



SELF STUDY REPORT

FOR

2nd CYCLE OF ACCREDITATION

PALAMURU UNIVERSITY

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Palamuru university has been established in the year 2008 by an Act of State Legislature with the erstwhile Post Graduate College of Osmania University at Mahbubnagar as the nucleus. It is situated in Bandameedipalli village 5 km away from Mahbubnagar town on Hyderabad – Raichur National Highway. The institution has demonstrated its prowess and remarkable resilience in a short span of time. It has made significant strides in the spheres of institution building, infrastructure development and campus sustainability. It has paid equal attention to academic reforms, institutional innovations and extension activities. In its quest for continuous improvement and quality enhancement, the university has gone in for NAAC Accreditation in the year 2018 and has secured Grade B. In the Post Accreditation phase, guided by the Recommendations of the Peer Team, the institution has been focussing on quality sustenance measures for remapping teaching and research and strengthening institutional framework. It is in forefront in implementing the ideals of National Education Policy-2020. It has secured the coveted status of being the only State University in Telangana to have been selected for the substantive funding of Rs100 crores under MERU component of PM USHA Scheme during this year. Today, Palamuru university is moving forward with a distinctive educational agenda in furtherance of its transformative vision and fast emerging as a new destination of higher learning in the state of Telangana. The university offers 23 academic programs at its main campus (comprising University PG College, University College of Pharmaceutical sciences and University College of Education) and three constituent PG centres at Gadwal, Wanaparthi and Kollapur, put together. Research Programs leading to Ph.D. Degree are being offered in 09 subjects. There are 2154 students comprising 1227 boys and 927 girls on the rolls of the university. The scope and jurisdiction of PU as an affiliating institution of higher learning is also fast expanding: Today, 317 colleges with a student strength of 2171 constitute the academic landscape of the university. With this as the backdrop, the university seeks to go in for Second cycle of Accreditation. This sets the tone for the submission of Self Study Report.

Vision

Vision Statement of Palamuru University is as follows:

“Palamuru University envisions to be the exceptional provider of quality higher education in the service of the nation for advancement of knowledge, empowerment of youth and socio-economic development of the region. Central to this vision is its shared belief in eminence through excellence.”

Mission

The Mission of Palamuru University is as follows:

- *To disseminate, generate and advance the knowledge*
- *To strive for excellence in the spheres of teaching, research and extension & outreach*
- *To expand the avenues and access for higher education in furtherance of socio-economic development of the region*
- *To empower the youth for nation building in consonance with our culture, heritage and environment*

and

- *To promote healthy moral values, democratic ideals and ethical practices.*

1.2 Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Challenges(SWOC)

Institutional Strength

Palamuru university has emanated in the special context of expanding the access and equity in higher education in this part of the country in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC). It has the inherent strength of having the well-run PG College of Osmania University at Mahbubnagar as the nucleus for its formation. The legacy of its Constituent PG centres also adds to its inner strength in varying degrees. Transfer of 123 affiliated colleges from Osmania University has given it a fillip as an affiliating University in its early phase. The university has been proactive in capitalising on these core competencies in its functioning. Introduction of academic reforms like semester system and CBCS in the formative stage has facilitated consolidation of CBCS and imparting outcomes-based education at later stage. The ingrained academic culture of adherence to academic schedule enhances credibility of the institution. Emphasis on inculcation of communicative competence in English among students through establishment of language laboratory. This has paved way for the establishment of Centre for English language Training (CELT) in later years. Planned approach to strengthen Science labs and equipment in the initial years of establishment is paving way for their modernization. Push to library augmentation as the primary learning resource centre is catering to wider and varied requirements. Impetus to infrastructure development as the vehicle for promotion of excellence visible in impressive constructions Early focus on creation of student support services towards shaping as residential campus as can be seen in a number of hostel buildings, sports complex, auditoria. Transparent Admissions policy facilitated through centralised process. Emphasis on financial discipline and resource generation towards self-reliance. Deep commitment to campus sustainability through green initiatives which are pursued with passion.

Focus on support interventions for capacity building and employability of students and inclusivity initiatives makes it a student friendly campus. Added to these inherent and acquired strengths, the university has also got empowered through quality sustenance and NAAC Accreditation. It has been able to garner funding from PM USHA. Preparation towards NEP2020 has also facilitated seeking of funding for sports infrastructure development under Khelo-India programme.

Institutional Weakness

Palamuru university is beset with certain weaknesses which come in the way of its functioning and long-term growth. Being a state-run university, it is dependent on Annual Block grants. There is inadequate budget provision for maintenance of labs and equipment, library and modernization of teaching and learning. Limited sanction of teaching and non-teaching posts affects teaching, research and administrative functioning. Critical shortage of regular manpower for university administration and technical operations is coming in the way of day today functioning. Manning with ad-hoc, temporary staff through contract/ outsourcing affects efficiency. Campus being vast, maintenance and monitoring is proving costly. Lack of augmentation of amenities and support services owing to staff shortage and resource crunch. Efforts are on to overcome the weaknesses through appropriate interventions.

Institutional Opportunity

Palamuru university is blessed with a vast campus with idyllic surroundings and green canopy conducive for scholarly pursuits and implementation of sustainability initiatives. The Institutional Perspective Plan takes note of this, and future plans are envisaged accordingly. There is vast scope for new constructions, and creation of research, start-up, and extramural facilities on the campus. The responsiveness of State and Central Governments is encouraging for further initiatives to strengthen the university. Union Ministry of Sports is supporting the university in the modernization of sports infrastructure. State Government is evincing interest in sanctioning Engineering and Law courses to the university to give a big boost to technical and legal education pursuits.

Mahbubnagar town is fast emerging as Pharma Hub. There is legacy of vibrant NGO ecosystem in this area. These come in handy for the university for forging linkages for promoting employability and entrepreneurship of the students. The post accreditation phase has given a big push to the research portfolio. Imbued with funding from RUSA, research facilities are in the process of being modernised. Forays into IPR realm and consultancy arena are opening up new avenues to faculty and research students. The fact that Palamuru university is growing in size as an affiliating institution of higher learning also opens up new window of opportunities for it. The way it is taking shape as a new age regional university equally holds promise for capitalising on these opportunities.

Institutional Challenge

Critical shortages of faculty and technical supporting Staff are coming in the way for maintenance of academic standards and promotion of excellence. Mounting costs of salaries and maintenance in the absence of regular funding flows are affecting the institutional financial viability. Though not immediately, emergence of private universities creates competition for student enrolment. Being a public university, emphasis is laid on expanding access to higher education. Focus on inclusivity impinges social responsibility. Financial viability too comes to the fore as a major concern in this regard. There are inherent constraints as a State University in adherence to certain stipulations from UGC and other authorities at times.

1.3 CRITERIA WISE SUMMARY

Curricular Aspects

The overall curriculum framework at Palamuru University (PU) encompassing 23 diverse program offerings ensures alignment with current trends in knowledge and evolving standards of excellence, as well as with local, regional, national and global development needs. It broadly reflects the National Agenda for Higher Education with focus on National concerns, regional requirements, and industry demand. The curriculum of Doctoral program in Physical Education is aimed at promoting sports integrated learning and research related skills for proper integration of three paradigms of physical education, sports and yoga as emphasized in the National Education policy 2020. Emphasis is laid on incorporation of learning outcomes comprising program outcomes and course outcomes which are central to curriculum and cardinal to the outcomes-based education, into the curriculum.

Employability, Entrepreneurship and Skill development have assumed prime focus in the program offerings at PU. It has been the constant endeavour of the university to evolve a flexible curriculum that facilitates creative combinations of various subjects in the direction of multidisciplinary and holistic education for the integrated development of learners. PU is alive to the centrality of cross-cutting issues in the educational process. Equal attention is paid to the incorporation of values enshrined in NEP 2020 as well as aspirations espoused in Sustainability Development Goals (SDG) especially SDG4 in the curriculum framework. The ubiquity of gender permeating all aspects of the social world finds wider expression in a number of programmes. UG&PG programs in Education equally focus on the gender concerns in the direction of affirmative social transformation. The multi facets of Environment and Sustainability are exhaustively dealt with across wide array of academic programs. Human Values and Professional Ethics are firmly anchored in the curriculum of professional programs. Value orientation comes to the fore in the course on Philosophy of Education at both B.Ed.& M Ed programs.

Teaching-learning and Evaluation

Palamuru University lays emphasis on equitable teaching that creates pathways to success for all students. This framework of adaptive, differentiated instruction facilitates diverse students in achieving better results. Impetus is given for improving the learning outcomes for slow learners. Tutorials are conducted on a planned basis as part of the remedial instruction to them. The concerns of slow learners are addressed through counselling, social facilitation and academic advice. The university also takes special care of the gifted learners among the student community. It devises pathways for the productive engagement and academic enrichment of the advanced learners. Experiential learning forms an integral part of the pedagogy at the university. Internship, field visit, project work and service learning through community engagement find increased application in Professional programs. Participative learning finds a place of pride in the teaching learning pursuits. The University has successfully embarked upon the Blended Teaching – Learning in the wake of Carona Pandemic. These pedagogical adaptations have proven to be pivotal at that time. These have also come in handy for the sustenance of academic activity during the Pandemic. Impetus has been given to MOOCS to expand the study options, means of credit transfer and learning resource base for students. The university has taken the initiative to institutionalize the associative bonds between teachers and students through the Mentoring System. Student mentoring has been pursued with passion to address the concerns of learners through counselling, social facilitation and academic advice. Palamuru University has formulated Graduate Attributes which bring home the philosophy underpinning the teaching programs. These are displayed on the website of the University and printed in the Handbook.

Student performance is related to learning outcomes which are spelt out through program outcomes, program specific outcomes and course outcomes. Course outcomes being substantive, the university follows standardised process for evaluation process. The calculation of the course outcomes attainments includes the performance in both the internal and external examinations. The standard format for calculation is used in computing the course attainment values of these two sets of the examinations.

Research, Innovations and Extension

Palamuru University is ahead in augmenting and upgrading research facilities. Central Research facility is envisaged to evolve an ecosystem for creation and dissemination of knowledge and to facilitate campus wide interdisciplinary research pursuits on a coordinated basis. There is impetus for this development in view of introduction of Doctoral Programmes in more number of Subjects and sanction of funding from RUSA in the

post accreditation phase for enhancement of research facilities. The University has formulated Research Policy and the same is uploaded on the Website. Research Advisory Committee (RAC) has been constituted for effective implementation of University Research Agenda. The University is giving impetus for creation and transfer of knowledge. Department of Telugu is extending support for content creation in Indian Languages (Telugu). Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell has been established for orienting the faculty regarding technological innovations, IPR and filing of patents and one patent has been filed successfully. Consultancy Policy is in place for promotion of industry-Institution interaction and the same is uploaded on the university Web site. Palamuru University has accorded high priority to Extension & outreach activities to sensitize the students to societal concerns and instil in them a sense of purpose and social responsibility to contribute to the community well-being. These have facilitated rendering of value-based services to the local population including urban community and provided opportunities for addressing the specific societal concerns such as cleanliness (through Swachh Bharath Abhiyan), Greenery (through Tree Plantation) Electoral Participation (through Voter Awareness Programmes), Livelihood Promotion (facilitating distribution of Cycles & Sewing Machines), Health Promotion (through Blood Donation Camps, and facilitating Free Distribution of Medicines), and awareness campaign on other social issues. Extension initiatives have opened up a new window of service learning through community engagement for the students. NSS has been the backbone in the initiation and sustenance of the flagship programme of One Lakh Tree Plantation at the main Campus.

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

Palamuru University has been augmenting requisite facilities for strengthening teaching learning processes.

There are 87 classrooms with latest furniture. Smart Classrooms have been setup at Departments of Physics and Microbiology. ICT enabled facilities are installed at all Classrooms and Auditoria including Seminar Hall at campus and at each of the District PG centres. There are 35 well equipped Laboratories including those at PG Centres. There are also four well equipped common computer laboratories with 35 to 40 systems each exclusively for Computer Applications, Physics, MBA & M.Com., and Pharmacy programmes. Palamuru University has created good amenities for the promotion of games and sports as well as cultural activities. Integrated Sports Complex, has facilities for indoor games. It also houses well equipped Gymnasium/Fitness centre as well as Yoga centre. There are facilities for outdoor games and track and field events. Construction of Synthetic Basketball Court and Synthetic Matting of Badminton Court as well as Laying of Synthetic Athletic Track has been completed. Three well equipped auditoria are also available at the campus. Advanced version of Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) software –SOUL (version 2.0) has been installed. The library also stocks good collections of general books catering to the growing requirements of students for career oriented and competitive examinations. Online educational resources are acquired from different sources. The University has upgraded its earlier SonicWALL TZ600 firewall to a more advanced configuration Fortinet FG 600F Firewall- Hardware during the year 2023. Wi-Fi routers and Wi-Fi Access Points with advanced configuration Netgear- WAX610Y have been installed across all college and hostel buildings during year 2023. Palamuru University follows a well laid down policy for maintaining and utilising different types of academic facilities and student amenities. General upkeep is assigned to approved agencies on outsourcing basis. The services of third party inspection are availed to ensure quality maintenance. The upkeep and maintenance of Sports infrastructure on a regular basis is being looked after by the Department of Physical Education. State Government policy of green computing is being followed for disposal of E-Waste to designated firms for recycling.

Student Support and Progression

Palamuru University is striving for student empowerment and employability through career orientation skill building and structured coaching. The services of University Study Circle, CELT and Central Placement Cell are actively enlisted in these efforts. PU Study Circle has undertaken intensive coaching programmes for various competitive examinations and the results are quite encouraging. CELT has been conducting Certificate programmes on English Language and Communication Skills on a regular basis for the students of campus and affiliated colleges. Central Placement Cell conducts training programmes for the career preparedness of the students including promotion of employability skills. A well-run system of class representatives at the departmental level is in vogue at Palamuru University for the coordination of day-to-day class work and co-curricular activities. Students' representation is prominently visible in Hostel Management. Students are actively involved in day to day management of Hostels and Messes through Upkeep Committee, Mess Committee, and Purchase Committee, Students representation is incorporated in the institutional structures like Grievances Cell, Equal Opportunity Cell, Anti-Ragging Committee, Medical Care Committee, Sports Committee, Alumni chapters etc. Alumni engagement is pursued with passion at Palamuru University. Alumni contribution to the university is forthcoming in the academic domain too through eliciting feedback & suggestions on curriculum, pedagogy and courses as well as enlisting their services as Guest faculty and when required. The University has joined Chancellor Connects Alumni initiative conceived by Hon'ble Governor and Chancellor during 2020. So far 300 Alumni have registered in this integrated portal. Regular feed back and suggestions are sought through this centralised institutional arrangement for all the State Universities.

Governance, Leadership and Management

The Vision and Mission of Palamuru University are deeply anchored into the ethos of its democratic Governance. Decentralization and Participative Management are the credo of University Governance. Institutional leadership has been proactive in the preparation for and implementation of NEP 2020. Palamuru University has prepared Institutional Perspective Plan (IPP) with medium term and long-term focus. It is effectively deployed in both teaching and administrative spheres. The institution functions according to the Universities Act. Executive Council and Academic Senate are the Policy making bodies. Planning & Development Board is in place. The University adopts UGC Regulations and adheres to the Service Rules framed by State Government. Grievance redressal mechanism for staff and students is constituted as per the stipulations of UGC and State Government. Palamuru University follows self-appraisal method for performance evaluation of teachers. It implements UGC Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for promotional avenues of Teaching Staff. An informal and indirect teacher evaluation obtained in the format of student feedback is also being followed at Palamuru University. The format of Annual Confidential Report (ACR) is followed for its regular non-teaching employees. It adheres to State Government leave policy for its teaching and non-teaching staff. Palamuru University is focusing on innovative means of resource mobilisation and optimum utilisation of available resources to improve its financial position. It is supported by the Annual Block Grants released by the State Government for its maintenance and development. The University has focused on revenue generation from internal sources. Emphasis is laid on sponsored research for taking up research projects from different agencies for funds generation. Auditing is being done by the state Government Audit Department on a regular basis. IQAC regularly takes part in the institutional review processes at periodic intervals and provides positive guidance and policy inputs for the proposed reforms. Two of the interventions suggested by IQAC viz. Green Audit & ISO Certification have significantly contributed for the quality sustenance. These have also been institutionalized. IQAC has been instrumental in value addition to the institution through four Post accreditation quality initiatives encompassing different spheres of University functioning.

Institutional Values and Best Practices

Promotion of gender amity through sensitisation of its stakeholders is pursued with passion at Palamuru University. The Curricular and co- curricular interventions come in handy in furtherance of this agenda. Requisite amenities and Institutional arrangements for the safety and secure environment of women staff and girl students are in place. Internal Complaints Committee has been constituted as per UGC guidelines to address their concerns. The university is keen on ensuring minimal impact on the environment and reducing the waste generated in its precincts. Waste management measures including ban on single use plastic are implemented. The university has gone in for green audit to reiterate its commitment for eco-friendly campus. Impetus is given to green initiatives. Energy conservation is accorded priority. 100kv solar power plan has been set up to augment power generation. Public transport vehicles do not ply inside the premises and Usage of bicycles is encouraged. Apart from avenue plantation and landscaping, there are walkways for pedestrian mobility. The university is striving to take shape as a distinctive disability friendly campus. Barrier free constructions with provision of ramps, rails and adoption of toilets are made available. Fee concession and free hostel facilities are extended to all differently abled students. Mobility devices and educational aids are also provided to them. Scribes and Readers are made available to the visually challenged students in the evaluation process. The university accords primacy to inclusive higher education and caters to aspiring and needy learners from neighbouring districts. Hostel accommodation is provided to SC/ ST and girl students on priority. Institutional support is extended for mainstreaming them. Social harmony is promoted through celebration of festivals and observance of special occasions. The university seeks to instil constitutional ethos and national pride through observance of National Voters Day, Constitution Day, National Integration week and Vigilance Week. Fundamental Duties are incorporated in the university handbook, diary and calendar. Quality culture being sustained at Palamuru university is depicted through two Best Practices. The performance of the university in the area distinctive to its vision is brought home through the flagship program of Mission one lakh tree plantation at the main campus.