Adult Education and literacy camps in the nearby villages.

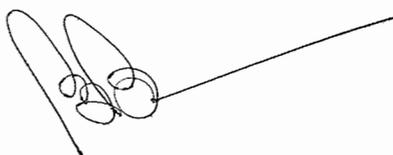


Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college is situated in an area of 20 acres of land. The campus is well planted in a pollution free atmosphere. Acute shortage of classrooms exist in the college. Only 6 classrooms are available in the college and needs greater attention by authorities. There should be proper provision of electricity connection, illumination, fans, furniture and ventilation in the classroom. The peer team suggests that the management should strengthen the classrooms.

Only one laboratory has been provided in science subjects each in Physics Chemistry, Botany and Zoology. The students in Chemistry department has to perform practicals in physical chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry and inorganic chemistry in a single laboratory, which is highly insufficient. The team suggests that there has to be minimum two laboratories for the chemistry practicals. Similarly in the physics department there is only one laboratory for conducting practicals in physical sciences along with computers. The peer team advises to segregate the computer laboratory separately from the physics department.

In the laboratory of Botany and Zoology departments, the microscopes used by the students are of very primitive in nature. They should be replaced with latest microscopes of 1000x magnifications. The instruments required to demonstrate practicals to the students at the undergraduate level are not available in the departments of Botany and Zoology. The team advises that the college should update the laboratories with new equipments as per the present day requirements in life sciences.

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The library is backbone of any institution, which we notice, is in very poor shape. The number of books in the library is nearly 8000, 47 periodicals and magazines and 4 journals. The library is being arranged in a classroom of nearly 400 sq.ft. area which is too meager to accommodate the books and the students together. Therefore, the management should think of constructing a complete library with proper infrastructure facilities. Girl's students face problems in access to the library. It is good to see that all books are catalogued through computer. The investment on the library is too low. The team suggests that it should be enhanced three to four folds from the present level. The reprographic facility is not available in the entire campus. For the benefit of the students it will be highly appreciable if the college obtain a photocopy machine for the library. The working hours of the library should also be extended.

The peer team appreciates the efforts made by the college management for computer literacy programme in the college by arranging computer courses within the campus for the office and college staff. The students are showing interest in learning computer programmes. Looking to the interest of students the computer peripherals should be updated. There are 14 computers in the campus. One with the Principal and another with the Office of the Principal. Twelve are kept in the Physics department laboratory with internet connectivity for students and staff.

It is surprising to note that the college with strength of 700 students, 28 teaching staff and nearly 65 non-teaching employees has got no health care centre. The team advises to initiate the establishment of health services in the campus in order to meet the contingencies.

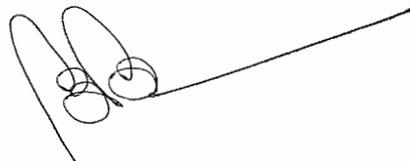


There is a Physical Education Director without any supporting staff. There are two volleyball courts, one kho-kho court, and one badminton court. There is hardly any sports kit in the college. There are only 6 badminton rackets, 6 hockey sticks and one volleyball. The sports department requires to pay high attention in the maintenance of courts and available sports kits. The students of this college have high potential in sports if properly groomed. The college is collecting nearly Rs.36,000/- per annum as sports fees. The team advises to utilize the sports fees for sports activity. It is heartening to note that one student was selected for inter-university competition from this college.

Women's wing of NCC are doing very well. The cadets are highly motivated and one cadet has passed B Certificate in a short span of two years of its establishment in the campus. There is a demand from the boys students to start NCC boys wing so that they can also be benefited with NCC training and that will also open the job opportunities for the students in Indian Army.

A working women hostel has been built by the finances from Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of India in the premises of the college with a capacity of 20 girls inmates. The college is maintaining the hostel by appointing one lady teacher as warden. Out of five students staying the hostel only one is from the college and the other four from the nearby schools. The hostel is under utilized.

There is no boys hostel, canteen and guest house available in the campus.

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Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The drop out rate is very high (around 50%) as most of the students either migrate to other colleges for the want of desired subjects or due to inadequate teaching staff members in the department.

The pass percentage of the students in the last two batches for Science, Arts and Commerce is not encouraging and they are around 40%, 55% and 60% respectively.

Two students have passed State Level Educational Test (SLET).

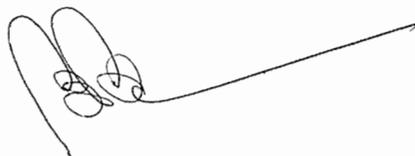
The college publishes its updated prospectus annually.

Financial aids are made available to the students of Backward Class (BC), Scheduled Caste (SC) and Nomadic Tribes (NT) from the state government.

The college encourages the outstanding students by providing cash awards.

The peer team suggests that the college may initiate a career and placement cell. However, the college has compensated this to a certain extent by providing students sufficient guidelines and information about employment potentials through the informal guidance given by the teaching staff members.

Informal academic and personal counseling is provided by teachers even though there is no exclusive cell for academic and personal counselling.

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The college has a website for further communication to alumni. The college gives due importance to the alumni and they in turn actively participate in the college developmental activities. The alumni of this college hold the prominent positions as secondary school teachers, police constables, defence personnel, lecturers, etc.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management

As per the rules and regulations of the University of Pune, there is a local managing committee with representatives of teachers (3) and non-teaching staff (1). The teacher representatives are also participating in decision-making.

The peer team notices that there is inadequacy in the number of the teaching staff and most of the staff members are overloaded. The college lacks adequate mechanism to invite visiting faculty to share the responsibilities of the academic staff. The team understands that in many of the science departments students prefer to change the college for the third year course, reason being inadequacy in the number of teaching staff.

There is a fax machine and internet connectivity for the staff and students in the physics laboratory.

Annual formal performance appraisal system is adopted.

Almost 50% of the teaching staff has completed certificate courses and computer literacy. Non-teaching staff members are also given computer exposure.

There is a separate committee for the preparation of academic calendar.

The annual budget allocated to the different departments is inadequate. The college has succeeded in mobilising resources through various schemes involving students, staff and alumni and also by conducting short term course - Beauty Care, Computer related Courses, etc.

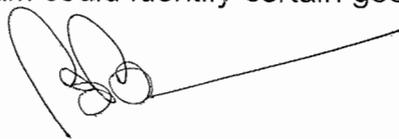
Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The college has played a positive role in creating awareness about value of girls education in this rural and backward area. In its existence of 13 years the college has inculcated many traditional values to the students. The peer team is pleased to note the following healthy practices in the college.

- ✓ Student's talents are tapped through various associations – debate, commerce, science, arts, and literary.
- ✓ Periodical parents meetings are organised to apprise the parents about their wards academic performance.
- ✓ The campus is highly disciplined.
- ✓ The campus is kept beautiful with greenery and clean.
- ✓ The college displayed a good team work and a sense of belongingness.
- ✓ Internet facility is made available to the staff and students free of cost.
- ✓ Partial computerization of library and office.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

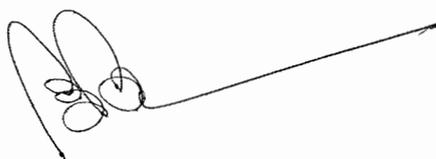
MULA education society's Arts, Commerce and Science College, Sonai is a Grant-in-Aid institution affiliated to University of Pune, Pune. In the last 13 years of Existence it has helped to spread the Higher Education among all classes in the Newasa tehsil. During the visit in the campus, the Peer Team could identify certain good practices and features in the



functioning of the college that which have been already mentioned in the section 2, criterion-wise analysis.

The authorities seem to be fully aware of their responsibilities and the peer team is pleased to make the following recommendations for the further improvement of the college.

- More encouragement may be given to the teaching staff to attend seminars, conferences, symposia at the state / national levels.
- Concerted efforts may be initiated by the teaching staff to widen the activities and thereby to enhance the image of the departments.
- Staff members may be encouraged to pursue research degrees namely M.Phil. and Ph.D. to meet the challenges of the changing society.
- Coaching programmes may be initiated to train the students in the competitive examinations in the state and national levels.
- Experienced visiting faculty members may be invited to the college to fill in the vacuum created due to the delay in the appointments of full time faculty members.
- Job oriented agro based courses may be introduced in consultation with the agricultural university.
- Staff members may be trained in novel teaching methodologies to make teaching learning process effective, informative and interesting.
- Students may be encouraged to organise seminars in the intra as well as inter college levels, which in turn can develop their leadership, communication and organisational skills.
- The English proficiency of the students may be enhanced through concerted and planned approach – classes by experts proficient in English - Elocution, Debate competitions, etc.
- A proper feedback mechanism is highly recommended.

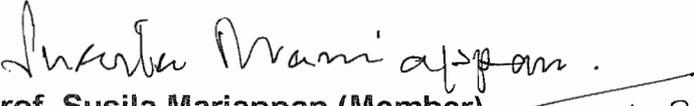


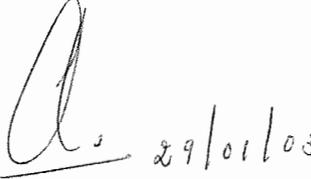
- Full time appointment of sufficient number of staff would improve the quality and excellence in academics.
- More faculty development programmes would lead to quality consciousness among the staff.
- Essential facilities like Hostel, Canteen, and Medical assistance may be provided to the students.

The Peer Team expresses its sincere thanks to the Principal, his faculty colleagues, the management and the students of the college for the courtesy extended to them during their stay in the campus.

Names and Signatures of the Peer Team


 1. Prof. P. S. Bisen (Chairman) 29.1.2003


 2. Prof. Susila Mariappan (Member) 29.1.2003


 3. Prof. George Thomas (Member) 29/01/03

Agree with the Report


 Dr. GAWALI B.E. (29.01.2003)



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