

**Report of the Peer Team on the
Institutional Accreditation of the
Stella Matutina College of Education
Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083**

Section 1: Preface

Stella Matutina College of Education was originally started by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary(FMM) in Santhome with a philosophy of preparing ideal teachers for Secondary and Primary Schools in the State of Tamil Nadu in the year 1961. The institution was conceived with a small nucleus of 60 students and 6 teachers in the premises of St.Thomas Convent. The institution has flourished under the dynamic and committed leadership of the first principal Rev.Sr.John Haughton. Attaining truth by the path of love is the motto of the institution while preparing the young minds to face the challenges of contemporary life.

In May 1977, the college was handed over to the Franciscan Sisters of Presentation of Mary, Coimbatore due to the change in policy of FMM sisters who decided to go in for social service in villages and some of the faculty members who were foreigners decided to leave the country. After shouldering the responsibility of the institution and its management in the year 1977 by Franciscan sisters, the institution continued in the same place for 8 years and only in the year 1985, the college was shifted to Ashok Nagar, Chennai. The shifting of the college to Ashok Nagar provided an ideal base and rich socio-cultural climate, in one of the major cities of India. The college is offering the programmes in pedagogy at three levels B.Ed., M.Ed. and Research Degrees. There are 12 well-qualified teachers in the faculty of the institution and there are 200,(which includes 180 B.Ed., 4 M.Ed., 3 MPhil. & 13 Ph.D.) students are enrolled at different levels. The college is affiliated to Madras University and has grown into one of the most reputed institutions of education in the State of Tamil Nadu.

The college requested National Assessment Accreditation Council for its evaluation. The NAAC constituted a committee consisting of Prof. M. Malla Reddy, formerly Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University as Chairman and Prof. D. S. Sivananda, formerly Professor of Education, Bangalore University as Member. The committee visited the institution on 24th January, 2000 and interacted with various departments with the Principal, Management, Parents, Alumni students and other functionaries. The Peer Team has recorded the data on various facets of institutional functioning and performance

and prepared the following report in terms of their overall impression about the institution which are discussed under each parameter suggested by NAAC.

Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

As this college is affiliated to the University of Madras, it has no freedom but to follow the curriculum prescribed by the University, both at B.Ed. and M.Ed. level. The college offers the following seven programmes:

- B.Ed.
- M.Ed.
- M.Phil.
- Ph.D.
- Post Doctoral fellowship and
- Certificate Course-Computers
- Short-term Vocational Courses.

Many of the courses are conventional in nature, as the institution is an affiliated one. The college has applied for autonomy and the orders to this effect are awaited. If autonomy is granted it will be free from the constraints and will be in a position to redesign and restructure the present programmes to meet the new demands and challenges. College also envisages for networking with industry especially with computer software in relation to education and other sister institutions in the region.

At present the college offers programmes for allround development of the personality through a number of curricular and co-curricular activities. The trainees have ample opportunity to exhibit and develop their talents in arts, oratory, sports and games, singing, dancing and other aesthetic and creative ventures.

The college management has about 18 co-operative schools where the trainees get trained in practice teaching. The teachers of these schools render lot of help to the trainees in making their practice teaching meaningful and purposeful. The college has an "Womens' Cell" through which a linkage is developed with the community to make women self-sufficient in terms of making them to earn and to become economically independent.

The transaction of the curricular is not only through lecturers but also it is carried out through team teaching, seminar and work-shops. The value component is given top-priority in the programmes.

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Criterion II: Teaching-learning and Evaluation

The students for B.Ed. are selected based on their performance in the test administered by the State Government, which is aimed to assess their aptitude and attitude. The college helps the academically poor students by organising the remedial programmes to overcome their deficiencies.

The college has 11 members on the staff who are dedicated to the profession. Of them, 5 are with Ph.D's, and 4 M.Phils and the two, with M.A and M.Ed. Since the workload for the teachers is heavy, the management has made temporary appointments to ease the pressure of work, on regular teachers.

The college has a very well established technology lab. The laboratory consists OHP, VCR, 16-mm film projector, slide and filmstrip projector. They are meaningfully used to supplement the classroom teaching. Each student has to prepare slides, filmstrip and teaching aids that they use in their classroom teaching.

The evaluation of the performance of the students in theory is carried out through regular tests, assignments, seminars etc. Their practice teaching is evaluated on the basis of their performance in the classroom. The students are oriented towards the evaluation procedures adopted by the college at the beginning of the year. The evaluation process is based on scientific principles and each student is allowed to grow according to his pace.

The faculty members are deputed to attend various educational programmes organised by the Universities, Academic Staff College, and other National Bodies, which enable them to grow professionally.

There is a good mechanism of assessing the work of the teacher educators by the students. There is a grievance cell to look into the problems of students regarding the evaluation of students by the teachers.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The college is aware of the need and importance of research in Education, it has therefore, made "Research Work(Thesis)" as compulsory at M.Ed., without the alternative optional paper in its place. The quality of the work turned out by M.Ed., is satisfactory. As research level scholars have addressed themselves to the problems in the area like cognitive development educational administration, learning abilities of special children, primary education, environment and ecology etc. Many members of the staff are also actively engaged in research. Some of them have done research and have

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published in national and international Journals. Some of them have authored books in education in Tamil and English. In all, 6 books and 22 research papers have been published by the existing faculty members.

The college is also offering consultancy service to the research scholars, helping them in developing a good research design and also in selecting appropriate statistical technique to test the hypotheses. Service is also rendered in the actual analysis of the data. Some of the staff members are recognized guides of Madurai Kamaraj University.

The college believes in the three main functions like, Teaching, Research and Extension. The members of the staff periodically organize programmes for the benefit of the teachers working in various secondary schools in the area of innovations in teaching, lesson-planning, constructing quality test items etc., thereby helping their teachers to keep abreast of the changes taking place in the field of Education.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college has good infrastructural facilities in terms of building laboratory, library and hostel, well-furnished auditorium. The facilities available are adequate enough for the intake of 180 teacher trainees. Efforts are made to have some additions to meet the future demand.

The college has a vast playground wherein the trainees can have their physical education activities and also sports and games. The facilities for indoor games like chess, carrom, table tennis are available. The premises of the college are kept very clean and tidy.

The library has about 11481 books and 40 journals, which the management proposes to computerise. In addition there is a book-bank facility. The library works from 8.30 A.M. to 4.30 P.M., so that the B.Ed. students and the research scholars can make the maximum use of the library facilities.

Computer facilities are also available for all students. The computer department has 7 computers and is managed by a technically qualified person. The computers are periodically checked and properly maintained. The college also has a guest house.

The science and psychology laboratories are very well equipped. The physical science laboratory and biology laboratory has all the equipment to carry out the experiments by the teacher training while doing their practice teaching. The psychology lab has a number of tests of various types and the teacher-trainees have to administer them either

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individually or in a group and submit the report for valuation. The psychology lab includes tests to measure intelligence, attitude, aptitude, interests etc.

The college has a very well maintained hostel and a high-level of discipline is kept. The parents hold the institution in high esteem, which they expressed during their interaction.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The college offers a wide range of facilities for the Student Support and Progression. The college publishes a prospectus at the beginning of each academic year covering the philosophy of the institution and highlighting the advantages in pursuing knowledge at their respective institution. The prospectus also contain course design of B.Ed., M.Ed., programmes and various optional subjects that are offered at different levels. The information on fee structure, the attendance requirement etc. are included in the prospectus.

The admission to this college is made as per the admission policy of the state government and norms laid down for minority institutions. Under this criteria 50% seats are filled by the discretion of the management under the "Management Quota", and the rest of the 50% seats are filled as per the guidelines of the State Government following the reservation policy etc. A large member of students appear for the B.Ed. programme and admission are made by an entrance examination and viva-voce. The college is maintaining an excellent results with 100% passes, which include several distinctions and ranks in university examination.

The drop out rate is nil and the institution obtains regular feedback from the students. There is a placement cell, which is organised under the guidance of a placement officer, and teachers of the college participate in extending guidance in these matters to students.

The state government supports a large number financial assistance to needy and deprived students SC, ST, MBC and BC. The Management is offering 9 Scholarships, 3 Students Aid Fund and 18 Endowment prizes. The college is also offering several sports and Recreational facilities, which includes indoor games, outdoor games, debate clubs, students' magazine, cultural programme, audio-video, dance, music and essay writing competitions.

Criterion VI: Organisation and Management

The college is managed by a governing Body. The governing body consists of the Bishop of Coimbatore as the president and the Mother-General as the Vice-president and

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secretary, the principal of the college as treasurer. It has 6 other members including the university representative. The major functions of the body is to take decisions regarding finances, providing facilities, appointment of teacher-educators. The governing body assess the need for man-power requirement and also to recruit the required staff.

The college is also having a college council headed by the principal. All the members of the faculty are its members. In addition the college has various committees like building committees, fund raising-expenditure committee, research committee etc., to look into their working.

The college has a well-developed teaching and non-teaching staff. There are welfare schemes such as financing for higher education and exempting from payment of fees, and such as other benefits as admissible to government employees. The grievance redressal mechanism is also there, to look into the grievances of the teaching and non-teaching. The college also has an inbuilt mechanism to check the work efficiency of the non teaching staff in terms of administration, and finance.

The college intends to have more autonomy and planning and adopt better change the by-laws suitability. The college mobilizes funds from different sources like donations, fund raising drives, from alumni of the college, consultancy, self financing courses, etc. The funds these mobilized are just enough to maintain the annual expenditure of the college. The college is financially sound.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

- ✓ College has adopted many healthy practices, which have become almost an integral part of the regular curriculum. Under this practice, college organizes free medical camp for creating health awareness for rural people and also extending benefits of treating visual problems with the help of experts in the field. The college also organizes blood donation camp and hygiene orientation programmes as annual feature, which are noteworthy.
- ✓ Teaching of values: With the help of Dharma Bharath, is another important feature of this institution. In this programme the extension lectures on family life, national integration, freedom movement, life history of great men, are arranged.
- ✓ Childcare is another important concern of this institution. The mothers are given orientation in techniques of child rearing practices and their significance.
- ✓ There is well-conceived tutorial system in the institution, which enables the students and teachers to interact on many issues covering professional and personality interest

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of the student. This gives an opportunity for students to seek guidance from the teachers on the matters, which are of great significance.

- ✓ The practice of teacher evaluation by student is exemplary. However, it is desirable to evolve a pragmatic criterion to get a scientific and objective evaluation of teachers by students.
- ✓ The college organizes the talent day session for two days giving opportunity to display the talents of individual students in various walks of life, professional, aesthetics, fine arts and cultural, etc. This is a worthy attempt.
- ✓ The college organizes three days orientation programme on areas like friendship, behaviour of the student, personality development and how to interact with others. The importance of this approach needs no over emphasis.
- ✓ Meditation retreat: The college organizes meditation retreat to protect the students from several distractions of the modern world and changing environment which is in conformity with the expectations of the parents and general community.
- ✓ College conducts one hour common prayer every week and prayer meeting every day in the morning. A course on Bagavat Geetha, Bible and Quran form a strong source of secular education in the institution.
- ✓ The college conducts monthly staff meetings to enable the teachers and the principal to review the progress made in teaching-learning process, students behaviour, syllabus covered, the resource mobilization, etc – An healthy practice.
- ✓ The college is organising programmes for developing computer knowledge in all the students.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

Stella Matutina College of Education is an institution with a difference in the field of education in the region. The college is affiliated to University of Madras and funded by Government of Tamil Nadu. The college is trying for its autonomy, which is under active consideration of University Grants Commission.

College was founded in the year 1961 with the philosophy of preparing ideal teachers for secondary and primary schools and also promoting research in teacher education for the benefit of scholars who want to pursue M.Phil. and Ph.D. College is situated in more than 5 acres in the centre of Chennai in echo friendly climate with ^{pleasant} ambience. The college has long history and great tradition of producing many eminent teachers in the field of education and therefore the institution enjoys justifiable proud.

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The institution being a single faculty college is small in size and exists in the shape of a close-knit community with rich facilities. The college has well-built hostel providing accommodation to large number of students depending on the request from pupil teachers. At present 140 students are residing in the hostel with a hub of intellectual, social and cultural activities organized around the entire academic year. Apart from residential facilities, many learning opportunities like TV, VCR, Recreation Room, Prayer Room etc. form a part of hostel life. The management has undertaken further construction for expansion of these facilities for future, keeping in view its master plan.

The college is offering B.Ed., M.Ed. and Ph.D. with curriculum prescribed by the University of Madras to which it is affiliated. Despite the fact that the curriculum is designed by several National Institutions like NCTE, there is considerable scope for improvement. College proposes to re-construct the curriculum with innovative approaches after attaining autonomy in the near future.

The performance of college in research, consultancy and extension is unmistakably progressive and commendable. Thus based on the overall performance of the institution, its strengths and weaknesses, the following recommendations are made for future development of the institution.

1. The college should conceive ^{an} active alumni association and involve them in developmental activities of the institution. At present the college is able to interact with the ex-students on informal basis. It must ~~be~~ emerge into a regularly organised institutionalised programme.
2. The college has been established for preparation of teachers. It must undertake projects on teaching-learning process and publish for the benefit of secondary and primary schools. For instance, many operational researches can be undertaken on classroom dynamics etc. and findings of the research can be made available to teacher and schools in the region
3. As the college aims at preparation of ideal teachers, it is recommended to promote good communication skills among the students, both in English as well as in the regional languages. Therefore the college should create a language-library for promoting these vital skills among the students without further loss of time.
4. College is organizing several enrichments programmes. It is recommended in this connection that the college should develop concrete guidelines covering various important areas relevant to this programme.
5. The peer team is informed that the college has applied for autonomy and it is under active consideration of the University Grants Commission. College richly deserves

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autonomous status, in view of its proud record of achievements and best academic performance.

6. College must introduce an element of empirical research at B.Ed. levels to enable the pupil teachers to undertake the operational research as teachers during their service. This can be done in the form of a study of ~~Primary and Secondary schools~~ Primary and Secondary schools and problem students.
7. College teachers as a team, must undertake atleast one interdisciplinary research project on instructional technology and contribute the innovations on ~~the~~ learning process in schools on continuous basis which shall be the vital contribution of this institution.
8. The Management should include the few distinguished scholars from the area of teacher education on the governing council who can contribute through their ideas and advises, for unfolding potentiality of this institution further.

We place our appreciation on record for the warm welcome and cooperation extended in the evaluation of the institution.

Names and Signatures of the Peer Team

1. Prof. M. Malla Reddy (Chairman)

M. Malla Reddy

M. T. Desai
24/1/2002

2. Prof. D. S. Shivananda (Member)

D. S. Shivananda

I agree with the observations of the Report.

Name and Signature of the Head of the Institution with Office Seal
SR. MARSIANA.



S. Marisana

Principal
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