

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Report of the Visiting Committee to examine the proposal of ~~Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune~~ for deemed to be university status to it.

The ~~Tilak~~ Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune submitted to the U.G.C., through the Ministry of Human Resource Development and also through the Government of Maharashtra, a proposal for conferment of deemed to be university status under Section 3 of the U.G.C. on it.

The Government of Maharashtra while forwarding the proposal have stated that they provide ad-hoc maintenance and development grants to the Vidyapeeth.

The proposal was placed before the U.G.C. Standing Committee on establishment of new universities and university postgraduate centres at its meeting held on the 20th December, 1985 and as recommended by the Standing Committee a Visiting Committee with the following members was constituted to examine the proposal :

1. Professor Ramlal Parikh
Vice-Chancellor
Gujarat Vidyapeeth
Ahmedabad.
2. Professor Usha H Mehta
Bombay
3. Professor S.N. Ranade
Department of Social Work
University of Delhi
Delhi.
4. Shri R.K. Chhabra,
Former Secretary, UGC.
5. Shri C.M. Ramachandran,
Deputy Secretary,
UGC.

28
-2-

The Committee with the exception of Professor S.N. Ranade visited the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune on the 4th February, 1986 and held discussions with the Vice-Chancellor, members of the Executive Council, Institutional Heads, Teachers (Faculty) and Students. The committee also went round the campuses and saw the various facilities provided at the Vidyapeeth.

The committee took note of the guidelines laid down by the Commission for considering proposals for declaring an institution as deemed to be university under Section 3 of the U.G.C. Act. The committee also considered in depth the special historical and other consideration leading to the present proposal.

Historical background and some basic facts and figures

The Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth was established in the year 1921 as an Educational Memorial of Lokmanya Tilak 'The Father of Indian Unrest' and an advocate of National Education. It was founded in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Indian National Congress at Nagpur Session in 1920 under the directions of Mahatma Gandhi. Later, the Maharashtra provincial conference made a concrete proposal to establish a National Institute of higher education in the erstwhile Bombay State for the realisation of ideals of national education. It co-ordinated the efforts being made by similar institutions and provided ^{the} much needed education facilities in the faculties of Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering and Ayurveda at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels. Particular stress was laid on the study of Sanskrit

- 3 -

the language of National culture.

The Committee ^{referred} ~~recommended~~ that the three institutes viz the Kashi Vidyapeeth, the Gujarat Vidyapeeth and the Jamia Millia Islamia which had come into existence in similar circumstances had been declared as institutions deemed to be university in the year 1962-63. The Kashi Vidyapeeth has since been converted into a State University in the year 1974. In this connection, the committee was informed that the University Grants Commission had sometime in May, 1968 considered a reference received from the Government of India, the then Ministry of Education regarding deemed to be university status to the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune. The Commission after considering the nature, scope and level of work of the Vidyapeeth and taking into account all relevant aspects of the proposal regretted that it could not recommend to the Government of India that the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth be declared as an institution deemed to be a university under Section 3 of the UGC Act.

It was brought to the notice of the Committee that this was presumably due to the fact that the Vidyapeeth was not providing for post graduate courses. It was further noted by the Committee that the guidelines suggested by the UGC for declaring an institution deemed to be a university had since then have been modified.

The Vidyapeeth had a University base right from the inception with all its constituents namely, the Senate, the Executive Council, the Academic Council, Boards of Studies,

Faculties, Vidya Prasavak Mandal and Honorary Fellows
Board, Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar as Executive Heads.

✓ The Vidyapeeth is registered under the Societies
Registration Act as well as under the Public Trust Act. The
aims and objectives of the Vidyapeeth are as follows :-

- (i) To create the feeling of national awakening among the students in accordance with the principles of democracy and national freedom and to carry on such educational activities as to make them self-reliant and capable of rendering service to the nation.
- (ii) To formulate a curriculum leading to the fulfilment of the objectives mentioned in (i) above and to establish and conduct educational institutes of each and every kind.
- (iii) To affiliate, to recognise and to render every possible help to such institutions as agreed to function with the objectives mentioned above at S.No. (i)
- (iv) To implement all the educational programmes through the mother tongue viz. Marathi
- (v) To confer degrees, certificates, certificate of merits, prizes, scholarships etc. on all the successful students receiving education in the institutions affiliated to 'Vidyapeeth' and appearing for its various examinations as regular students and/or other successful students appearing for its various examinations conducted by this 'Vidyapeeth' in accordance with its curriculum in force from time to time.
- (vi) To carry on educational activities such as high level teaching, research work, publication work and the like.
- (vii) To confer honorary degrees on lifelong students, or on experts or painstaking students in a particular branch of study according to their merits.
- (viii) To do all other acts which do not contravene the aims and objects of the 'Vidyapeeth'.

✓examinations

- 30 -

IV	TILAK MAHAVIDYALAYA Visiting Faculty	11
V.	Ayurveda & Yoga Faculty Visiting Faculty	17
VII	<u>Correspondence Courses</u>	
	1) Coordinators	2
	2) Subject Experts	5

The entire staff is in the Vidyapeeth at Pune. The teaching staff is engaged both in teaching and research activities.

The details of qualifications of staff and their research publications etc. are given in (Annexure-II).

31-8

BUILDING AND ACCOMMODATION

The main campus of the Vidyapeeth is located in Gultekdi area having six acres of land with the following building facilities :-

- (1) Main building of the Vidyapeeth where Nehru Institute of Social Studies and Administrative Blocks are housed
- (2) Bal Mukund Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya building wherein the Library is also located
- (3) A separate building for examination wing
- (4) Quarter for the Registrar

The Vidyapeeth has also an old two storeyed building in the city area at 1242 Sadashiv Peth, Pune, which houses the Bal Mukund Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, the Tilak Mahavidyalaya, the Sanskrit Library, Enquiry and sale of Books and Publications, Staff Quarters for the Principal and Hostel for 20 students.

The Committee was informed that Plans for the construction of library building, staff quarters, hostel for boys and quarters for Class IV Staff are awaiting approval of funding agencies.

LIBRARY:

The library at present has a stock of 23000 books and 1200 manuscripts and it contributes to 40 journals, magazines etc.

Innovative Programmes :

The Nehru Institute of Social Studies have been making sincere efforts to develop and propagate an inter-disciplinary approach in Social Sciences. The Institute has shown innovative courage enough to merit wide recognition, academic interest and financial support in the programmes viz. postgraduate courses

of inter-disciplinary studies in the Social Sciences, introduction of Marathi as the regional language as the medium of examination and occasional instructions at the postgraduate level and in Social Sciences; objective of taking the facilities of learning to the doorsteps of the lowest, the weakest, and the farthest removed, by opening an open Learning Centre from the academic year 1985-86. This scheme comprises a graduate course of three years' duration in Social Sciences. All those who have either passed SSC or otherwise pass a qualifying test conducted by the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth in the month of April, and are of 21 years of age are admitted to the first year of the course. Coaching is done through correspondence and periodic camps at suitable centres. Each subject is broken up into 20 lessons each of which is of 16 printed pages approximately. The lessons are especially prepared for the course by competent staff maintained and recruited for the purpose. The medium of instruction is Marathi and the approach is inter-disciplinary. This is stated to have not been done anywhere in the State. It has also been stated that in the very first year of its introduction (1985-86) as many as 596 students have enrolled for the same; this includes working women, labourers both from rural and urban areas, and primary school teachers. The Institute is interested in teaching programmes alone; it combines its class-room work with appropriate field investigators. It has undertaken research work projects which employ the inter-disciplinary approach.

33

: 10 *

The Institute besides teaching and research programmes also conducts seminars on themes which are novel and speak of the sincerity of its purpose and efforts towards an inter-disciplinary approach.

Another project rudiments of which the Institute is nursing for the last year is that of evolving a common language for all the Social Sciences.

P.T.O

The Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth is doing various experiments in education. One of those experiments was the establishment of a Sanskrit College viz. Shri Bal Mukund Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya. The Vidyapeeth provides facilities for learning Sanskrit to students ranging from the Fifth standard of Secondary School to the postgraduate level.

The Tilak Mahavidyalaya was the origin of the activities of the Vidyapeeth in the year 1920 for students and teachers who had actively participated in the non-cooperative movement. It was regarded as an institute for 'National' Education and later came to be banned by the British Rulers. The institution was revived in 1975 with financial support from its past students and a three-year commerce course was introduced. The State Govt. have recognised this activity in the Five Year Plan and some financial assistance was received from it. The Mahavidyalaya is presently conducting short term vocational courses. It is proposed to start diploma and degree courses in co-operative management which are nowhere provided. The Tilak Mahavidyalaya recognised the need for job oriented courses of short duration for the middle class students and in the last few years made a consistent effort in this direction.

- 35 -
: 12 :

The short term courses are arranged with the following objectives :

- 1) To offer essential theory, content in the related discipline.
- 2) To offer practical training in related discipline like office methods, salesmanship, conversational English, practical accounting etc.
- 3) To improve employability of the candidates by giving them hints on job application-interviews-career development etc.

The Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth intends to conduct diploma as well as degree courses in the cooperative management through Tilak Mahavidyalaya.

The Committee was informed that although the Vidyapeeth has done substantial progress, its courses are recognised by the Govt. for employment and Universities with their corresponding degrees and its research programmes having been acknowledged and well received by experts, it is unable to take off effectively for want of legal status under the provisions of the UGC Act, howsoever the courses may possess the highest degree of quality education. The recognition as deemed to be university status will therefore definitely give fillip to the Vidyapeeth to launch innovative programmes, research activities etc.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

A good number of research projects have been undertaken by the staff of the Nehru Institute of Social Studies and Balnukund Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya. Some of these projects have

BUDGET OF THE VIDYAPEETH

The expenditure of the Vidyapeeth for the year
1985-86 is estimated to be as under :

Sl. No.	Institute	Salary Rs.	Non-Salary Rs.	Total Rs.	(-) Defecit (+) Saving
1.	Balmukund Sanskrit	M. 1,40,000 D. 70,000	1,29,000 1,47,000	4,86,000	- 58,500
2.	Nehru Institute of Social Studies	M. 4,43,930	R. 75,000 M. 1,63,200 D. 3,20,000	12,52,130	-349,630
3.	Tilak Mahavidyalaya	M. 19,000	27,300	46,300	- 19,800
4.	Library	M. 41,000 D. 40,000	M. 1,47,000 D. 2,60,000	4,88,000	+ 82,300
5.	Vidya Prasark Mandal	1,92,000	4,20,200	6,12,200	+ 4,000
6.	Administration	1,98,000	2,11,000	4,09,000	- 75,649
7.	Publication	27,150	1,18,500	1,45,650	- 70,650
8.	Construction	-	5,00,000	5,00,000	-
		<u>14,21,080</u>	<u>25,18,200</u>	<u>39,39,280</u>	<u>6,52,529</u>
		M.10,61,080	R. 75,000	R. 75,000	-
		D. 3,60,000	M.13,63,200	M.24,24,800	-4,79,529
			D.10,80,000	D.14,40,000	-1,73,000

M = Maintenance
D = Development
R = Research Work

The Committee noted that the Govt. of Maharashtra pays ad-hoc maintenance and Development grants to the Institute. The Committee also noted that the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune has been a recipient of grants from the Govt. of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, (Deptt. of Education), since 1969-70 under its scheme of financial assistance for Institution of Higher Learning of all India importance. The Committee also noted that a Committee set up by the Govt. of India, Deptt. of Education to recommend the nature and quantum of financial assistance that could be provided to the Vidyapeeth during the Seventh Plan visited the Vidyapeeth on the 6th February, 1985 and they have recommended that the recurring grants for the Institute be raised from Rs.75,000/- to Rs.1.25 lakhs per annum from the year 1985-86 with annual increase of 10% during the subsequent years of the 7th Plan to provide for increments, additional DA etc. In addition, that Committee has also recommended development grant of Rs.50,000/- for the purchase of Books-racks, Furniture and another grant of Rs.50,000/- for the purchase of Xerox machine for development of the library. These grants are subject to availability of equivalent grants from the State Govt. of Maharashtra.

PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Vidyapeeth has been consistently making efforts in its research and postgraduate programmes to build up an infrastructure to quality itself for a deemed to be university status.

The Vidyapeeth has a Plan for further development of teaching programmes by simultaneously conducting research. While the general thrust would be inter-disciplinary study of development, it would be desirable to confine to a few areas like health, education and the opening up of new occupational opportunities.

The Vidyapeeth proposes to start the following new courses from June, 1986 :-

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 1. | M.Phil. in Social Studies | 1½ years. |
| 2. | Postgraduate Diploma in Ayurveda & Yoga | 1 year |
| 3. | Diploma in Co-operative Management | 1 year |
| 4. | Degree in Co-operative Management | 2 years |

39
16

Observations and Recommendations

The Committee comments ^{the} inter-disciplinary approach which the Institute has attempted to reflect in their Master Degree level course in Social Studies. This approach need to be strengthened and further developed and linked with the patriotic and Nationalistic contribution in unfolding the Indian history and culture initiated by Lok-Manya Tilak as well as with the studies of development problems of India.

The Committee welcomes the proposal of the Vidyapeeth for starting an inter-disciplinary course in rural development at masters degree level and stress the need for involving students in extension work and field work so that the third dimension of extension work is integrated in the curriculum.

The Committee noted that the Vidyapeeth has been conducting various courses for learning and research in Sanskrit. This is an area in which they possess good potentiality to specialise in developing studies in Sanskrit language and literature in the context of Indian cultural Renaissance fostered by many stalwarts like Lok Manya Tilak. However, every care must be taken to ensure that this does not remain a traditional revivalist programme but is closely linked with the modern methodology leading to comparative studies with other Indian as well as foreign languages and the new development in modern social sciences.

a

The committee understands that a deemed to be university does not conduct examinations for other institutions ^{over} which it

40
277 :

has no academic control and as such the Vidyapeeth which conducts the examinations on the pattern of affiliating universities should be discontinued. Similarly, it should not have any affiliation functions and this may be taken care of while framing the Memorandum of Association.

In order to develop the Institute in an indepth and higher level in certain specialised areas it would be desirable to concentrate its efforts to develop its programme in and around Poona. Any extension to such campus should be with the prior concurrence of the U.G.C.

The Vidyapeeth has started correspondence course in Social Studies at the undergraduate level since June, 1985. This may be discontinued. However, in view of the capability developed by the Vidyapeeth in the conduct of Social Studies courses,

at the undergraduate level it may develop as a resource centre for preparing learning material which may be useful to the proposed Open University in Maharashtra.

Adequate financial assistance both for maintenance and development may be provided to the Vidyapeeth keeping in view the fact that such an Institution with long history of 65 years which sprang up as a part of an response to the struggle for National Independence and the movement for national resurgence in the socio-cultural spheres of our national life. The Institute has undoubtedly sustained itself despite financial strigency and other adversities

mainly due to the dedication and sacrifice of several selfless teachers and administrators. This is evident from the fact that even today a large number of persons are given their honorary and part time services as faculty members.

The committee observed that the financial assistance provided by the State Govt. and the Central Govt. under their scheme of 'Institution / higher learning of All-India importance' was not adequate to run the courses. In fact the main handicap of the Vidyapeeth in not developing adequately was mainly due to inadequacy of funds available to them, as such many of the activities seem to have been undertaken to secure financial viability.

The committee recommends that the Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth, Pune may be declared as an Institution deemed to be University under Section 3 of the U.G.C. Act and its activities should be broadly on the lines indicated above during the next five years and reviewed thereafter. While responding to the modern needs it will be necessary to make the major academic community whole time, the committee hopes that the guiding spirit of selfless devotion to the nation will continue to be in inspiring force.

The Constitution, Rules, Regulations etc. of the Vidyapeeth may need review if the Institute is given the deemed to be university status.

The Committee places on record its sincere thanks to the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and other members of the staff of the Vidyapeeth for their cooperation during its visit.