

**Peer Team Report**  
**on**  
**Institutional Accreditation of the**  
**Baselius College, Kottayam.**

**12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January 2000**

**National Assessment & Accreditation Council**

# **Report of the Peer Team on the Institutional Accreditation of the Baselius College, Kottayam, Kerala State**

## **Section 1: Preamble**

Baselius College, Kottayam volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore and submitted the preliminary self study report in March 1999. A peer team was constituted by the council to visit the college and validate the self study report. The team members are Prof.M.Madaiah, former Vice Chancellor of Mysore University as Chairman, Prof.P. Ramanathan, former Registrar, M. S. University and currently H O D of Physics Department, Sri.S. P. K. College, Alwarkurchi, Tamilnadu and Prof. Santha Pattabhiraman, Administrator, Ethiraj College, Chennai as members. The peer team visited the college on 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2000. Dr. Latha Pillai, Deputy Advisor and Mr. P. Ponnudiraj of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council ably co-ordinated the work of the Peer Team throughout the visit to this institution of higher learning.

Baselius College was established in June 1964 by a galaxy of eminent men to fulfill the long cherished dream of Malankara Orthodox Christian Community with the motto 'Learn, Labour and Love'. The institution is named after His Holiness Baselius Geevarghese II, the late lamented Catholicos of the East. Only pre-degree courses were offered in the college during the first two years of its existence. The college was upgraded in the year 1966 and the degree courses were started heralding a new era in the growth and development of the institution. It is a minority college and is managed under the able stewardship of His Grace Philipose Mar Eusebius. This premier institution is affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University of Kottayam and it is recognised by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi under 2f and 12b of the UGC Act of 1956.

Baselius College is located on a 15.75 acres, beautiful campus in the heart of

Kottayam town in the M.D.Seminary compound flanked by the heavenly kissing Mar Elia Cathedral on the right side and the impressive towers of the ‘Malayala Manorama’ on the left, overseeing the Malankara Estate and the Kodoor River with easy access by road, train and water transport systems.

The college has 16 departments with the faculty strength of 80 permanent teachers and 20 guest lecturers. Eleven of them are Ph.D. holders and 31 of them are M.Phil. holders. The college has a non-teaching staff of 80 including 19 technical staff and 7 library staff. The college offers 11 under graduate programmes and 5 Post Graduate Courses. The total student population currently stands at 1,532 which includes under graduate and post graduate students. The college has established a name in the surrounding area through its dedicated service with social commitment to the people around providing quality education. The department of English is recognized by the M.G.University as a Research Centre for guiding Ph.D. research. In addition, there are some recognized professors to guide Ph.D. research in some departments.

The peer team carefully perused and analysed the self-study report submitted by the college authorities. During the institutional visit of 3 days, the committee went through all the relevant documents as well as visited the departments and facilities-academic, co-curricular and extra curricular, sports and extension of the college. The peer team also interacted with the Governing Body, Principal, Faculty, Non-teaching Staff, Students, Parents and Alumni of the college. Based on the above exercise and keeping in mind the criteria identified by the NAAC, the peer team has given its concerted and objective assessment of the institution in ensuing pages.

## **Section 2: Criterion-wise Analysis**

### **Criterion I: Curricular Aspects**

As an affiliated institution of Mahatma Gandhi University, Baselius College follows the Curriculum of the University meticulously. The syllabi incorporates multi disciplinary components and certain amount of flexibility. The college offers under

graduate programmes in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Malayalam, Commerce, Zoology, Botany, English, Economics and Political Science. The college also offers post graduate courses in Chemistry, Physics, English, Economics and Commerce and Research Programme in English. The college has started UGC sponsored B.Com Course in Office Management and Secretarial Practice in 1996 and thus entering a new phase of vocationalisation of Education.

In addition to the above, the college is also offering a wide range of diploma and certificate courses for the benefit of its regular students in collaboration with Industries and other organisations. Diploma courses are offered in Industrial Chemistry, Plantation Management, Marketing and Sales Management, Computer Science, Journalism and Certificate course in accounting, Better Home Management, Yoga, English Language Proficiency and Computer Science. The college also stresses Value Education component in the curriculum which is the need of the hour in line with the thinking of the UGC and the planning commission.

A variety of academic programmes are offered by this institution keeping in view the interest of the younger generation and socio-economic-educational changes that are taking place in the country. The curriculum design and transaction focuses on teaching as well as over all development of students. The institution has a genuine concern in the holistic development of the students, taking personal care in their psychological, spiritual, social and emotional needs. Students are appreciative of the services of Management and Teachers. Subject associations and Clubs provide ample opportunities for co-curricular activities.

However, the college can take some deliberate steps to provide competitive edge to the students exposing them to the information technology in all the departments. Feedback from academic peers, employers and industrialists can provide insights into the areas of future expansion. More UGC Vocational Courses could be introduced as career orientation is a concern of the management, which in turn would complement and support the traditional subjects and courses.

## **Criterion II: Teaching-learning and Evaluation**

Teaching-learning and evaluation are carried on in a satisfactory manner. Students are selected for admission into various courses on the basis of merit as per the Government of Kerala/ Mahatma Gandhi university guidelines. The college adopts annual examination system for all under graduate and post graduate courses and semester pattern for B.Com vocational course.

Learner – centered teaching is achieved through assignments , projects , seminars and quizzes which are the part of the internal components in the revised course programmes from the university . Bridge and remedial courses are regularly conducted in seven departments out of 11 undergraduate departments.

Teaching can be made more learner–centered by developing computer aided teaching package, making use of human resources and machines available in the computer centre. Frequent use of audio visual aids in the class rooms may make class more interesting for the students. Specific programmes may be planned by each department for advanced learners. These programmes may be motivating programmes for higher education /research. The syllabus is divided as per the term in every department and efforts are taken to complete the syllabus in time. Tutorial sessions are conducted. In tutorial system, a specific number of students is allotted to a teacher. The teacher meets the students once in a week and the concerned parents at least twice in a year and the teachers are encouraged to adopt innovative methods to motivate the students to achieve academic excellence. Every teacher submits a report of activities under the system before the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month to the principal .The college is able to achieve full working days (200) in an academic year . There are adequate and experienced teachers in all the departments. All the teachers handling classes are full time faculty even though there are few part-time(Guest) faculty.

The recruitment of teachers is done as per the norms prescribed by the University and the Govt. of Kerala. All the teachers recruited are from the same state . A good number of teachers have attended national level seminars and a few teachers have attended international level seminars. The college has conducted two seminars on

education innovation and two seminars on examination reforms for teachers. The college follows both student evaluation of teachers and self-appraisal report system for evaluating the performance of teachers. Teachers take remedial action based on evaluation .

Students performance is being tested periodically through internal tests ,term examination and final examination. The Peer Team observed a satisfactory performance in the final examination. However , there is an ample scope for improving their academic performance. College has bagged a few ranks in the University examinations in some years which has to be appreciated . English department is offering Ph.D programme. The Peer Team feels that this department must develop national/international linkages through e-mail/Internet for sharing information.

### **Criterion III: Research, Consultancy and Extension**

There are 11 teachers with PhD degree and 31 teachers with M.Phil degree out of 80 permanent teachers. A few teachers have been recognised as research guides by the university. Botany department has 2 research projects, commerce has one UGC minor project and Mathematics department has one UGC project. Zoology has a research project funded by the department of science and technology. The college has a research committee consisting of teachers, one each from the departments where research is on. The committee is entrusted with the task of framing broad based policies for research work in the college. The college is also seriously considering to start a research journal with three issues per year. The formation of a research committee at the college level is a unique feature and that must be appreciated.

The enthusiasm shown by teachers of this college in the field of research is commendable. The management must come forward to partly finance a few research projects which are socially relevant. This may help to motivate more teachers joining research work. Turning the focus of research on socially relevant problems and also local problems may help to initiate consultancy work.

The college is doing commendable extension work in collaboration with NGOs and GOS. A budget provision of Rs. 10,000/- is made for the extension work. That means, the college has a clear vision of the type of extension work that is to be undertaken every year. Blood donation activity has been appreciated by the local community. NSS, NCC, and other clubs are properly used for these activities. A liberal budget will enable to expand the extension activities. The extra money that is needed for liberal budget may be collected through consultancy services. Fast a meal and feast a friend is a commendable activity.

#### **Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning resources**

The college is located in the centre of the Kottayam town. A multi storey building accommodates various departments, laboratories and general administration. A cluster of buildings surrounding the main building accommodate canteen, day students centre, college students - staff co-op. store and society, girls waiting hall and auditorium. Classrooms and laboratories are adequately equipped and furnished. There is a demand from the faculty for more space to start more courses. But the present building accommodate predegree classes also. Once the predegree is delinked from the college, the additional space created may be used for starting new courses. However, the existing facilities are used optimally by providing parallel courses leading to a diploma or a certificate. The campus is kept green and clean using NSS volunteers. Environmental awareness is created among students through Nature Club activities.

Library is located in a separate building. The library has an advisory committee with the librarian and 3 teachers. The library has a spacious reading room and books are kept in closed cupboards with glass doors. The college has a plan to expand the library building to provide a separate stack room. The library has 35,000 books including books available in the departmental library to cater to the needs of 1532 students. Around 50 popular journals and periodicals are available in the library and the departments. The library administration is yet to be modernized. However, steps are being taken to computerize the library administration in collaboration with the

library and information science department of M.G. University. The library is kept open on all working days from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. The peer team felt that the working hours of the library may be increased. A full-fledged book-bank facility may be provided in the library. Photocopying facility should be provided in the library.

The college has a computer centre with 16 PCs connected through LAN. A few departments are having separate computer facility. The college has E-mail and internet facility. The computer centre works from 7.30 am to 9.00 pm on all working days with special permission on any holiday. The computer centre may have to think of offering more job oriented courses to all the students. The centre may also think of developing teaching aid packages with available human resources.

Regarding sports and games, the college has different courts for playing and practicing basketball, football, volley ball and shuttle badminton. There is a separate 200 metres track for practicing athletics. The management has spent nearly Rs. 2.4 lakhs for developing a basket ball court. There is a long list of students who brought laurels in sports and games at national level, state level and the University level. The management may encourage sports students who bring laurel to the college by giving cash award.

As such, the college has no hostel facility. However, the college has taken steps to accommodate students in nearby private hostels. The college has a plan to construct a hostel for women students. Amenities such as canteen, a co-operative store, day student lunch room and girls waiting room are available in the college. The college has a grievance redressal cell for the grievances of students and staff. The cell has three senior teachers as members. Any complaint brought to the attention of the Principal is referred to the cell. The members jointly take a decision on the basis of facts and data available. The decision is conveyed to the Principal for further action.

#### **Criterion V: Student support and progression**

The college has adequate facilities to give support for students. Student support includes not only academic-co-curricular, extra-curricular activities but the most



important being the financial support like scholarships, endowments, P T A and Management participation. Two to three percent dropout shows the personal interest given by dedicated faculty members, Principal and the Management. Various diploma and certificate courses offered provides required financial assistance as well as employment opportunities. The co-operative bank in the college campus is a boon to both the teaching as well as the non-teaching staff for it provides loan facilities. Job opportunities are found more for the students of this institution are discernable. There is ample opportunity for vertical progression of the student population. Separate career facilitating centre with employment and placement officer, cultural club and alumni take an active part in the proper functioning of the college. Department wise P T A provides proper understanding of the students, parents and faculty members. This helps to maintain discipline and healthy relationship of the college and individual attention to parents also. Alumni in prominent positions adds to the interest of the college. Even though there is no hostel on the campus, adequate hostel facilities are provided outside the college campus. A subsidised canteen caters to the need of the students. A redeeming feature is the provision of lunch for poor students from the profit received from co-operative stores. Computer training programmes, one day motivation programmes, P G Programmes, N.S.S, N.C.C for students adds to the excellence of the institution.

#### **Criterion VI: Organisation and Management**

The organisation and management deal with managerial aspects of the college. The college is financially sound. The administration is efficient and transparent. The functionaries include

- administrative and academic authorities.
- M.O.C – Malankara Metropolitan cum Catholicos of the Church.
- Local Governing Body headed by the Malankara Metropolitan cum Catholicos of the East.
- Academic committee-staff council headed by the Principal.

Excellence is the criterion for admission of students and recruitment of staff as per the rules of the University and the Government. A separate selection committee with Government nominee is being constituted during recruitment.

The Library committee controls the activities of the library like stock verification etc.

Approved staff salary is paid by the Government of Kerala. The Management takes initiative in mobilising financial resources from funding agencies like U.G.C., P.T.A. in addition to its own contribution to fund various academic and developmental activities of the college. The accounts are regularly audited.

The college has tremendous potential which can be used in future for carrying out proposals like library extension, modernisation of computer lab, women's hostel.

### **Criterion VII: Healthy Practices**

The following healthy practices are observed in the college:

- Secular Prayer – Every morning at the commencement of the classes.
- Value education.
- Tutorial System with one teacher for one class.
- Parents-students-teacher interaction.
- Good staff-student relation.
- Involvement of voluntary organisation and external agency for the overall development of students and extension activities.
- Involvement of industries in offering need based diploma and certificate courses for the benefit of students of the college.
- Courses option with minimum cost.
- Co-operative bank within the campus providing loan facility.
- Profits made out of student co-operative store are used for welfare activities of the students.
- Around 15 scholarships to top ranking students.
- College working as a team to achieve the goals and objectives.
- Students discipline.

## **Section – 3**

### **Overall Analysis**

The peer team, after going through the self-study report and after its three day visit to various academic and physical facilities, is impressed by the remarkable progress of Baselius College in transacting its vision and goals of advancement of the frontiers of knowledge in the fields of higher education. Values of Social Commitment and Service pervade through all activities of this college. There is a commitment to the academic, Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities of students who go through this institution. Students are exposed to the social milieu and challenges of the world outside. The college has earned a high reputation for imparting quality education to the younger generation.

The Management, administrative functionaries, teachers and staff have imbibed the spirit of academic excellence and service to the society. Teaching, learning and evaluation get their rightful place. Extension activities of the institution are laudable. However, research and publications need to be strengthened. Infrastructural facilities are quite good. Organization and management are efficient and transparent. Further, one could see an atmosphere of learning, discipline and harmony of vision in the academic fraternity of the college. However, there is an urgent need for the expansion of academic and physical facilities to meet the growing and changing needs of the student population. Another area to be improved upon is the Information technology. The facilities like well-equipped large Computer Center, introduction of computers for administration, Internet facilities to all teachers, P.G. and research students. Computerization of library, mobilization of funds for more books, periodicals, laboratory equipment, establishment of a good language laboratory, more academic linkage with industry and research institutions of repute can take this institution to newer academic heights.

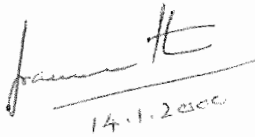
Baselius College has been rendering yeoman service in the area of higher learning since its inception in 1964. Its achievements are remarkable and potentialities are great. The college has been very lucky to have successive dynamic principals

including the present Principal Prof. P.C. Alias for its unbridled academic advancement. The peer team envisages a very bright future for this premier educational institution in the new millennium.

Signature of Peer Team Members

1. M. Madaiah: (Chairman)  
14.1.2000.

2. Shantha Pattalhiraman  
14-1-2000

3.   
14.1.2000

I agree with the contents

  
13.1.2000

Signature of the Head of the Institution with seal

Principal  
Basellus College, Kottayam

