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Report of the Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission to examine the proposal of Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow and its two centres at Almora and Dehradun for grant of Deemed to be University status.

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The University Grants Commission had constituted a Committee, consisting of the following members, to examine the proposal of Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow and its two centres at Almora and Dehradun for grant of 'Deemed to be a University' status.

1. Prof. K.P. Singh
Member, UGC
2. Prof. P.B. Sarkar
Vice-Chancellor
Rabindra Bharati University
Calcutta.
3. Prof. Debu Chaudhuri
Professor of Music and Fine Arts
University of Delhi
Delhi.
4. Prof. A.C. Choubey
Professor of Vocal Music
Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya
Khairagarh (MP).
5. Shri B.S. Nahata
Under Secretary
University Grants Commission
New Delhi.

The Committee visited the College and its two centres from 16th to 20th July, 1996. It visited Lucknow on 16th July, 1996, where members ^{at first} had detailed interaction ^{in the secretariat} with Smt. Rita Sinha, Secretary, Department of Culture, Government of U.P. (who is also Chairperson of the Bhatkhande Music Institute) and senior

of the teaching and administrative staff of the college.

97

Hereafter the

~~Prof~~ Committee ~~also~~ visited the College and went round the class rooms inspecting how the music and dance classes were being and talking to students and teachers. On 17th July, 1996 the Committee visited the Almora centre of the College and on 19 July, 1996 the Dehradun centre. On 20th July, 1996 the Committee again visited the College at Lucknow to see the Administrative Block and the Hostel and had further discussion with Smt. Rita Sinha and Faculty members of the College. Prof. Debu Choudhury could not accompany the Committee to Almora and Dehradun centre as he had to return to Delhi on 16th July, '96 itself. He has a separate report directly to the Chairperson, UGC with a copy to the Convenor of the Committee. Prof. P.B. Sarkar could not be present in the last meeting at Lucknow on 20th July, '96. Both Professors P.B. Sarkar and A.C. Chaubey have sent their own observations to the Convenor and have authorised him to prepare and submit the Committee's Report to the Commission. A copy of the observations of each of the members is enclosed as annexure II and III.

II

Before leaving for Lucknow, ~~the~~ members of the Committee had a briefing session with Chairperson, UGC in the Commission Office in Delhi on 15th July, 1996. In this meeting, the Chairperson laid stress on the following points :

1. An institution seeking Deemed to be University status must have approximated to the University standards in teaching and research.
2. Any such institution must conform to UGC norms in regard to qualifications for admission to the institution i.e., it

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degree/diploma course.

In any such institution, UGC norms should have been followed in the appointment of teachers, their salary and pay scales etc.

The institution should have been doing high quality research in its specialised field and engaged in innovative programmes.

As having more than one campus was not conducive to the maintenance of proper academic standards, any such institution should have only one well developed campus.

Any such institution should possess financial viability and managerial capacity.

The Chairperson advised the Committee to examine the proposal of the College in the light of above and guidelines of the UGC.

Besides physical facilities, the Committee was also advised to

examine the by-laws/rules and regulations of the Institute to

see whether they conformed to the norms of the UGC. A copy of

the guidelines laid down by the Commission for considering

proposals for declaring an institution as 'Deemed to be a University'

under section 3 of the UGC Act is enclosed (Annexure-IV).

III

It may be recalled that an Expert Committee of the Commission had visited this College earlier in March, 1991 a copy of whose

report is enclosed (Annexure-V). It had strongly recommended the

conferment of Deemed to be University status on the College as

in its opinion it was "engaged in teaching and research in the

fields of specialization in Music and had attained the highest

academic standards". The report of the Committee was however not

placed before the Commission as the College, being a Govt.

99

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institution, had not been registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act as required under the UGC guidelines. Instead, the College was asked to get this done and frame its MOA/Rules as per the UGC model. Since then the College has been working on the assumption that once these conditions were fulfilled it would automatically be granted 'Deemed to be University' status. It sent the MOA/Rules to the Commission in October, 1994 and got itself registered as "the Bhatkhande Music Institute, Lucknow under Societies Registration Act, 1860 on 24th November 1994. The College also complied with some other requirements of the Commission which followed. It sent the revised profile of the institution with latest faculty positions etc. to the Commission and U.P. State Govt. agreed to create a corpus fund of Rs. 25 lakhs for the Institute as required under the guidelines of the UGC. The State Govt. further agreed to make available an amount of Rs.40 lakhs and even more annually for recurring expenditure.

In the meantime, however, since the College had opened two other centres - one at Almora and the other at Dehradun since four years had elapsed when the first Expert Committee visited the College, the Commission appointed this Committee to examine afresh its proposal for grant of 'Deemed to be University' status.

IV

The present Committee has examined the proposal of the College carefully and would like to make the following observations :

1. Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music has been a pioneer

inspiration, guidance and active cooperation of Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande, regarded as the greatest scholar in the field of Hindustani Music in India. It had its objective among others, of imparting standardised education in music upto postgraduate level and to facilitate research in the three major branches of music, namely vocal, instrumental and dance. The College has had a glorious history with many top grade musicians teaching in it and producing in their turn generations of top-grade and highly skilled musicians. Products of this College have been eminent performers, teachers, musicologists, writers and critics, who have started music institutions in different parts of the country, served as Head of music departments in universities and held responsible positions in the A.I.R. and Doordarshan. Obviously realising its importance and its potential for development, the Govt. of U.P. took it over in March, 1966. Since then, it has been running as a part of the U.P. Govt's Department of Culture. The College has thus acquired for itself a prestigious position in the field of music education in the country. It has been attracting students and scholars not only from all over India but also abroad. At the time of the Committee's visit, 20 students from Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, USA and Italy were studying in the College. In the words of UGC Expert Committee which visited the College in 1991, the college is regarded as a "place of pilgrimage" for musicians.

2. The quality of education imparted in this College has been applauded. It is the considered opinion of some experts

that the university is yet to match the education and

diplomas and certificates of this College are highly valued and even recognised for recruitment to faculty positions in various universities of the country.

3. Teachers of the College are selected by the State Public Service Commission. They are, therefore, qualified according to the norms of the U.P. Govt. Although the Committee did not find time to go into individual cases to see whether they also fulfilled the UGC norms, it got the impression that they are well qualified and experienced. Five of them are at present supervising research for 'Sangeetacharya' which is considered equivalent to Ph.D. degree of universities. Some of them have research publications and books to their credit.

It may be stated here that as per the information gathered by the Committee, although all posts of lecturers are filled up by direct recruitment, only 50% of the higher academic posts, namely of Assistant Professors and Professors, are filled up by direct recruitment and rest 50% by promotion as per the State Govt. rules.

4. At the main centre at Lucknow, apart from the Principal there are 04 sanctioned posts of Professors, 11 of Assistant Professors and 11 of Lecturers. Besides, there are 14 sanctioned posts of Junior Lecturers and 31 of Accompanists. It would appear that the sanctioned posts of Professors are one short of the UGC requirement. Principal's post has been vacant for a long time with Jt. Director, Department of Culture officiating as Principal at the moment. The Committee was told that selection for the post of Prin

by U.P. PSC was scheduled for 31st July, 1996. ²² These posts of Professors were also vacant but as per information given to the Committee, were to be filled up by promotion soon. Out of 11 posts of Asstt. Professors and 11 of Lecturers, only 6 and 8 respectively were actually working at the time of the Committee's visit. Similarly, out of 14 posts of Jr. Lecturers only 12 were working. All the same, even excluding the Accompanists, total number of faculty members, actually working at the moment, comes to 27, which is more than the minimum (25) required under the UGC guidelines.

5. Teachers are not getting the UGC pay scales. This is mainly because of the fact that the College so far has been under the administrative control of the Department of Culture instead of being under the Department of Education. It may be stated here that in other colleges of U.P., whether Govt. or non-Govt., UGC pay scales were introduced long ago.
6. The College has at present three faculties, namely Faculty of Vocal Music, Faculty of Instrumental Music and Faculty of Dance. Subjects taught are Vocal Music, Tabla, Violin, Sitar, Sarod, Pakhwaj, Sarangi, Bansuri, Kathak, Folk Dance, Bharat Natyam, Manipuri Dance, Thumari and Ghazal. The total number of regular students studying these subjects at Lucknow Centre from Praveshika (first year) to Nipun (Eightth year) in 1995 was 1178.

Classes are held regularly although the timings, both in Lucknow and the other centres at Almora and Dehradun, are different from those in other institutions, being held in the afternoon from 3 PM to 8 PM. The Committee was told to enable the students to join

conventional high school, intermediate and degree course during morning hours.

7. The only examining body for the College so far has Bhatkhande Sangeet Vidyapeeth, registered since 1931 which has been holding examinations for its various diplomas not only all over India but also abroad in countries like Sri Lanka.

8. The College so far has not been insisting on 10+2 qualification for admission to its 1st year or Prahar course. There are two reasons for this; one, music education starts at a fairly early stage when students are not supposed to have passed 10+2, and second, College admits 10+2 students and starts three year and 2 years' P.G. Courses as in other universities. The question will be of examining them for which the College is neither itself competent at the moment nor is it affiliated to any university. The Committee was told that the College had not applied for affiliation to a university and the process again would have taken quite a long time. The College had been all along waiting for its declaration "Deemed to be University" which would automatically solve this problem as the College could then prescribe syllabi, hold examinations and award degrees for the degree stream of students.

9. As regards research, besides research for doctorate, the College has been taking up research projects sponsored by various agencies also. During the last 30 years, 18 such projects have been undertaken. The list is given in Annexure

10. Innovative programmes of the College like musical operas and dance dramas have been highly acclaimed. In recent years, the College has also been organising short term Work Shops/Camps to give training to students in different parts of U.P. as a part of its innovative programme.
11. Infrastructural and other facilities in terms of building, equipments, furniture etc. are adequate at the main campus at Lucknow. Here the College has a big double storeyed academic building, an Administrative Block, a girls' hostel and Principal's residence. It has however no separate library building which is housed in a portion of the Administrative Block. The campus has neither teachers' residences nor a faculty guest house. Teachers of the College, being Govt. Servants, are allotted Govt. quarters if and when available. A two room annexe near the Girl's Hostel is used as guest house. The Committee was told that there was an ambitious plan to develop the campus and provide for all these in the IX Plan. This includes a proposal to have a new Girls' Hostel a Boys' Hostel and practice rooms etc. at a cost of about Rs. 2 crores.
12. Besides the Principal, who is supposed to be both administrative and academic head of the College, there are two posts of Administrative Officers - one Senior and the other Junior-analogous to Registrar and Deputy Registrar in universities. The College has a librarian, a lady warden and 32 posts of supporting staff consisting of stenographers and clerks etc.

13. Infrastructural facilities are inadequate at Almorah and Dehradun. Both these centres are housed in rented buildings. The Govt. of U.P. has, however, acquired a big plot measuring about 5000 sq. metres for its centre at Dehradun. There was no regular Principal at both the centres when the Committee visited these campuses. Some faculty positions were also lying vacant.

14. The financial position of the College looks sound as the Govt. of U.P. has already given to the college Rs.25 lakhs for its corpus fund and is committed to give Rs.40 lakhs and even more per year for recurring expenditure.

(A statement showing the existing position of infrastructural facilities as per UGC guidelines, available in the college, is given in annexure-VII.)

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The above observations would make it clear that Bhatkhande College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow fulfils the basic UGC norms for a "Deemed to be University" status. It is an institution which though not a university, is doing work of a high standard in specialised academic field comparable to a university level. It, however, falls short of certain other essential requirements which must be fulfilled before it can be given "deemed to be University" status. It is unfortunate that although the College had been registered as the Bhatkhande Music Institute under the Societies Registration Act on 24th November, 1994, its Memorandum of Association and Rules have remained on paper only. The name in the registration i.e. "Institute" has not been adopted for use. No meeting of the Board of Management has taken place, no Director appointed and no academic or other bodies constituted as per Rules. The College is being

the degree stream for 10+2 students nor adopted the UGC pay scales for teachers.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Commission may confer "Deemed to be^a University" status on Bhatkhande Music Institute, with its main campus at Lucknow from the next academic year and the college be asked to prepare itself for that status during the current academic year 1996-97 by doing the following:

1. It must immediately start calling itself as "The Bhatkhande Music Institute", which is its registered name.
2. A whole time Director be appointed as per 14 (B) of the Rules. (Annexure VIII)
3. Various Boards of Studies as per Rule 12 and an Academic Council as per Rule 8, ^(Annexure VII) be constituted and courses framed for the degree stream to be introduced from the next academic year and open only to 10+2 students.
4. UGC nomenclature for teachers and pay scales be introduced and given to those teachers whose names after scrutiny/ interview are recommended by a Selection Committee constituted as per Rule 11. (Annexure VIII)
5. One more post of Professor be created. Appointment for it be made after proper advertisement and selection by a duly constituted selection committee. Vacancies in the cadre of Asstt. Professor and Lecturer be also filled up in like manner.
6. Almorā and Dehradun may continue as extension centres but not as parts of the Deemed to be University.

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In the end, the Committee thanks the Secretary, Department of Culture, Govt. of U.P. and the Principal, Staff and students of the College for the cooperation extended to it during the visit.

PROFESSOR PAI
CHANCELLER

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13/8/96.

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