

**Peer Team Report on the
Institutional Accreditation of the
Pavanatma College, Murickassery-685604,
District Idukki, Kerala, India**

Reaccreditation Peer Team Report

Section 1: Introduction

Established with the motto, "In Truth in Love", in 1982 Pavanatma College is located at Murickassery, about 15 kms away from the district headquarters, in Vathikudy Panchayath, Udumbachola Taluk, Idukki District of the State of Kerala. Functioning in one of the most backward, hilly, rural and tribal areas in the high ranges of Kerala, the College, has a geographical and cultural atmosphere distinct from the colleges in urban areas. The College was started with the stated objective to satisfy the educational aspirations of the sidelined and marginalized inhabitants of the hilly regions of Idukki district in the state of Kerala, whose major occupation was nothing but farming. The college offers a serene and calm atmosphere for academic pursuit.

The College, named after the most Holy Spirit, the God of love and wisdom, the college endeavours to impart higher education against the backdrop of Christian idea so that every student may lead a life of staunch belief in God, of compassion to his fellow beings and of truthfulness to himself. Besides his academic excellence enables him to seek new pastures in life and thereby a blessing not only to his kith and kin but to the society and to the nation at large. Thus the objectives of the institution are encapsulated in its motto "In Truth in Love"

This institution had its origin in October 1982 as a pre-degree college and was later elevated to a degree college in 1991. The College is affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam and is managed by the Corporate Educational Agency, Diocese of Idukki. It was recognized in 1997, by the UGC under 2(f) and 12B of the UGC Act of 1956. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) accredited the College in the year 1999 conferring THREE STAR status.

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The College has a Managing Board consisting of twelve members. An Internal Quality Assurance Cell(IQAC) has been constituted to ensure proper planning and implementation of the activities of the College with 14 members and 2 Ex-officio Members. The IQAC has frequent meetings to discuss and decide on all the important aspects regarding the academic as well as general matters of the College. The website address of the college is www.pavanatmacollege.org

The post accreditation activities were stated to be concentrated on the suggestions and guidelines of the accreditation report by the peer team.

The college submitted the Self-Study Report(SSR) for Reaccreditation during March 2006 to NAAC and subsequently, NAAC constituted a Peer Team consisting of Dr. D. Janaki, Vice-Chancellor of Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal, Tamil Nadu as Chairperson; Dr. M. Krishnappa, Professor of Botany, Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka; and Ms. Suneethy Reddy, Principal RBVRR Women's College(Autonomous), Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh as Members; Mr. S. Sankaran, Director, Vikas Microchip Technologies (P) Ltd., Benchmark Services, Kochi, Kerala as an industrial observer. Mr. B. S. Ponmudiraj, Assistant Advisor from NAAC ably coordinated the reaccreditation peer team visit.

The Peer team for Reaccreditation meticulously analyzed the SSR submitted by the college as well as the Peer team report of the first accreditation. For validation of the SSR, the team visited the College during 3rd – 5th October 2006. The team interacted with the Management, the Principal, the Vice-Principal, teaching staff, non-teaching staff; representative group of students, parents and alumni. The team visited all the infrastructure facilities and student support services. The team also went through pertinent documents for validation.

The college at present has 640 (317 boys & 323 girls) students on its roll and 42 (27 permanent & 15 Guest Lecturers) teaching staff. The college follows annual as well as semester pattern of instruction and has internal marks for each paper as prescribed by the Parent University.

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The peer team for Reaccreditation has given its objective assessment in the ensuing pages, keeping in mind the seven criteria identified by the NAAC.

Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The college follows the curriculum and regulations of Mahatma Gandhi University to which it is affiliated. There are 11 program options and nine subjects with single major. The college offers 2 self-financing courses M.Sc (Chemistry) and B.A. Malayalam, 3 Inter disciplinary courses and M.Com. Though most of these courses are conventional by and large, they have been modeled with interesting and attractive combinations; for example, B.A., Malayalam with Journalism and B.A. History Vocational with Environmental History and Forestry, Economics and Statistics as Complimentary. One Hundred and sixty six seats are available for the six Under-Graduate courses, ranging from 24 to 40. While 16 seats are available for the M.Com. course, 20 seats are earmarked for M.Sc. Chemistry. For a 24 year old college, this strength could have been at a higher and more desirable level. But taking into account the constraints of the college due to its location in a tribal, rural, backward area, the mission of the college to provide higher education to educationally and economically backward area students deserves appreciation and encouragement.

It is noteworthy that the college offers 3 Diploma courses in the emerging vital areas namely Web Designing, Yoga and Physical Education and Electronic Equipment Maintenance, with 30 seats available for each.

The courses offered by the college are by and large conventional. The number of options available to students is limited. The limitations of narrow curricular options may be remedied by the college by introducing more number of additional, need-based certificate courses suitable to the needs of the community around the college. Non-conventional, Job oriented Post Graduate, Degree, Diploma & Certificate courses in Sciences like Microbiology, Computer science, Bio-chemistry, Bio-technology, Bio-Medical Science, Bio-Informatics etc., with scope for ample employment opportunities may be considered for expansion and academic progress of the college.

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Even though the College is not in a position to make its own curriculum for the traditional courses, many of the teachers are actively involved in the framing and revision of the syllabi by actively participating in the curriculum revision workshops conducted by the University from time to time. Few faculty are members of the Boards of Studies in the Parent University.

Bridge courses in Computers are being conducted periodically to the students of various disciplines with the purpose of improving their computer skills. Courses in Communicative English and Computers might be streamlined and strengthened further both for students and staff as well.

Criterion II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

Admission to various courses of the college is according to State Government and University rules. Even in Management quota, meritorious and poor students get priority over the rest. Admission to Add-on courses is on the basis of a selection test and interview to admit students with right aptitude and commitment to the course.

The demand ratio for admission is 10 times more than the available seats, though the applications received for self-financing courses is comparatively low.

Pre-admission counselling to parents and students is done to enable the candidates make right choice.

Remedial courses are held regularly for the academically backward. The meritorious students are guided to realize their full potential, hence the good number of University ranks from the college. There are 21 University ranks secured in the past 5 years alone.

The college has well scheduled Academic Calendar giving space not only to cover the syllabi in time but also for conducting curricular and co-curricular activities.

Teaching method is by far the lecture method and supported by audio-visual aids. The faculty members have to be oriented towards modern educational technology other than the lecture method. Introduction of field visits, exposure programs, use of e-

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content and group discussions would inculcate a sense of enthusiasm in teaching-learning process. There is ample scope for this institution to develop innovative teaching-learning and evaluation methods, in due course of time. Training of faculty to apply web-based resources is to be encouraged. The culture of integrating technology into Teaching and Learning is the need of the hour for this college.

Each teacher is allotted 20 students to look after their academic and non-academic prospects – A Tutor Ward System. Parents are called for counseling if required. Local Counselling Center ‘Samanvaya’ is assisting the college in this process.

Special attention is paid to appoint teachers of good calibre mostly from NET qualified hands. They are appointed after an interview by the Selection Board consisting of the Manager, Principal of the college, Government nominee and a subject expert from the University.

The teacher-student ratio is 1:15. 31% of teachers are NET qualified, which is appreciable. The teachers are encouraged to attend Refresher courses to update their knowledge.

The college follows annual system with internal assessment tests. The students are tested through internal assessment tests and year-end and semester examinations. Individual attention is paid to students in tutorial classes. Bridge courses attend to the needs of the slow learners which is felt to be a step in the right direction given the background of most students.

More distinguished personalities from various walks of life may be invited by the college from time to time to address the teachers and students. Such exercises naturally provide ample opportunity to the teachers and students to broaden their perspectives on many issues of contemporary relevance. This way the college could compensate for the locational disadvantages.

There is no evidence of the involvement of students in the Governance of the College.

As the college is located in the rural setting, there is ample scope for involving the local community. Through extension activities the college could contribute

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significantly to increase the awareness level of the local community. It is recommended that optimal involvement of faculty in the Board of Governance be encouraged for participatory governance.

The college has to provide fora to address the all-round personality development of the students at the earliest, for the much needed exposure of the students to the world outside the campus.

Institution-Industry interaction and discussions with peers and public, would be useful in motivating innovations.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The total teaching faculty is 42, 27 of whom are permanent and 15 are Guest Lecturers. Five have doctoral degrees, while 2 are doing Ph.Ds, 9 are M.Phil holders.

Two teachers completed their doctoral studies during IX Plan under UGC FIP and two are pursuing research under X Plan, one for Ph.D. and another for M.Phil awaiting fellowship extended by the UGC. Six members have obtained doctoral degrees in the past 5 years. The P.G. department of commerce has applied for research center and is availing sanction from the University. There are two ongoing projects in the department. Commerce Dept. has published 9 research papers, History and Economics-4, Chemistry-1. Nine books have been published by various departments and one member of the faculty is editor for an interdisciplinary journal. The Management may encourage the research activity by making seed money available to the staff and students.

The output of commerce department in publishing books, research papers and articles is noteworthy. One of the books published by the faculty of Commerce is the prescribed textbook by the Parent University. The faculty of Chemistry, History and English are also making strides in publications of their respective works.

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Despite local disadvantages, the commitment and involvement of the students and staff for upliftment of society is appreciable. Almost all departments organized seminars/workshop/guest lectures at state and regional level not only to keep abreast of information in the subjects of their choice but also to serve the needs of the farmers living in the vicinity of the college. An Inter collegiate seminar on Medicinal Plants, High Tech Banking, Internet and Intranet is a case in point. Setting up a coconut nursery with aid from District Panchayat, selling saplings at concessional rate to peasants is a step in right direction. Seminars conducted on "Spices – Cardamom and Pepper" serve interests of the people cultivating the plantations that surround the institution.

The NSS has 3 units with a strength of 300 volunteers. Efforts of NSS in promoting and encouraging Blood Donations, Eye Donations, especially their programme of "miss a meal to save an orphan" is creditable. The unit is service-oriented as they engage themselves in planting saplings and laying roads. It has brought laurels to the college by winning the Best Participant Award. The NSS has arranged a seminar on organic farming for the benefit of the farmers living around the college. Their participation in rescue and relief work, laying roads, construction works is praiseworthy. They also helped in funding and building a house for a poor student of the college – an exemplary act.

The NCC unit has both girls and boys as cadets. The college has its own unit. It provides camp facility for other colleges also. The NCC wing carries out its activities under the guidance of a commissioned Lieutenant. 107 cadets passed 'B' and 11 cadets passed C certificate. One of the cadet has participated in the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi. The NSS and NCC students are also organizing Blood donation camps and educating the public on importance of Social Forestry, Conservation of Natural Resources, Water Harvesting, etc.

The Entrepreneurship Development club, in association with Camlin Ltd. Mumbai conducted a three-day training programme in different types of moulding and painting. This club gives regular training to the students for making more than 30 consumer products, thus promoting "Earn-While-You-Learn" scheme. It is appreciated that the club gives regular training to the Credit Union, a non

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governmental organization. Nature club is active in organizing 'Nature camps' and trekking. The Photography club has developed a multimedia CD with complete database of the students and also for three NAAC accredited colleges nearby.

The Department of Journalism in Malayalam is engaged in preparing and promoting Advertising, which may be commercially exploited.

It is creditable that a non-teaching member from the office has organized many camps and delivered many speeches on Human Values and Human Relations both in India and abroad. Another member from administration is organizing public meetings on Deaddiction etc.

The Commerce department offers Income Tax Consultancy service to outside public.

Coaching classes for the poor students of neighborhood schools and for Professional courses are done by the Pavanatma college. A Bridge course in commerce with due importance to practical aspects, conducted in association with Tax study center Kottarakka on holidays and weekends is beneficial to a large number of commerce students of the college.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college has its own 25 acres of campus on Hillside with full of plantation crops. The college has its own land for plantation crop cultivation. Pepper is the major income to the institution. There are 25 classrooms available for undergraduate courses with adequate labs and computer rooms having instruments, and chemicals for practical classes. Ten theory classrooms are made available for post graduate students. For practical classes there are five labs in Physics and Chemistry and one Computer lab for Mathematics Department.

The total built up area of the college is 1950 sq.mts. Currently the college has sufficient spacious theory and practical labs. The Computer and Mathematics labs are made available with internet facilities. Teaching faculty are using the modern teaching aids in the class rooms like LCD and internet for routine theory and practical classes. The internet facility is available to the students batch wise.

The Library is open from 8.30 am to 5 pm on all working days of the college. The Library and the Reading Room services are widely made use of even on holidays which is open from 8.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M. with 15919 books, 42 journals and 40 periodicals and dailies. These books are purchased from the management allotted budget and from the UGC fund also. The students and teaching faculty are using the library facilities regularly. On an average 350 students visit Library everyday for borrowing the books / reference work / reading the Journals and newspapers. There is a Library committee to look after the functioning of the Library. There is a separate room for students and staff reference work. The working hours of the library may be extended if possible till late evening for the benefit of the students living closeby.

A new hostel with financial assistance from the UGC was completed for girl students recently. About 100 girls students are accommodated with required facilities. Around two to five girl students stay in each room depending on the size and facility of the room. The kitchen, dining and all other facilities of the hostel are in good condition. Overall good academic atmosphere is visible in the ladies hostel. The Security is also provided to the Ladies Hostel.

There is a boys hostel on the campus accommodating 50 boys and some faculty members without dining facilities. The hostellers dine in the College Canteen. This is a building which is converted from an old hospital.

The college has a spacious auditorium with seating capacity of around 600, in addition to a conference hall. There is a well equipped Guestroom in the campus. The college has a generator with 6kv capacity. Photostat, telephone and canteen facility are available in the campus. Football Court, Volley Ball court, place for field and track events(athletics) are also available for outdoor games. Indoor games and facilities include Chess, Table Tennis, Multi-Gymnasium are available to the students. In the Physical education department a well-qualified teacher/instructor is appointed. Physical Education Instructors organized Chess and Volley Ball Tournaments on the Campus. The teacher is also training school students who are interested in sports outside the College hours.

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Criterion V: Students Support and Progression

The Students strength is 317 Boys and 323 Girls. The pass percentage for 2002-2004 batch and 2003-2005 batch of PG is 78% and 100% respectively. In case of UG the pass percentage for 2002-2005 and 2001-2004 is 74% and 77% respectively.

The overall results are satisfactory in both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. Teachers are taken special coaching classes for those who have gone for attending the Pre-RD Parade Training, NSS and Trekking Camps. The Students of the College also bagged the University ranks.

The dropout rate for PG 2003-2005 batch is 11% and 2002-2004 batch is 0%. The dropout rate for UG 2002-2005 batch is 3% and 2001-2004 batch is 6%. The Students left the course in mid-year because, they got admission to teacher training courses.

The college has provided Counselling, Career guidance and Employment cell. The students also gain knowledge and information through the Internet available in the Computer lab.

The College has admitted students from all the categories of the surrounding areas in order to encourage education among rural backward classes.

A student from the Department of Physics was among the few to be awarded the prestigious participation certificate by the ISRO for his innovation of an electronic device controlling software and hardware through telephone line. He also presented a paper on "Computer Networking" in the IT seminar conducted by the university. Currently, yet another student from the same department has devised an electronic meter which records the units consumed without manual assistance, which device might be patented with proper guidance, from the staff in due course.

Career Guidance for students of nearby schools and colleges through seminars is arranged by the college. A Women's Empowerment programme is also organized with Women's Cell, Idukki district.

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Seminars and speeches are held on various topics relevant to present day youth such as Positive Thinking, Indian Culture Ethos and Communicative Skills.

Apart from the State and Central Government Scholarships and freeships the college management also offers various scholarships and freeships.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

The college is under the Management of the Corporate Educational agency Diocese of Idukki. The management runs 95 different Schools in and around Idukki District. Arts and Science College 1, Higher Secondary Schools 7, High Schools 13, Upper Primary Schools 20, Lower Primary Schools 24, CBSE High Schools 9, Technical Educational Institutions 2 and Teacher Training Centre 1.

All the Schools/Colleges are recognized/granted by the funding agencies. The schools are of high quality in the academic profiles. The Management has tried to garner financial assistance from all sources such as UGC, state government and from the philanthropists and donors.

The grants sanctioned by the UGC are utilized for the development and academic improvement of the College. Recent textbooks, Journals are purchased from the allotted UGC grant. The Management also allots grants for purchase of the books for the Library each year. The grants released by the UGC are allocated judiciously. The College has maintained the records for the purchase of library books, equipments, chemicals, computers and sports gear/kits. The purchases are made based on the rules and regulations of the University and State Government. The audit for the above is found satisfactory.

The college strictly follows the academic calendar provided by the University. The College administration has taken keen interest on the welfare of the students, teaching and non-teaching by constituting the Advisory Committee.

The College administration has deputed teaching, non-teaching employees to participate in the genuine social activities. One of the non-teaching employees is actively involved in 'Deaddiction' campaigns.

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There is a Grievance Redressal Cell for Students.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The college has several healthy practices to its credit. Apart from imparting Value Education, conducting tests and giving prizes to students performing well, the college has an active NSS Unit serving the nearby districts. As the majority of the teachers reside on the campus, students have unlimited access to the staff. Tutorial system prevailing in the college leads to better interaction between the teacher and the student. The college deserves appreciation for the following healthy practices:

- ✓ The staff of the College including non-teaching staff contribute two days' salary every year for the developmental requirements of the College.
- ✓ About 50 students regularly sacrifice their noon meals for the orphans in the nearby destitute homes.
- ✓ Every year a group of youth from north Indian states visit the College as part of the cultural exchange programme.
- ✓ The teachers of the College give free coaching to the poor school students of the nearby locality.
- ✓ The department of Physical Education gives special training to the students of the closeby schools in selected sports events.
- ✓ The College annually releases an interactive multimedia CD with complete database of the college.
- ✓ The College publishes a newsletter every year.
- ✓ The College publishes a newspaper every month, which is prepared and edited by the students themselves.
- ✓ Following the principle 'earn while you learn', a good number of students of the College do the agricultural and other manual work in the campus, and thereby earn money required for their studies.
- ✓ The members of the Entrepreneurship Development Club give regular training to the Credit Unions, a non governmental organization, in manufacturing more than thirty consumer products.
- ✓ The College maintains an eco-friendly and bio-friendly campus with a clean and green atmosphere. The students themselves maintain the College garden. They also maintain a herbal garden in the campus.

- ✓ The College is in the process of making an archaeological gallery for which the students themselves collect archaeological remnants from all possible sources.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The Peer Team congratulates the college on its commitment in providing education to the rural disadvantaged population, which is the strength of the college. The Peer team, after going through the self study report and the accreditation recommendation, after its three-day visit to various academic and infrastructure facilities, is very much appreciative by the commendable progress of Pavanatma College in transacting its vision and goals of advancement of the frontiers of knowledge in the field of higher education. The College has earned high reputation for imparting quality education to students in the backward, tribal high range region of Idukki district in 24 years of its existence. The College is fortunate to have successive dynamic principals and committed staff members. The team has given its observations and suggestions in the above section, in addition it would like to commend the college for the following:

- Transparency in the organization and management of the institution.
- Discipline of students found on the campus.
- The college campus is absolutely free from student unrest and not a single working day lost an account of any strike.
- The college has regular practice of giving Value education on every Thursday of the second term from 12.30 P.M. to 1 PM. Every year class-wise examination is conducted and prizes are given to the students.
- The tutorial system in the college helps to have a complete understanding of the social, economic, intellectual and cultural background of the students.
- The NSS unit of the college rendering yeoman service to the neighbouring destitute centers.
- The teaching and non-teaching staff of the college contribute two days salary every year voluntarily for the development of the college.
- The release of the multimedia CD with complete database of the college and preparation of multimedia Video CD for classroom teaching.
- Majority of the teachers are residing in the campus itself so they are available to the students all the time.

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The team makes the following suggestions for further and future growth of the institution:

1. The infrastructure available in the college needs to be strengthened. ✓
2. The Peer team is of the opinion that there is a need for hostel facility on the campus for boys also like the girls hostel and the construction of staff quarters will facilitate academic growth and stability. ✓
3. Since students are come from agricultural families there is need for summer placements. Most importantly, Computer and Information Technology facilities should be made available to students for a number of hours. ✓
4. Further it is suggested to establish an effective Employment Cell for the counselling the students in respect of opportunities related to further studies or employment. ✓
5. The Peer Team strongly recommends frequent transport facility for the overall development of the institution. ✓
6. For PG courses there is large demand for Tourism and Travel Management along with the Environmental Studies. So the Peer Team suggests PG course in History. ✓
7. The fact that the response for many of the issues in all the criteria shows that the college has to pay greater attention to quality sustenance and to the ever-changing expectations of the society regarding the higher educational institutions. ✓
8. The limited Curriculum options available now need to be enhanced. Multidisciplinary, job oriented and community oriented courses need to be offered. Vocational courses which are relevant for the region are to be planned. ✓
9. Prospective plans need to be developed for more innovative courses. ✓
10. Funds from local community and industries may be mobilized. ✓
11. Establishment linkage with other institutions and industries may be attempted by the college. ✓
12. For its silver Jubilee celebrations, the EDUSAT Satellite Receiver Terminal could be planned by the Pavanatma College to empower the students and teachers through the interaction with experts via Net meeting. ✓
13. The Faculty Development component has to be further activated by motivating and encouraging the teachers to participate and present papers in the National / International Seminars, Workshops and Conferences periodically. ✓

14. In this era of globalization, the college should venture into international tie-ups with foreign universities and research organizations. ✓
15. Faculty members should be encouraged to avail UGC-Travel Grant to visit foreign universities on academic ventures. It will give a fillip to the college at the International level, which is the need of the hour. ✓

Pavanatma College, with an impressive track record of 24 years has to start planning for autonomous status and the team recommends it.

The Members of the Peer Team place on record their sincere thanks to the Management, Principal, Members of the Steering Committee, IQAC, Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff for their cordiality and courtesy to the Members of the Peer Team during their visit from 3/10/2006 to 05/10/2006.

Names and Signatures of the Peer Team

1. Dr. D. Janaki (Chairperson)

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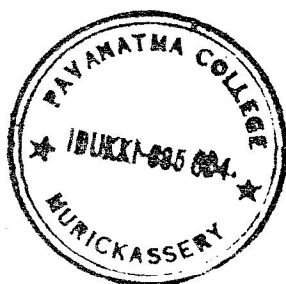
2. Dr. M. Krishnappa (Member)

M. Krishnappa 5/10/06

3. Ms. Sunecti Reddy (Member)

S. Reddy
5/10/06

I have read the report and I agree with it.



V. T. Kurian
5/10/06
Name and Signature of the Head of the Institution
Prof. V. T. KURIAN
Principal
Pavanatma College
Murickassery, Idukki Dt.