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ANNEXURE I TO ITEM NO.7.13

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REPORT OF THE UGC EXPERT COMMITTEE ON ITS VISIT TO
~~RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIVEKANANDA EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH~~
~~INSTITUTE (RMVERI), RAMAKRISHNA MISSION, BELUR MATH, HOWRAH~~
TO CONSIDER THEIR PROPOSAL FOR GRANTING A DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY STATUS UNDER SECTION 3 OF UGC ACT.

On receiving the proposal of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI), Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, District Howrah, for granting of Deemed University status to it under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956, through the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education, New Delhi, the Chairman, University Grants Commission, constituted an expert committee comprising of the following to visit Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI), Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, Dt. Howrah, West Bengal and examine their proposal for granting of Deemed to be University status.

1. Prof. K.L. Johar
(Ex-Vice-Chancellor,
Guru Jambeswar University)
Hissar, Haryana
Convenor
2. Prof. C.L. Kundu
(Ex- Vice Chancellor,
Himachal Pradesh University)
1238, Sector 14, Faridabad 121007
Member
(RCI Representative)
3. Prof. P. Venkatramaiah
(Ex-Vice Chancellor,
Kuvempu University)
436, Double Road
Kuvempu Nagar, Mysore 570009
Member
(NCTE Representative)
4. Prof. Rajesh Anand
Joint Secretary,
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi
Member Secretary

The committee visited the Faculty of special education and disability management, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore under the aegis of Ramakrishna Mission on 18th December, 2004 followed by a visit to Belur Math, Howrah on 19th December 2004.

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Visit to The Faculty of Special Education and Disability Management Coimbatore:

The members of the visiting team visited the International Human Resource Development Centre which is offering various human resource development programmes for persons with disabilities. The team visited the following laboratories of the centre:

1. Low Vision Clinic
2. Speech Therapy Unit
3. Computer Laboratory for the Blind
4. Braille Printing Press
5. Orthotic and Prosthetic Unit
6. Physiotherapy Laboratory
7. Electrotherapy unit
8. Vocational Training section
9. Play therapy unit for the mentally retarded
10. Self-Help Group Training Centre
11. Sarva Shiksha Abiyaan implementation unit

The IHRDC is offering undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in disability which are affiliated to Bharathiar University through the College of Education. The Committee was told that IHRDC will be converted into the faculty of special education and disability management of the proposed Deemed to be University. There are various other programmes like certificate course, diploma courses recognised by Rehabilitation Council of India/Bhoj University/Bangalore University/ Manipal Academy of Higher Education / IGNOU. The total area of the faculty of special education and disability management is about 30 acres and the constructed area is 30000 sq. mt. of plinth area. The committee had an opportunity of inspecting other common facilities such as central library, girls hostel, boys hostel, play ground, cluster vocational centres, etc.

Visit to the Academic Wing of the proposed Deemed to be University

This was the birthplace of Swami Vivekananda, which will be used as the academic wing of the proposed Deemed to be University. It is located in the heart of the Kolkata city with a plinth area of approximately 10000 sq. mt. It has got a digitized library, computer laboratory and other facilities required for the academic as well as day-to-day administrative work.

Visit to Belur Math

As per the proposal submitted, the committee interacted with the President of the Mission Swami Ranganathanandaji, General Secretary Swami Smarananand and other Assistant General Secretaries, Swami Suhitananda, and Swami Atmapriyananda. The committee was appraised that Belur Math will be the administrative headquarter of the proposed Deemed to be University.

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Areas of Strength of the proposed Deemed to be University

The faculty of special education and disability management has some unique and distinctive features, which have over the years emerged as a centre for social welfare programmes for persons with disabilities. Housed at the International Human Resource Development Centre for the Disabled at Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), it has started various extension centres. Some such areas of strength are listed below:

1. The centre has a remarkably technologically advanced Braille book production unit. It produces textbooks from standards 1 to 12 with a capacity of 10000 braille pages a day. These books are low cost and offer attractive tactile diagrams and supplied to more than 2500 blind children in 100 integrated and special schools.
2. In the low vision clinic, functional and clinical assessment are made for persons with low vision and are provided with excellent service. Visual field tests are conducted under clinical assessment, visual efficiency skills of low vision children are developed and reading preference tested.
3. A talking book production unit produces audio-cassettes for text books for various classes whereby visually impaired students are benefited.
4. Economic rehabilitation marks yet another prominent feature of the centre. A number of economic rehabilitation programmes provide self-employment opportunities. The beauty of the programme is that it imparts marketing skills to persons with disability.
5. The unit has done pioneering work in sign language development. The first research project on Indian sign language development was undertaken by the centre and now it conducts long-term and a number of short-term courses in sign language.
6. In the area of hearing assessment and speech therapy, this unit has achieved singular success. It also manufactures ear-moulds for the hearing impaired children.
7. Vocational training unit provides vocational training in tailoring for persons with hearing impairment. Two kinds of training programme are offered, six months and one-month training course in tailoring. Employment is also arranged once the hearing impaired clients complete the courses.
8. Play Therapy Unit for Mentally retarded unit concentrates on developing the skills of mentally retarded using the play way method of learning. Through this, the children learn daily living skills, concept

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development, social interaction, behaviour modification, reading, writing, play activities with peer groups, and speech training.

9. Occupational and Physiotherapy unit deals with treating patients with physical modalities. The different electrical modalities used in the unit are Short-Wave Diathermy (SWD), Interferential Therapy (IFT), Electrical Muscle Stimulation (EMS) and Ultra Sound Therapy. Clients with various disorders like musculo-skeletal disorders, nervous system disorders, developmental and sensory disorders, cognition and psychomotor disorders, skin disorders and other injuries, mental health disorders, cerebral palsy, polio, arthritis, hemiplegic patients and amputees can make use of the facility.
10. Orthotic and Prosthetic unit deals with conditions like polio, cerebral palsy, amputees, hemiplegic and paraplegic patients.
11. The IHRDC is also employing credit accumulation system in diploma in special education courses.
12. Experiential learning is part of all training programmes offered by the IHRDC.
13. Need-based research studies on various aspects of education and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are being conducted by various departments of the centre and the special education department of the College.
14. The institute over the years has gained international recognition from organisations such as CBM International, Germany for Braille Book production and human resource development programmes, Bartimeus, The Netherlands for ICT Training for the Blind and Disabled, Helen Keller Worldwide, U.S.A. for enrichment courses for professionals and teacher educators, Action Aid, United Kingdom for inclusive education programmes, ON-NET, U.S.A. for research activities and human resource development programmes.

Observations

The committee after having detailed discussion with the management of the **Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI)** and the teachers of the faculty of special education and disability management, makes the following observations:

1. The Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI) will be the new name of the proposed Deemed to be University under the aegis of the Ramakrishna Mission in place of

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Vivekananda University in order to comply with the requirements of UGC for granting Deemed to be University status.

2. The faculty of special education and disability management which offers under-graduate and post-graduate courses affiliated to the Bharathiar University through the College of Education and other courses till now will be affiliated in future under proposed Deemed to be University.
3. The management has provided a document indicating a corpus fund of 3 crores as per UGC requirement.
4. The Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI) has identified four thrust areas namely, special education and disability management, rural and tribal development, value education, and disaster management. The committee observed that only the faculty of special education and disability management is offering under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
5. The faculty of special education and disability management, which is going to be part of proposed Deemed to be University possesses 30 acres of land exclusively set apart for the development and activities of this faculty.
6. The Committee observed that Ramakrishna Mission Swami Vivekananda's Ancestral House and Cultural Complex spreads over nearly one acre. This was inaugurated recently by the President of India and is going to be the Academic and day-to-day administrative wing of the proposed Deemed to be University.
7. The results of various courses of the faculty of special education and disability management are quite encouraging and it is one of the excellent centres as accredited by the Rehabilitation Council of India.
8. The committee observed that the activities of the faculty of special education and disability management have a lot of interface with society, which is a requirement of any institution to be considered as a deemed to be university.
9. The committee observed that the students graduated from the university have been gainfully employed in India and abroad.
10. The proposed Deemed to be university has suggested management mechanism for the appointment of Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and other statutory bodies. The

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committee feels that these appointments must be done strictly as per UGC regulations.

Areas of Concern:

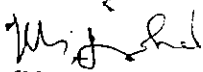
1. The proposal submitted by the Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math for the Deemed to be University to its different institutions:
 - a. **International Human Resource Development Centre, Coimbatore:** The institution is running B.Ed. and M.Ed. special education apart from some other training programme and diploma courses. There are only 11 teachers in the institute including the Director with one Ph.D. There are no position of professor. Besides these there are number of guest faculty.
 - b. **Ramakrishna Institute of Moral and Spiritual Education, Mysore:** This institute is running B.Ed. programme with training courses. There are only 8 teachers with one Ph.D.
 - c. **R.K. Mission Lok Shisha Parishad, Kolkata:** This institute is running a number of certificate courses and job-oriented programmes only.
 - d. **Divyagyan Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Ranchi:** This institute is running training programmes of three months and six months duration only.
 - e. **Ramakrishna Mission's Samaj Sevak Sikshamandir, Belur Math:** This institute is running only training programmes
2. The institutions are running with very less number of students in U.G. and P.G. courses
3. The initial proposal was having name as Vivekananda University, which is now replaced as Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational Research Institute (RMVERI)
4. As per guidelines of UGC, Ramakrishna Mission has not proposed any separate society or trust.
5. The pay of the teachers are not at par with UGC scales.
6. The infrastructure of the faculty of special education needs to be strengthened.
7. No objection Certificate from the State Government of West Bengal is to be obtained.

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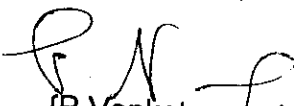
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee had detailed discussions with management of The Ramakrishna Mission and teachers of the faculty of special education and disability management and visited the existing facilities available. Based on the track record of the Mission and Swami Vivekananda's philosophy towards education that we need the right brain to conceive, heart to feel, and hands to work, the committee recommends that the commission may consider Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act 1956 initially for the "Faculty of Special Education and Disability Management, Coimbatore under the aegis of the "Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute "UNDER De Nova category, subject to the removal of the deficiencies A & B Kolkata noted in the areas of concern in the report,


{K.L. Johar}


{C.L. Kundu}


{P. Venkataramaiah}


{ Rajesh Anand}

Dated: 10th Dec. 2004

Camp: Kolkata