

**DRAFT REPORT
ON
INSTITUTIONAL RE-ACCREDITATION
OF**

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
Darjeeling District, West Bengal**

April 04 – 07, 2006

**National Assessment and Accreditation Council,
Bangalore**

Report of the Peer Team on Institutional Re-Accreditation of University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur, Darjeeling, West Bengal April 4-7, 2006

Section 1: Introduction

The University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur, (Distt. Darjeeling, West Bengal) was established on 1st November, 1962, by an Act of the West Bengal Legislature. It was further reconstituted in September 1981 by the North Bengal University Act (Act No. XXV of 1981). It is a State University, located in a rural setting in District Darjeeling of West Bengal. It is recognized by the UGC under 2(f) and 12(B) from the date of its inception. The University caters to the needs of students mainly from northern part of West Bengal and Sikkim, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and North-Eastern States of India.

The goals and objectives of the University have been defined in section 4 of the North Bengal University Act, 1981. The University aims to provide the training for learning in various subjects, research, and the advancement and dissemination of knowledge; and to provide quality higher education of global standard, at low cost.

The University has two Faculties, namely, Science (10 Departments) and Arts, Commerce and Law (15 Departments). In addition, there are 24 Centres under these Faculties including a Directorate of Distance Education and Off-Campus education.

The character of the University is an affiliating one. At present, the University has 81 affiliated including 08 constituent colleges, out of which 62 are general degree colleges, 15 B.Ed. colleges 01 Pharmacy and 03 Law Colleges. Among them 15 are Self Financing colleges.

In the year 2005-2006, the total number of students admitted to the UG, PG and Diploma courses offered in the university campus both in the regular and self financed schemes is 2587 of which 541 are SC and 189 are ST students. The number of girl students is 1017. The total student strength includes 1787 PG, 529 UG, and 143 PG Diploma and Diploma course students. In addition, there are 30 students in M.Phil course. There are 45 (full-time Fellowships) and 494 part-time research scholars working for their Ph.D degrees. Four Post Doctoral Fellows have also registered for D.Sc/D.M.Lit. programs of the university.

Annex 3

The university has at present 169 permanent teaching staff 85% of whom hold Ph.D and 07% hold M.Phil degree. In addition, the university management has appointed 24 full-time, and 252 part-time teachers mostly for the self-financing courses. The strength of women Faculty is 22.5% of the total strength. There are 356 non-teaching staff and 103 technical staff.

On completion of the period of five years after the first accreditation by NAAC in the year 2000, the University of North Bengal Volunteered to be re-assessed by NAAC and submitted the Re-accreditation Report in January 2006. In view of the above the NAAC constituted the Peer Team to visit the university and validate the Re-accreditation Report with Prof. L. S. Rathore, Formerly Vice-Chancellor, Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur, as Chairperson; Prof. Jagdish C. Bhatia, Formerly Professor, IIM, Bangalore; Prof. R. Balasubramaniam, Formerly Prof. and Head of the Department of Politics & Administration, Madras University, Chennai; Prof. C. Manoharchary, Emeritus Professor, Osmania University and Prof. Mamata Satapathy, Formerly Prof. & Head and Former UGC Emeritus Fellow, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar as members. Mr. Ashok Banerjee was associated as an observer from the Industry /Users Sector, and Dr. Latha Pillai, Advisor, NAAC coordinated the visit. The team visited the university for four days from 4th -7th April 2006.

The Peer Team carefully perused and analyzed the Re-accreditation Report submitted by the university. During the institutional visit, the peer team went through all the relevant documents and papers, visited all the departments and the facilities of the university. The Peer Team also interacted with the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Executive Council, Members of IQAC, faculty members, non-teaching staff, students, parents and alumni of the university and Principals of the affiliated colleges. Based on the above exercise, and keeping in mind the criteria identified by NAAC for the process of re-accreditation, the Peer Team is pleased to give its objective re-assessment of the University in the following paragraphs.

Section 2: Criterion-Wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The goal and mission of the university is to impart quality higher education to its students and also to meet international standards by empowering them with skills, competence and knowledge to face the challenges of the twenty first century. To this end, the university strives towards achieving excellence in all spheres of academic activity with emphasis on value orientation, character building, research orientation, scholarship and erudition. The goals and mission of the university are made known to all its stake holders through university academic calendar, prospectus, website, annual reports, news bulletin and other university publications.

At present the university offers a total of 81 program options with : 26 PG, 34 UG, 09 PG diploma, Ph.D., M.Phil, a few U.G. Diploma and Certificate Courses on the Campus. The university also provides 09 UG, 07 PG and 07 Bridge courses/programs through the distance education mode. During the last five years, the university has introduced a large number of new employment oriented and vocational courses relevant to social and national needs, a number of which are in the emerging areas of science and technology. The new courses introduced are Biotechnology, Microbiology, Strategic and Area Studies, Hindi, MBA and M. Lib in Information Science at PG level, Software Systems and Information Technology at UG level. In addition, the university has introduced eight one-year PG Diploma courses in Tea Management, Marketing Management, Disaster Management, Mass Communication and Video Production, Museum Studies & Cultural Tourism, Computer Application's, Information Technology and Environmental Law; two Diploma courses in Multi Media and French Language of six months duration.; and four short-term certificate courses. Some of these courses are offered in partnership with outside agencies in the existing study centres. Most of the above courses are conducted on self-financing basis from which the university earns substantial revenue.

After the first assessment of the university by NAAC in 2000, it has redesigned through its Boards of Studies (BOS) the existing courses in all subjects in the line with UGC model curricula and adopted them since 2002-2003. The BOS consists of a few faculty members drawn from PG departments, affiliated and constituent colleges and some external experts in the concerned subjects. For self-financing courses, the university appointed an expert committee for restructuring and modernizing the MBA and MCA syllabi, following AICTE guidelines.

The University offers a fairly wide range of programs. The course contents in most of the new courses are designed with provision for practical training, field work and computer awareness. The UG students have the option of changing their subjects within three months from the date of admission. The PG students do not enjoy such flexibility. The university has adopted semester system for the professional subjects in PG Diploma, M.Phil, MCA, MBA, LLB (Honours), BBA and BCA courses. For other courses, the temporal plan of academic work is the annual system. The university has not yet adopted Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) which is widely accepted by many progressive institutions.

The University has established Quality Advisory Committee (QAC) and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), according to the guidelines of NAAC.

The university has not yet developed a formal mechanism for collecting feedback from Peers, parents, employers and other stakeholders of the university. It seems, the university on its own, cannot implement the feedback scheme without the approval of the State Government.

Criterion II: Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

The university has a transparent admission process. Application forms are available on the university's web site. The admission of the students to UG and PG courses is done on the basis of merit. However admission to the professional courses is determined through entrance examination, group discussion and interview. Out of the total seats in PG courses, 10% of the seats are reserved for first class honours graduates from other universities. Proper reservation of seats for SC/ST/Physically Challenged/BPL category of students is ensured in accordance with government rules. The ratio of the applications received to number of seats available is approximately 3:1.

The students come from varied backgrounds with different academic levels. There are a few students from other states and other countries like Bangladesh, Nepal etc. For admitting (10+2+2) students to PG courses in Distance Education Mode, the provision for bridge courses in subjects like Mathematics, Philosophy, Political Science, History, English, Bengali and Nepali has been made. No formal enrichment courses are offered to advanced learners.

For making the teaching-learning process effective and fruitful, an Academic Calendar is maintained. The Faculty Council of the university prepares it at the commencement of the academic year in consultation with the departmental committees. In the last academic year, the university functioned for 235 days out of which 190 days were devoted to teaching.

The university is making efforts to improve the teaching-learning methodology by introducing project work, dissertation, field trips etc. in some of the courses. Along with the conventional lectures, students' participation in seminars, tutorials, discussions and tests is encouraged. Further, they are exposed to ICT and other audio-visual aids. The students of language departments use language laboratory and visual teaching aids to improve the communication skills. Each department has a departmental library which is linked to the central library through INFONET and INFLIBNET facilities. The students are also given coaching for NET/SLET and other competitive examinations. The students of Distance Education Directorate are provided with Self Instruction Materials, Question Banks etc. for the facilitating their studies.

The university has 237 sanctioned posts for teaching faculty, out of which 169 are filled. In order that the teaching would not suffer the university management has appointed 24

full-time and 252 part-time temporary teachers on contract basis. Out of the permanent teachers, 85% have Ph.D, 07% have M.Phil degrees. Women teachers account for 22.5% of the total strength. The teachers are recruited by duly constituted selection committee as per the University Act and UGC guidelines. The professional self-funded courses are taught by a few core teachers and many guest faculty drawn from other departments of the university and also from nearby institutions and other universities in the state.

To keep abreast of new developments in their respective areas of specializations, the teachers are encouraged to participate in national/international conferences/seminars/symposia etc. and attend refresher/orientation courses and other training programs organized by the university and other institutions in the country. The university also grants study leave to teachers to undertake higher studies and research. The teachers are sensitized to modern technology and are motivated to use it in the teaching and research. The university does not have an Academic Staff College. However during the last five years it has conducted 24 orientation and 48 refresher courses for the academic development of the university and college teachers. It has organized 42 national level and state level seminars/symposia/conferences and 53 academic development programs on curricular development and teaching learning improvement etc., and has arranged 32 endowment lectures. Experts and guest lecturers are also invited from other academic institutions, industries, and universities to share their experience and expertise with the teachers and students. It is to be appreciated that a numbers of teachers have received awards / recognitions / fellowships for their research output.

The university has not yet adopted the self-appraisal method for assessment of teachers. However it maintains the Performance Appraisal Report of all teachers, which includes a self-appraisal component. These reports are given due consideration at the time of their promotion to higher posts or grades. Evaluation of teachers by students has not yet been implemented as the decision involves other stake holders at the state level.

The university follows semester system for 17 courses and annual system for 67 courses, of which in 26 courses there is a component of internal assessment for project work, dissertation, seminar presentation and class tests, group discussions etc. The evaluation of answer scripts are done by single examiners, 50% of whom are external. The results of all examinations are published within a reasonable time of 35 to 85 days. The university has also introduced spot evaluation system for some examinations. The under graduate examination system has been de-centralised by establishing nine nodal centres. The examination results are also published on the university web site.

The entire examination process is computerized. The university has provision for reassessment of answer scripts for the aggrieved students. The traditional pattern of question setting, moderation and evaluation is in vogue. However, Question Bank system has been introduced for all regular UG courses during the last five years. The evaluation system is reviewed from time to time. A workshop on comprehensive examination reform system was organized about three months back.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension

The university recognizes the importance of research as valuable aid for effective teaching, and gives equal importance to these two important areas of academic activity. The teachers are encouraged to pursue research and study-leave for this purpose is sanctioned. The university also extends support for submission of research proposals and execution of approved project by providing appropriate administrative support and infrastructure facilities. A good number of national and international journals are available for reference in the central library. In addition, several journals are also accessible through INFONET. Access to library resources from other institutions is also possible under INFLIBNET program of UGC. The university also grants funds for research projects of national interest from its own resources. Annually the university spends about Rs.50 lakhs to provide research and developmental support to the departments. At present there are 33 JRFs working in different departments supported by the university from its own funds. The university has initiated research collaboration by signing MOUs with three universities in Nepal, two in Russia and a few universities and institutions in the country. Dissertation and project work in many PG courses form a significant part of the curricula. This helps the students to imbibe research aptitude and broaden their perspective in areas of their academic interest.

The standard and level of research activity in an academic institution is a good indicator of its performance. The number of teachers with Ph.D qualifications, scholars working for PhD degree and the number and nature of on going research projects are useful source of information. Out of 169 permanent teachers, 125 are Ph.D degree holders. The university is very active in research and has a large number of research scholars—45 full-time and 494 part-time scholars pursuing for their research work towards Ph.D degree in Arts, Science and Commerce faculties. In addition, four Post-doctoral scholars have also registered for D.Sc/D.Litt. degrees in the university. The total number of Ph.D produced during the last five years is 242. It is generally observed that most of the faculty members are engaged in active research. Presently 61 research projects with a total outlay of Rs.5.98 crores and funded by agencies like CSIR, DST, UGC, DBT etc. are being carried out. The total number of papers

published by the faculty in national and international refereed journals during the last five years is 997 and 248 respectively. In addition, the faculty members have written 28 books and published 02 papers in university journals and 92 papers in conference proceedings. The university publishes two refereed journals namely North Bengal University Review on Humanities and Social Science and on Science and Technology as two separate issues. During the last five years, the departments of Botany, Chemistry, Philosophy, Political Science and Economics received special financial assistance to the tune of Rs.1.20 crore from UGC under SAP. In addition, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany and Zoology departments also received grants of Rs. 1.80 crore from DST under its FIST program. The university has established many centres for research like the school of Life Sciences, Centre for Himalayan Studies and Centre for High Energy and Cosmic Ray Physics, Most of the science departments are collaborating with various institutions and universities in India and abroad for research and faculty exchange programmes.

The peer team records its appreciation for the quality of research work in most of the science, several social science and law departments. It also appreciates the extensive work done by the centres like Women's Study Centre, High Energy Cosmic Ray Centre, Tea Management, Remote Sensing and Disaster Management, which is of considerable social, scientific and contemporary importance.

The university has made good progress in the area of consultancy service since the first assessment. It has established the Centre for Developmental Studies (CDS) exclusively for the purpose of rendering professional expertise to external agencies there by generating additional resources. So far the university has generated funds to the tune of Rs.71 lakhs from consultancy services. Presently five consultancy projects are at various stages of completion.

The extension activities of the university are by and large carried out through the department of Adult, Continuing Education, Extension and Field Outreach, which is aided by UGC. The department undertakes various extension programs like community development, women empowerment, spread of literacy, and promotion of peace and harmony etc. in collaboration with its NSS units, different NGOs, the Centre for Women Studies and other women organizations. It is significant to point out that curricula of several departments includes extension work component, which makes it mandatory for the students to engage themselves in such activities and thereby enriching the society. In addition to regular extension activities the university has also laid emphasis on programmes like Cultivation of Medicinal Plants, Tea & Rubber Plantations, Ornamental Fishery, Plant Health Clinics, Mushroom Cultivation etc. which are socially and economically relevant endeavours.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure & Learning Resources

The university has adequate physical facilities for its present academic programs, administrative functions, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The total area of the university is 331 acres with built up area of 1,20,120 sq.ft. There is enough space to accommodate various departments, central library, computer centre, hostels, sports grounds, canteen, workshop, multigym, and USIC centre etc. During the last five years the university has been able to significantly augment its facilities by constructing an auditorium, separate buildings for Law, Nepali Languages, Anthropology, Bio-technology departments, Heritage Museum Building and extensions of Ladies Hostels and Guest House etc. with financial assistance of Rs.3 crores from UGC and state governments.

The university's engineering department ensures maintenance of buildings, roads, water supply, electricity installation and related facilities. It has two captive generators each of 250 KVA capacities. The campus has the facility of water supply round the clock. The Estate Department looks after the maintenance of physical infrastructure, furniture, store etc. The Watch and Ward office takes care of the security of the campus as well as the transport facilities. The University Science Instrumentation Centre (USIC) maintains the scientific instruments, laboratory equipments, computers etc. The university has appointed a Network Maintenance Manager to look after the maintenance of LAN and VSAT system.

The university has both a central library and departmental libraries. The central library is equipped to provide a number of services like reprographic, computer, internet, printing, interlibrary loan, digitization etc. It has 1,81,956 books and 30586 bound periodicals. Its subscribes to 393 national and 172 international journals/periodicals. It also provides facilities to access several journals through internet. During the last five years the University has added 53236 books. The library has acquired rare old manuscripts, back volumes of journals and Ph.D theses etc. The on-line broad band connectivity is provided by 512 kbps VSAT. INFLIBNET and INFONET facilities are available in the central library, and are also accessible from all departments/centres and administrative wings directly or through the website of the central library. Presently the library is partly computerized by the use of SOUL software which is expected to be completed by the end of this year. It is worth mentioning that automation of the library is being carried out through the acquisition of 35 Desktop Computers, 02 servers connected with LAN, with financial assistance of Rs. 56.40 lakhs from UGC under its INFONET program.

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There is a Library Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor with the Deans of all the Faculties, the Heads of Departments and few officials as its members. The librarian is the ex-officio convener of the library committee. The Central Library works from 09 am to 7.30 pm on all working days also on Saturday. However round the clock access to the library will greatly facilitate the academic and research work of students, scholars and faculty. Such a possibility could be explored. With the UGC assistance, the library has been expanded with additional floor space of 401 sq.m. Renovation of stack room, reading room and journal room has also been taken up.

All the Science Departments have well equipped and well maintained laboratories with sophisticated equipments. The Botany Department maintains a well-laid down Botanical Garden and a Green House.

The university has a Computer Centre with 60 Desktop computers, two servers and LAN equipment having internet and multimedia facilities, managed by experienced professionals. The centre remains open from 10am to 5.30 pm. on all working days. The university's LAN and VSAT system are managed by the Computer Centre. In addition, computers have been installed in different departments/centres and administrative units. The total number of computer terminal in the university is 500 with an increase of 350 in last five years.

The university has five boys and six girls hostels which provides accommodations for 1177 boarders. The health services of the students, scholars and staff members include out-patient facilities and pathological investigations through a health centre located in the campus. This centre is staffed by a full time male doctor, part-time female doctor and other auxiliary personnel. The working hours of the health centre may be re-scheduled to suit the needs of the campus dwellers.

The university has adequate infrastructure for sports and games facilities. There is a Sports Board to look after the sports and games activities both for the university and its affiliated colleges. It has play grounds, volley ball and basket ball courts, multigym and indoor game facilities. Recently the Placement and Guidance Cell has been set up.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

In the academic year 2005-06 the university has admitted 2587 students coming from diverse economic and social back grounds. Out of a total student strength, about 50% i.e. 1220 are girls, 541 belong to SC and 189 to ST categories. A number of students have come from

neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and other SAARC countries. There are 10 NRI students enrolled this academic year.

In most PG courses, the success rate is about 100%, and drop out rate is almost negligible.

The university does not have a formal system of monitoring students' progression effectively. However, as per an informal estimate, 10% of the Postgraduates opt for Ph.D programs in the university itself and the remaining either seek admission in other institutes for higher education or engage themselves in other pursuits. During the last five years, 86 students qualified in UGC-CSIR NET, and 109 in SLET examinations. Many of the NET/SLET qualified students joined research and some took up teaching jobs. The students of professional courses find employment rather easily.

Together with the application form, an information sheet containing all relevant information about the academic programs, admission rules, syllabus, fee structure, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are supplied to the students seeking admission. However a separate prospectus is provided to the students of self-financed courses. For SC and ST students 22% and 6% seats are reserved respectively, and for BPL and physically challenged students 3% are reserved.

Financial aid is available to the students in the form of central and state government scholarships like national scholarship, SC/ST scholarship etc. The regular PG students are also given 100% or 50% tuition fee concession depending upon their family income. BPL category students are given 50% concession for all courses including the self-financed ones. Last year 1135 students received the scholarship or fee concession.

An alumni association registered under Society Registration Act has been functioning in the university since 2001. It encourages its members to take active interest in the activities of the university. It awards medals to the best student of each Faculty. The alumni association holds annual function of the association and arranges special plenary lectures. It has opened chapters at various districts of the state. The Executive Council has constituted a committee to keep liaison and have discussions with the alumni members about the development of the institution.

The university has adequate Support Services and other facilities for all the students. These include Hostels, Placement Cell, and Grievance Redressal Cell. Last year 14 students from MCA, M.Sc in computer Science, and M.Sc in Biotechnology got employment in

campus interviews in reputed firms like TCS , ICST, Calipso through the Placement Cell. However, it has limited scope for getting self-employment to the students.


Recreational/cultural and sports facilities are available for the students. The students participate in various types of tournaments organized by the university and other universities. It is nice note that one of the students of affiliated college of the University bagged a Gold Medal in Table Tennis Championship of Commonwealth Games in the year 2006. The students association organizes many leisure time activities like sports, indoor and outdoor games, film festival and seminars. The students publish a cultural magazine, news bulletin etc. There is a cultural Centre in the university coordinated by a teacher who identifies the creative talent among the students and encourages them to pursue it seriously by participating in such activities. The university annually spends about Rs.5 lakhs for these activities.

Criterion VI: Organization & Management

The university is governed by the University of North Bengal Act 1981. The organizational structure consists of mainly the statutory bodies like the Court, the Executive Council, Faculty Council, UG Council, Finance Committee, Boards of Studies and Board of Research studies. It is encouraging to note that the Court, the highest body has student representatives from university and affiliated colleges. The powers and functions of these bodies are clearly defined in the Act and Statutes of the university. The Vice Chancellor is the chief academic and administrative head. These statutory bodies lay down the policy, and plan the academic programs of the university. The Vice Chancellor along with the statutory and non-statutory committees implements and monitors them. The rules and regulations of the university provide supportive structure for governance. The Academic Calendar for UG and PG programs are prepared by UG Council/Faculty Council in consultation with departmental committees at beginning of the session.

As per the NAAC norm, the university has constituted Quality Advisory Committee (QAC) and Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) following the first assessment, through which it monitors the quality parameter and thereby maintains and enhances the standard of higher education

Different sections of the university community like teachers, students, non-teaching staff etc. have their own associations with elective representatives which ensure harmonious relationship with the university administration. The academic planning of various departments is carried out by the respective BOS, with the approval of faculty council. It is good to note



that the university is preparing the vision document VISION-2025 with long term perspective spanning up to the year 2025.

During Ninth Plan the total allocation of UGC was of Rs.2.6 crores, and during 10th Plan the UGC Grant received is Rs.2.3 crores (out of total outlay of Rs.3.91 crores). The budget outlay of the university for the year 2005-2006 is Rs.36 crores. For the year 2006-2007 it is around Rs.36 crores.

The Performance Appraisal Report of the faculty members are submitted annually to the university which are mainly taken into consideration for promotion purposes. The performance of the non-teaching staff is primarily analysed through ACR's.

Since the time of first accreditation, the university has taken up a number of academic development programmes both for teaching and non-teaching staff. The non-teaching staff is given in-house training on management, accounting, correspondence and communication, use of ICT in office administration, and examination management etc. The university has also organized refresher and orientation courses with UGC assistance for the teachers to update their knowledge, skill and expertise. The various departments organize seminars, symposia, workshops, conferences to acquaint the teachers with the modern trends in their respective subjects. It is observed that the teachers, officers and most of the non-teaching staff are conversant with modern technology.

During the year 2005-06 the university has received Rs.2240.65laks from the State Government as grant-in-aid, Rs.346.83lakh as fees from the students, Rs.376.88lakh from self-financing courses and Rs. 44.60 lakh from other sources. The university has been quite effective in resource mobilization and planning the developmental strategies. It has been successful in generating 20% of its total expenditure through internal resource mobilization and adopting innovative practices. During the years 2000-2005, it generated Rs.3.63 crores from this and from non-conventional services. The university has created an Infrastructure Facility Fund using the overheads from the projects funded by external agencies. In the last five years, university received Rs.5.51 crores from major research projects, Rs.2.52 lakhs from minor research projects and Rs.71 lakhs from consultancy services.

The finance of the University are well planned and executed. Accounts are audited first by the Internal Audit of the Finance Department and then by the AG of West Bengal annually.

The university thus has an effective organizational structure to co-ordinate the academic and administrative planning and control. It has a number of welfare programs for



students and staff, which include several scholarships, Group Insurance, various loans and advances, medical reimbursement, housing etc.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

Over the years the university has adopted a number of healthy practices which has influenced and improved the quality of academic activities.

- As per the NAAC guideline the university has set up the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and Quality Advisory Committee (QAC) with the Vice-Chancellor as Chairperson, and Registrar as Secretary, and all Heads of Departments as members. Some members of the Executive Council and other university officials are also included in this cells. The QAC and IQAC monitor the internal quality with proper checks and guidance.
- The university has introduced a fair number of career oriented and interdisciplinary courses in the emerging areas.
- The university has set up many centres like Centre for Developmental Studies, Centre for Women Studies, Centre for Remote Sensing & GIS Applications, Mass Communication and Video Production Centre, Centre for Floriculture and Agro-business Management, Centre for High Energy and Cosmic rays, Centre for Himalayan Studies, Immuno-pathogen centre, Bio-diversity centre, Medicinal Plant centre, Centre for Remote Sensing and Disaster Management, Fish Culture etc. which offer courses that are job oriented.
- The university has adopted several innovative strategies for resource mobilization. About 20% of the total recurring expenditure is met from such income and a corpus of Rs.20 crore has been created for the pension fund.
- The physical infrastructure of the campus has shown visible signs of expansion to serve needs of teachers, students, research scholars and the university as a whole.
- Inclusion of student members in Court and Executive Council is a welcome feature.
- The amenities for students welfare and progress have been augmented.

Section III: Overall Analysis

The Peer Team, after careful consideration of the Re-accreditation report and after its four days visit to the various departments and physical facilities, is convinced that the university has shown dynamism and growth in both academic and administrative functions since the first accreditation in 2000. It has implemented most of the suggestions made by the

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NAAC during the first assessment. In addition, the university has adopted a number of positive and progressive measures for the sustenance and enhancement of the quality.

Commendations

- The university has substantially contributed to the process of National Development, by providing quality education in the existing and also in newly emerging areas like Bio-Technology, Micro-Biology, Computer & Information Science, and thereby enabling its students to become globally competitive.
- Concerted efforts are made by many departments to enhance the quality of teaching, research, administration, examinations by effective use of I.T.
- The internal assessment component of course evaluation in the annual pattern of examinations for the regular PG courses includes project work, dissertation, seminars and field trips etc.
- The university has a good research profile. A large number of projects funded by external agencies like UGC, DST, DBT, CSIR, ICSSR, ICMR etc are being carried out in the university. Several departments of the university got special assistance under SAP of UGC and FIST of DST in the last five years.
- Almost all the students pass PG examinations and drop out rate is negligible.
- The university has generated Rs. 71 lakhs through consultancy projects during the last five years.
- The conduct of examinations and the declaration of results are as per the Academic Calendar.
- Significant improvement has been made in students amenities during the last five years by renovating canteen, health centre, adding gymnasium, modernizing kitchen in hostels etc.
- Efforts have been made to motivate students to appear in the competitive examinations by providing them necessary coaching, guidance and financial assistance.
- The University is in the process of preparing 2025 Vision Document.

As the university continues to work towards Vision 2025 for assuring the quality of its academic programs, the university may consider the following:

Suggestions

- It has to initiate the process of filling of vacant posts of teaching and non-teaching.

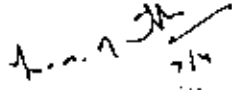

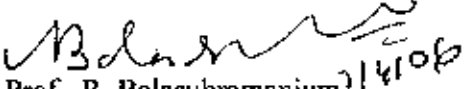

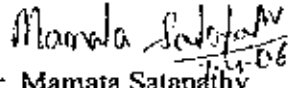
- Mechanism for obtaining feed back from Parents, Employers, Peers and other Stake holders of the university may be introduced formally and regular interactions may be held with them.] *Revised*
- Student's feedback on the performance of teachers, teaching-learning process and campus environment may be introduced.]
- Effort be made to complete the automation of all library services. Book Bank facility in the central library and lending library facility in the departments may be created for the students.
- The activities of Career Guidance, Placement Cell and Grievance Redressal Cell may be strengthened.
- The inclusion of commerce and geography in Distance Education Programme may be considered.
- The Health Centre may be further strengthened by providing Ozonization Plant, ELISA Reader (Bayer's Germany), Ophthalmoscope cum Auroscope and extending building area with beds and emergency kits.
- Students' Progression may be monitored and full record of the same be maintained by the departments.
- Appointment of a Director for Physical Education and Sports Board be made on a permanent basis. The University should move ahead in sports and games arena by adding more facilities and by increasing the strength of physical education teachers.
- It is desirable to equip the dining rooms and common rooms of the hostels with modern equipments and facilities besides adequately renovating the buildings.
- Faculty specializing in genetics, bio-chemistry, bio-informatics, genomics, instrumentations, horticulture and floriculture be added, so as to help the university to strengthen the teaching processes and also help in resource mobilization.
- A permanent placement centre with wider context may be established to help the students and scholars for their placement.
- It is recommended that linkages with industry, international organizations and national centres of academic excellence may be strengthened.
- The university may consider instituting Gold Medals, Book Prizes, Cash Prizes etc. for those promising students in academics, sports, games, NSS, cultural and other extra *h m h*

curricular and co-curricular activities in order to provide necessary motivation and incentives to the students to participate in these activities.

- Efforts be made to strengthen the personality development, entrepreneurship abilities, performance in interviews, spoken and communication skills of English etc. which will prepare the students and scholars to face a competitive global environment and emerging challenges.
- It should provide leadership to West Bengal Council Higher Education for policy making and for establishing, administrative / academic reforms to maintain standards.
- It should make significant contribution in formulating North Bengal Development Plan for NBD Council and also for monitoring RSVY programme.

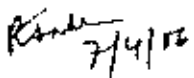
The Peer Team wishes to record its appreciation for the goodwill and cooperation extended by the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Executive Council Members, all Members of the Teaching and Non-teaching staff, Students, Parents and Alumni for their interaction with them and free and frank discussions. The Team wishes the institution all success in its future endeavors.

Names and Signatures of Members of the Peer Team

 Prof. L. S. Rathore . (Chairperson)	 Prof. Jagdish C. Bhatia. (Member)	 Prof. R. Balasubramaniam (Member)
 Prof. C. Manoharchary (Member)	 Dr. Mamata Satapathy (Member)	

I have read the above report and I agree to the contents of the report.

Darjeeling
Date: 7th April 2006


Prof. P. K. Saha
Vice Chancellor
University of North Bengal
Signature & Seal of the Vice Chancellor
Vice-Chancellor
University of North Bengal