

Report of the Expert Committee constituted to examine the Proposal of Vellore Engineering College, Vellore for the grant of Deemed University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.

The Commission (UGC) constituted a committee comprising of the following members to examine the proposal of Vellore Engineering College, now renamed as Vellore Institute of Technology, Vellore to examine its proposal for the grant of Deemed to be University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act :

1. Professor Rajasekharan Pillai, ... Convenor
Former Vice-Chancellor,
Mahatma Gandhi University,
Kottayam
2. Professor Kalanidhi,
Vice-Chancellor,
Anna University,
Chennai
3. Professor R. Natarajan,
Director,
Indian Institute of Technology,
Chennai
4. Professor P.B. Sharma,
Vice-Chancellor,
Rajiv Gandhi Technological University,
Bhopal
5. Professor Sidappa,
Vice-Chancellor,
Bangalore University,
Bangalore
6. Professor P.M. Prasad,
Former Director,
Institute of Technology,
Banaras Hindu University,
Varansasi
7. Dr. Naseem Bhatia,
Joint Secretary,
University Grants Commission,
New Delhi.
8. Shri D.D. Mehta,
Under Secretary,
University Grants Commission
New Delhi.

1. Preamble

The Committee visited the Institute on 13 & 14 April 2001 for an on the spot assessment of infrastructural facilities and academic programs of the Institute. Mr. G. Viswanathan Chairman, Dr. B.V.A. Rao, Director and Dr. P.G. Murthy, Principal of the Institute in their presentation before the committee highlighted the on going academic programmes and future plans of the Institute and the need for the Deemed University Status. The Committee went around the institute, visited the Library, Laboratories, Class Rooms and other Infrastructural Facilities and students amenities. The Committee also met the faculty members non-teaching staff and students to get the feedback about the Institute.

After thorough inspection of infrastructural facilities, perusal of the documents furnished by the Institute and discussions with the various sections of the staff, the Committee makes the following observations and recommendations:

2. The Institute and its Courses

Vellore Engineering College, now renamed as Vellore Institute of Technology, was established in 1984 by North Arcot Educational Charitable Trust. In compliance with the condition laid down under the UGC guidelines for the deemed university, the Trust has been merged with the Institute as single entity and renamed as Vellore Institute of Technology.

The Institute, affiliated to the University of Madras, is offering the following UG and PG Courses:

Courses Offered		Approved Intake
Under Graduate Courses		
B.E.	☞ Civil Engineering	30
	☞ Mechanical Engineering	75
	☞ Electrical and Electronics Engineering	45
	☞ Electronics and Communication Engineering	120
	☞ Computer Science and Engineering	120
	☞ Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering	30
B.Tech.	☞ Chemical Engineering	30
	☞ Information Technology	120
Post Graduate Courses		
M.E.	☞ Computer Aided Design	18
	☞ Computer Science and Engineering	18
M.C.A.	☞ Computer Applications	60
M.B.A.	☞ Business Administration	60

All the above courses have been approved by AICTE and the University of Madras. National Board of Accreditation has awarded "A" Grade to Five UG Programs and two PG Programs. The College plans to start the following Post Graduate Courses from the Academic year 2001 - 2002.

- ☞ M.E. Power Electronics
- ☞ M.E. Environmental Engineering
- ☞ M.E. Mechatronics
- ☞ M.E. Energy Systems Engineering

Inspection for these courses has already been carried out by AICTE and the decision is likely to be taken soon. The institute has been certified as a ISO 9002 institution by M/s. Det Norke Verifes (DNV).

The Institution has been able to earn reputation for itself as a National Institution in the sense that the students from almost all the states of the country are studying different courses here. A good number of foreign students from over 15 countries, particularly from South Asian and African countries are also pursuing their studies the institute.

According to the information furnished by the Institute, a good number of student have secured high ranks at the University level in the examinations held during the last many years.

3. The Faculty

There are 159 faculty members distributed in the various departments and 34 of them are Ph.D degree holders from IISc., IITs and other leading universities

Sl. No	Department	Professors	Assistant Professors Readers	Lecturers
1	Civil	2	6	3
2	Mechanical	7	6	10
3	Electrical & Electronics	3	1	10
4	Electronics & Communication	2	7	18
5	Computer Science	2	4	16
6	Information Technology	1	1	5
7	Chemical	3	2	7
8	Master of Business Administration	1	3	2
9	Master of Computer Application	1	1	6

Sl. No	Department	Professors	Assistant Professors/ Readers	Lecturers
10	Mathematics	1	7	3
11	Physics	1	3	2
12	Chemistry	-	4	2
13	English	1	2	3
Total		25	47	87

All the teachers possess the educational qualifications prescribed by the AICTE. Like students, the faculty also have representation from several other states of the country.

'Best Teachers Award' has also been instituted to encourage and motivate dedicated teachers. The Institute has also introduced the faculty development program (FDP) under which teachers are deputed for pursuing Ph.D., M.Tech., M.E. etc.

4. Infrastructure and Building Space

The Institute is spread over a 200 acre plot on Chennai - Bangalore Highway with an built in area of 7,08,000 Sq.ft. The Institute has an excellent infrastructure with well-maintained buildings housing different administrative and academic Departments and others amenities.

Particulars	Area available (Sq.ft.)
Administrative Area	89,227
Academic Building	
☞ Classrooms	42,731
☞ Laboratories	76,997
☞ Laboratory & Computer Centre	29,472
Boys Hostels including (V and NV mess)	1,97,826
Girls Hostels including Mess	98,388
Library Building	25,518
Auditoria	
(a) Anna Auditorium	20,916
(b) Dr. Channa Reddy Auditorium	5,618
Conference Hall	1,475
Canteen	5,089
Guest House	11,310
Outdoor Stadium	18,000
Accommodation for staff members	24998

The Institute has created other amenities common to students and staff such as Electricity Transformers, PABX with more than 100 extensions, a dispensary with 2 doctors and supporting staff, shopping complex etc. Besides the Institute has managed to bring some Govt. Facilities like Post Office, Banks within its campus.

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The Institute is constructing 72 flats for providing accommodation to teaching staff and has plans to add another 72 quarters.

5. Library & Laboratories

The Institute has a moderately stocked library adequately equipped with computers and other audio visual aids. The Library has about 35 thousand books and subscribes 288 Journals including 100 International Periodicals. According to the information furnished by the Institute, it has invested around 80 lakhs for library books and Rs.4.25 lakhs as subscription of the Journals. A note worthy aspect is that the **Institute provides its library facilities on nominal charges to interested individuals and industries in the region.**

The laboratories of the Institute have been meticulously planned and well equipped to cater to the needs of teaching Departments. The Committee was informed that an amount of Rs.6 cores have been spent on the equipments. One of the special features is the '**English Language Lab**' which have been exclusively set up to improve the language proficiency of the students coming from the rural areas.

6. Industry - Institute Interaction

A Centre has been set up by the institute for Interaction with the Industry under the Chairmanship of a Dean of the Institute. This Centre has organized a number of Seminars/Conferences/Workshops during the last three years, which were attended by the representatives from the Industries. Many of these Conferences were sponsored by organizations like, CSIR AICTE, VSNL etc.

The Institute has also signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with leading industries for consultancy projects. These are over 30 industries which take advantage of the facilities of the College (VCE) and some have become institutional members also.

6. Research Activities & Academic Collaboration with following Universities

The Institute has signed MoUs, with several Indian & Foreign Universities for taking up joint projects and the fields of Information Technology, Automobile Engineering, Solar Energy, Engineering Management, Rural Management, Bio-Medical Engineering and other related areas.

7. Finances

The Institute is a self-financing one and has a sound financial base with an annual budget of about Rs.10 crores.

The Institution is also generating a substantial income of about 15% by taking up a number of consultancy and Research Projects.

8. Encouragement to Students

The Institute provides financial assistance to 50 meritorious students by waiving off tuition and development fees. It recognizes 10 meritorious students (NRI and Foreigners) by awarding Rs. 12000/- per annum. 40 students from the weaker sections of the Society are given financial assistance of Rs. 5000/- per annum. Besides, several other students are also rewarded for their best performance every year. **The Committee noted that the Institute has set apart about Rs. 36 lakhs per annum to recognise merit in various forms.**

9. Students' Amenities

All the amenities normally available in standard educational institutions are available for the personality development of students. These include several CLUBS, Games and sports amenities, a well planned indoor stadium, an excellent canteen, a bookshop etc.

53% of the students are provided Hostel accommodation and the Institute have plans to provide more.

10. Student Discipline and Opinion

On interaction with the students, the Committee noted that they are disciplined, well looked after by their Institution, living in well furnished Hostel rooms and feel generally happy to study at the VCE.

11. Placement of Students

There is a Placement Cell for securing jobs via Campus Interviews. During current year (2000 – 2001) as many as 291 students have already been placed with reputed industries.

12. Societal Commitment

The Institute has visible signs of commitment to societal progress as evidenced by adoption of a few villages and endowments to many educational schools in the region.

13. Seminars & Symposia

The Institute has been most active in organising numerous Symposia / Workshops / Seminars both at National and International levels in Several relevant fields / emerging areas. **Over ten such events are slated for the year 2001.**

14. Alumni Association

The Institute has an ever expanding Alumni Association which is interested in the welfare and programs of its alma mater.

15. Other Features

The Institute, being a well planned one, has **integrated beauty, compactness and aesthetics** in its planning. **All the buildings and gardens are well looked after.** There is a very good **Guest House** also at the Institute with excellent dining facilities and invrastructure.

16. Compliance of other conditions laid down under U.G.C. Guidelines

- 1 The Trust has created the corpus fund of Rs.5 Crores
- 2 The Trust has undertaken to continue to provide financial support for maintenance and development of the Institute in case the institute is declared as Deemed University.
- 3 The Institute is ready to prepared to revise its Memorandum of Association/rules as per the U.G.C. Model.
- 4 The Institute has implemented AICTE/UGC pay scales for its teachers.

17. Recommendation

The Committee has noted that the Vellore Institute of Technology is a self-finance Institution maintaining a National and International character. **Its performance indices on all fronts compare favourably with well established Engineering Institutions** in the country. The will to excel and maintain a high quality is also in evidence.

The Committee, therefore, has no hesitation in strongly recommending that the **Vellore Institute of Engineering, Vellore (Tamilnadu)** be granted a Deemed University status under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 as it will enable the Institute to achieve even higher levels of performance.

Professor Rajasekharan Pillai

Professor R. Natarajan

Professor Sidappa

Dr. Naseem Bhatia

Professor Kalanidhi

Professor P.B. Sharma

Professor P.M. Prasad

D.D. Mehta