

**Report of the Peer Team on Institutional
Accreditation of Silapathar College, Dhemaji,
Assam**

**VISIT DATES
15TH & 16TH DECEMBER, 2004**



**NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND
ACCREDITATION COUNCIL, BANGALORE**

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Section-1: Preface

The Silapathar College, Silapathar, Dhemaji Dist., Assam, volunteered to be assessed by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), conducted the preliminary Self-Study and submitted to NAAC. A Peer Team was constituted by the Council to visit the College and validate the report. The Peer team consisting of **Prof(Mrs.) Kerma S. Lyngdoh**, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, NEHU, Shillong, Meghalaya state as Chairperson, **Dr(Mrs.) Manju Mitra**, Principal, Government P.G.& Commerce and Arts College, Bilaspur, Chatisgarh as member and **Dr. U. Subbarao**, former Director (Student Services) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh as member Coordinator was constituted to visit the college to validate the self-study report and submit a report to the NAAC. The Team visited the college for two days i.e. 15th & 16th December, 2004.

The Silapathar College, Silapathar was established in 1979 with the objective to impart higher education amongst the aspiring students of the backward communities of the Tribal area. It was affiliated to Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam State. The college has a total area of 4.65 acres with 429 students. It offers one Under-Graduate programme and one diploma programme. There are 8 subjects in Under-Graduate programmes along with one diploma course in Computer Science. It was registered under the UGC Acts 2(f) in 1996 and 12(B) in the year 1997. It is a grant-in-aid college. It is situated in a predominantly tribal rural area, which is economically backward, and is housed in a beautiful and spacious building with a sprawling campus.

The college has qualified faculty strength of 33 and out of which 11 are temporary teachers. There are three teachers with Ph.D. and three are M.Phil holders. Some of them have registered in the Ph.D. programme and all the remaining teachers have Post-Graduate qualification, and one of them is a gold medallist from NEHU. There are also 13 non-teaching staff members.

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The college has a library, Computer Centre, Sports facilities, hostel for boys but not for girls, a canteen, vehicle parking shed and a play ground.

The Peer Team has carefully assessed and analysed the self-study report submitted by the institution. During the visit to the college, the team went through all the relevant documents visited the departments and faculties and interacted with the various constituent of the institution. The academic, co-curricular, sports and extension facilities of the institution were visited. The Peer Team also interacted at length with the Governing Body, Head of the institution, faculty, non-teaching staff, students, Parents and Alumni of the institution. Based on the above exercise and keeping in mind the criteria identified by NAAC, the Peer Team has taken the following value judgement. The assessment of the institution under various criteria, the commendable features of the institution as well as the issues of concern are given in the following paragraphs.

Section 2: Criterion-wise analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

Silapathar College, District Dhemaji, Assam is affiliated to Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh. The college follows the syllabus prescribed by the university. The college offers two programmes: 01 Under-Graduate Programme and 01 diploma Programme. It also offers 02 compulsory subjects, 09 core subjects and 07 major courses.

Since the college is located in a rural area the majority of the students are from socially disadvantaged class. To introduce such programme of higher education the college depends upon the availability of resources and financial assistance from UGC and Govt. of Assam. It also depends on the university affiliation and govt. concurrence. The college is represented at the Academic

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Council of the university, which interacts with the university on suggestions and observations about all the academic issues and helps in bringing suitable changes periodically. The teachers who are members of the respective Boards of Study play a vital role in updating the syllabi and making them more relevant to the society.

The college conducts Quiz, Debate and cultural competitions at regular intervals. In order to develop the leadership qualities the students are also involved in various other activities of the university like sports, NCC, NSS, cultural activities and extension programmes.

The students are also involved in activities, which are socially relevant in terms of educating the rural poor about health and natural hazards. At the time of floods, the college arranges camps to provide shelter, food and other material for the flood-affected people of the area. The teachers are also participating in all the programmes. The programmes are generally in conformity with the mission, goals and objectives of the college.

With regard to career-oriented programmes, the college may provide more directives and options for the diploma and certificate courses which are directly related to rural development.

Criterion II: Teaching, Learning and Evaluation:

Admission to the two courses in the college is in accordance with the policy of reservation of Govt. of Assam. The teaching-learning process of the college is quite comprehensive and student centered. The stipulated minimum periods required for the completion of the course is observed. The working days of the college are 277 and the teaching days are 220. The library is kept open during all the working days of the college.

There is a provision for assessing students' knowledge and skills for certain subjects, students are required to appear for the qualifying test to pursue

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major courses in a subject. Only those who qualify are allowed to pursue the major subject course. The college organizes coaching/ remedial classes for the weak students from time to time. Regular meetings between students and teachers of the departments are held in order to build a healthy interpersonal relationship.

In the beginning of the year, teaching plan is prepared by the concerned head of the departments and the syllabi are unitized according to the annual system of teaching. Mid term tests, terminal examinations and model test examinations are conducted. Apart from the regular classroom teaching, seminars, symposia are organised at regular intervals to motivate the students. Guest faculties are also invited to share their expertise and to provide practical skills to the students.

The use of overhead projectors and audio visual aids in some classrooms supplements classroom teaching. However, there is need to develop a centralized audio-visual facility for easy access of equipment to all faculty for the use of the classrooms and to develop their own teaching aids. Students are also encouraged to participate in inter-collegiate seminars, quiz and symposia. Character and personality development is emphasized in all activities. Every department has their own departmental association. The association activities of each department provide ample scope for extra-curricular and co-curricular learning.

There are 33 faculty teachers in the college. Out of which 22 are full-time and 11 are part-time teachers in the college. The recruitment of the teachers are strictly in accordance with the rules of the university and state government.

Faculty may be encouraged to participate in the faculty development programmes. Even though some have attended national and international seminars and got the paper published in the souvenir of the seminar, more of them may be encouraged to attend such national and international

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seminars/conferences and workshops. One teacher has published six book on subjects related to linguistics, poems, Mising tribal folk tales, and done some translations from English to Mising language. Three teachers have contributed regularly to news papers and periodicals. They may also be encouraged to apply and take up minor and major research projects.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

Successful teaching of any academic programme requires a sound research footing in various departments. It is also necessary for a teacher to be involved in meaningful research activity on the whole. It helps teachers to keep abreast with the latest knowledge in his subject. At present, there is only one teacher who had registered for M.Phil.

The college still has to acquire more necessary infrastructure. The library should be equipped with more books, it should be computerized and there should be Internet facility. The teachers need to be encouraged to pursue M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes. As there is no expertise available, no consultancy of any kind is present in various departments of the college.

The college organises various programmes such as AIDS awareness programme, free medical eye camp, free health check-up and environmental awareness programme in collaboration with some voluntary organizations. The college deputed 3 students under the guidance of one teacher to conduct the survey of people below poverty line. The college students organised a peace march on 22nd November, 2003 during the violence meted out to the Biharis in Assam. They also had a protest march against a bomb blast on 15th August, 2004 organised by the ULFA, where 13 women and school children lost their lives.

However, more out reach programmes may be carried out through the NSS and NCC units of the college from time to time.

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Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college is located in rural (tribal) area with a total campus area of 4.65 acres. The existing infrastructure is maintained and developed by the donations and funds received from State Govt., Central Govt. and UGC. Donations from various NGO's and individuals are also received. The internal resources are also utilized for maintaining the institutional infrastructure.

There is an advisory committee for the library. The library has a total of 5,248 books and 13 journals. The college has a central computer facility with 03 computers and 02 printers. The computer centre runs from 08:30 A.M. to 04:30 P.M.

The college has a playground and indoor stadium for use of the students. The college students have participated in state level quiz and debate competitions. It has also organized a zonal inter-college football tournament of the Dibrugarh University in its playground and the college team secured the runners up trophy. The college organized the inter college Volley ball tournament under Dibrugarh University in its play ground. A team from the college also participated in inter college gymnastic and badminton competitions. The college does not have well furnished hostel, although only 1% students are accommodated in the hostel.

The college has a computer room with 3 computers, 1 laser printer, 1 inkjet colour printer, 3 Audio visual software, 1 digital camera P-IV P.C., 1 writing software page maker and 1 M.S. Office-2000. With the help of this facility computer application is taught as one of the vocational subjects in the college.

The college is making use of the infrastructure facilities for departmental seminars, group discussions, quiz, cultural and literary activities. The college is

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also accommodating Silapathar Women's College and Purbanchal College of Education in their premises. These institutions carry out their programmes either in the morning shift or in the night shift without disturbing the normal functioning of the college. To keep the campus beautiful and pollution free, teachers along with the students organize programmes for cleaning the campus. Efforts are also made to develop among the students a sense of cleanliness to be maintained both in the college and out side.

The authorities admit that the existing infrastructure facilities are not adequate enough to keep pace with the academic growth of the college. The college, therefore, is making its best efforts to fulfill the requirement as soon as possible. An RCC building of 39.75 m X 7.15 m which was under construction, is now completed and furnished. An auditorium is under construction on the first floor of the above building. It may be expected to come up within this year. Now, the college has 14 big and small rooms excluding the administrative building which comprises two rooms. However, the college management has promised the team to enhance infrastructure facilities (a) with the donation received from different Govt. and non-Govt. organizations and individuals, (b) with schematic grant-in-aid from various departments of the State and Central Government including UGC and (c) with internal resources.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The drop-out rate is minimal, about 90 percent students appear in the final examinations. The college publishes its prospectus annually. The scholarship is given to the SC and ST students. The college is in the good habit of providing exemption of examination fees to the students having outstanding performance in sports, cultural activities, etc. and also to economically weak and physically handicapped students.

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The institution has an alumni association although unregistered but, actively shares the problems of the institution. They also give donations to the college. The college provides good facilities to the students for recreation during the leisure time.

Even though there are no exact figures of the students who joined services, it was informed by the Principal and staff that a good number of students were adsorbed in Govt. and private jobs. Some have taken self-employment schemes. Similarly many students have joined the Post-Graduate Courses also.

The college publishes its updated prospectus annually. The content of the prospectus includes the processes of admission, readmission, maintenance of discipline, fee structure, student support services, especially exemption of tution fee, details of subjects taught and list of faculty members.

The college gets the financial aid in terms of scholarships to SC & ST students only.

The college does not have an Employment Guidance Cell. However, at the time of issuing the certificates and marks sheet to the successful students a meeting is held to offer Career Counselling.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

Since the college is a grant-in-aid college, the administration is within the framework prescribed by the government. The college has a well established coordination mechanism for internal quality checks. Different committees are formed for this purpose. The committees examined proposals for development

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of the college and also look after fund mobilization activities of the college. Grievance Redressal cell is functioning in the college.

The college has a high level monitoring mechanism called Governing Body, a number of committees are formed. Academic Board, Library, Advisory Committee, Campus Development Committee, Grievance Redressal Cell, etc. are some of them. Above all, for coordinating these committees, the college has a Steering Committee.

The Principal frequently interacts with these committees. Beside, for developing a sense of democratic and secular values, tolerance, comradely feelings and unity, the college has a students organization namely Silapathar College Students' Union. Office bearers of this union are annually elected from among the students. Teachers-in-charge are chosen by the office bearers. A cordial bridge of relationship between the teachers and the students is built through this organization.

The Governing Body approves the yearly budget and looks into the expenditure incurred through an audit committee half-yearly. It makes plans for overall development of the college. It also makes appointment to vacant posts with prior approval obtained from the Director of Higher Education, Assam. It can also appoint teachers on temporary and part-time basis if the college urgently requires. The college has 22 regular teachers. But with the introduction of major courses in some subjects and few new subjects, a good number of more faculty is required, The Governing Body has, therefore, appointed 11 teachers on temporary basis.

For developing a sense of enhancement of professional growth and acquisition of competence among the teachers, the college management has introduced a system of collecting annual performance appraisal report of every

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teacher. Besides, teacher's integrity is assessed while submitting annual confidential report on a teacher.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The college has an academic board which holds unit tests and class tests from time to time. The college organizes workshop type of classes on ethics and morality in collaborations with socio-religious organization to impart value-based education. The college conducts lectures of renowned academicians at least twice in a year. Besides academic activities, co-curricular activities are also conducted. The college organizes flood, health awareness programmes and holds parents meets. A majority of students of the college belong to SC and ST categories and thus receive financial aids (scholarships and free-ships).

- The college has a goal to produce persons of quality who can in term contribute to the society and the nation building at large.
- Students, teaching staff and non-teaching staff very often exchange their views to sustain the homely and academic ambience of the college
- The academic board of the college holds periodical test at the interval of every three months.
- The college believes in quality education and takes necessary steps.
- It also believes that social commitments can be augmented by fostering civics sense of responsibility among the students.
- It conducts freshers social and college week twice in a year and invites renowned academicians.

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- The college has unit of 10 Assam Battalion NCC wherein the cadets are trained for nation building.
- Most departments display wall magazines of high standards, in addition the English department has a monthly bulletin of their own and thus giving chances to students to explore their potentials and creativity.

The college organizes co-curricular activities like debate, cultural, poem recitation, quiz, extempore speech programmes for personality development of the learners. Besides, since the civil administrative authority sets up a relief camp in the college campus for the flood victims, the college therefore, involves the students to extend required help to them so as to develop a sense of community service among them. Similarly parents' meet, at least twice in a year is held to foster a cordial relationship between the parents and the college.

Section 3: Over all Analysis

The Peer Team after going through the Self Study Report and after having completed its visit to the college, took note of the various academic and physical facilities provided and is impressed by the progress of the Silapathar College, Silapathar in transacting the goals of the institution whole heartedly.

The Peer Team considers that there are certain features which it would wish to recommend. The Peer team would like to appreciate the college on the following aspects:

- Encouragement and support given by the Management to the institution.
- Dedication and commitment of the teaching and non-teaching staff for the development of the institution.

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- Strict discipline maintained in the college.
- Monitoring of student both in academic and personal endeavours.
- Facilitating aspect of the institution to promote student participation in sports and games.
- Adequate, maintenance of the infrastructure of the college.
- The efficient and good teamwork in the institution.

The Peer Team would also like to bring to the attention of the college certain concerns for their consideration.

Keeping in view the future plans of the institution the Peer Team would suggest the following to be considered:

- While the Peer Team appreciates the over all mission of the college, which is the upliftment of the rural tribal community, the college should identify specific objectives and make strategic plans to attain the same.
- The college may explore the possibility of introducing more courses and options to increase flexibility in course combinations keeping in mind the latest trends and the societal needs of the society.
- The college authorities should take steps urgently for proper affiliation of the department of Education since it has a large number of student strength.
- Effort should be made to introduce some vocational courses.
- Access to computers and student support services like placement cell need to be improved.
- The college may encourage the teachers to do more research work.

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- With the construction of a new building the management may think of providing departmental rooms for each faculty.
- The self-appraisal and the appraisal mechanism of teachers need to be taken up seriously and regularly.
- The library may be equipped with more books and journals.
- Audio and video facilities may be provided.
- The team also feels that a girl's hostel is necessary for encouraging and enhancing higher education for girls.

The Peer Team is of the opinion that the exercise will be useful to the institution to initiate the quality enhancement strategies towards further growth and development.

The Peer Team thanks the college authorities for its cooperation during their visit. The Peer Team wishes the institution a bright future.

1. Prof(Mrs.) Kerma S. Lyngdoh

K. Lyngdoh
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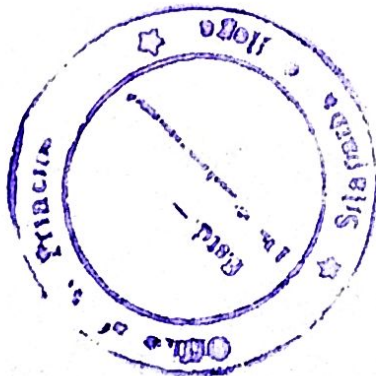
2. Prof(Mrs.) Manju Mitra

Manju Mitra
16.12.2004

3. Dr. U. Subbarao

U. Subbarao
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I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the Peer Team in their report.



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Principal

Principal & Secy.
Silapathar College
Silapathar