

Assessment Report for the
Institutional Accreditation

of

**Sunderrao More Senior College
of Arts and Commerce, Poladpur**

Tal – Poladpur Dist. Raigad 402 303
Maharashtra

28th & 29th February, 2004

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
2/4, Dr. Rajkuman Road, P.O.Box. No. 1075, Rajajinagar
Bangalore – 560 010

**REPORT OF THE PEER TEAM ON THE
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF
SUNDARRAO MORE ARTS & COMMERCE (Sr.) COLLEGE
Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra – 402303.**

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

Sundarrao More Arts & Commerce (Sr.) College Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra is run by Shivai Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Mahad. The Sanstha was established and registered as a charitable trust in 1993. "Knowledge is Wealth is the motto of the Sanstha.

This College was established in 1998 in a remote hilly and tribal area of Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra, with a noble mission of imparting higher education to the deprived ones. The College had difficulties in getting students, and the teachers went from door to door canvassing in an area steeped in superstitions, where people are reluctant to send girls for higher education. The College has put women of the area on path of empowerment by taking them to their campus. It gets students from economically backward families that do not realize the importance of higher education. Today it offers just two UG programmes – one in Commerce and another in Arts. The College is yet to get UGC recognition under 2F and 12B. It is against these odds that this College is functioning from a rented building. The College has plans of expansion and hence has acquired 1.75 acres of land in Bombay-Goa highway.

The College had an ambitious plan of starting B.Sc Information Technology in the self-financing sector but as they could not attract students, it had to drop this course for which affiliation was obtained.

University of Mumbai has recommended to the Government of Maharashtra to permit the College to start English optional for F.Y. B. A. class from 2004 – 05 academic year.

It is commendable that within five years of establishment and even before moving out of the rented building the college has decided to submit itself for

assessment and accreditation. In spite of the financial constraints, the College has realized that the assessment process will help them in redesigning and restructuring their curricular activities. The enthusiasm shown is laudable and one can appreciate the humility with which the College has made a SWOT analysis.

Sunderrao More Senior College of Arts and Commerce, Poladpur, approached the NAAC, Bangalore for accreditation and submitted the Self – Study Report on 27th November 2003. NAAC constituted the Peer Team consisting of following members to visit and to assess the institution.

Prof. M. Abdul Rahiman - **Chairman & Coordinator**

Former V.C. of Kannur and Calicut Universities,
Halcyon, Kapriguda New Road,
Mangalore, Karnataka. 575 001.

Prof.(Mrs.) S. Bhalla - **Member**

Former Principal,
G-102, Saket
Delhi – 110 017

Prof. J. Dinakarlal Thavamony - **Member**

Faculty of English, Scott Christian College,
Nagercoil – 629 003, Tamil Nadu.

The Peer Team visited the College on 28th and 29th February, 2004 and made assessment of the departments, library and all other facilities and had a detailed discussion and interaction with Management, Principal, Faculty Members, Students, Administrative Staff, Parents, Alumni etc. All aspects given in Criteria I to VII of the Self – Study Report were analyzed and validated by the Peer Team. A detailed report of the Team follows.

SECTION I: CRITERION-WISE ANALYSIS

CRITERION I : CURRICULAR ASPECTS

The College has clear set goals and objectives, that is making higher education available to the deprived class and also to women. Being a College based in a remote

tribal area, the College has endeavoured to rope in young people who wouldn't otherwise have had access to higher education. The College attaches importance to discipline. It has in its own humble way helped students to prepare for competitive exams. It has also encouraged Indian games like Kho-kho and kabadi. The functioning of career guidance cell and attempts at personality development are praiseworthy. The College has no freedom to formulate or change the syllabi as they are bound to follow the syllabi of Mumbai University. Teachers do not get an opportunity to make their presence felt in the curriculum designing bodies of the University as they do not have the required experience. Visits to mental hospitals, study tours, wall paper bulletin and activities of N.S.S unit need special mention.

CRITERION II : TEACHING, LEARNING AND EVALUATION

The College gives guidance to students in choosing subjects and recognizes students with academic excellence. It even conducts special classes on Sundays. There seems to be very systematic academic work done in this College as monthly review meetings are conducted, and monthly teaching plans are prepared.

Tutorials, study tours, viva voce, debates, symposia, seminars, guest lectures etc., in the College show that these methods supplement the lecture method. The College encourages teachers to have self appraisal and it has introduced evaluation of teachers by students. It is commendable that Mr. A. D. Divekar of the Department of Commerce has written two books useful for competitive examinations. Mr. Bihani of the Department of Commerce has co-authored two books with Mr. Divekar. Even in the absence of any research facility one of the staff of Geography department is submitting his Ph. D. thesis. Principal in charge has registered for Ph. D. degree and Mr. Bihani has completed his M.Phil. Teachers have taken keen interest in attending refresher courses, conferences and seminars. One girl student secured Gold Medal in firing event in 2001. Mr. Sunil Pawar was nominated to the students council of Mumbai University in recognition of his performance in elocution competition.

None of the teachers has attended national or international programmes nor have they equipped themselves to be resource persons. The College has not conducted seminars / conferences for faculty development.

CRITERION III : RESEARCH, CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION SERVICE

Being a remote and recently started one, this College has not paid much attention to research. However, one teacher will shortly submit his Ph.D dissertation. The College is involved in social activities like community development, health & hygiene awareness, AIDS awareness, social work, medical camp, blood donation camp, environmental awareness etc., especially through N.S.S. The activities of N.S.S are novel and commendable. Students of N.S.S have won laurels for the College. The College has also participated in various activities organized by the government and NGOs. It is worth mentioning that this new College is working as facilitator for Maharashtra Talent Search examination.

However, there are many matters of concern. The College has not thought of planning any systematic research. No teacher is involved in any project work. There is no outreach programme other than those carried out by N.S.S.

CRITERION IV : INFRASTRUCTURE & LEARNING RESOURCES

Sundarrao More College functions from a rented building owned by Gram Panchayat, Poladpur. In this tile roofed building, limited facilities are offered but it is a matter of joy that the management makes available its existing facilities for the use of the local people. The College has spent fairly good amount in the academic year 2002-2003 for the purchase of books. The College encourages sports activities. It is justified in not having hostels for boys/girls as only students from the nearby villages come to this College.

Though no drastic negative comments can be made on the facilities available, as a rented building is housing the College, it is doubted whether the girl students are extended required facilities of a good rest room. In the modern world of information

technology, people of the village of Poladpur do not get an opportunity to see a computer even in the College. As the College is catering to the needs of the economically underprivileged, it should think of having a book bank. The college should take efforts to increase the number of books in the Library.

In spite of the fact that most of the students are first generation learners, the result produced by the college is very high. There are many first class holders in the Arts section. This could be achieved by the sheer hard work and through the team spirit displayed by the teachers. The dedication and the involvement of the teachers bear testimony to their determination to build the college.

CRITERION V : STUDENT SUPPORT AND PROGRESSION

The College has fairly high dropout rate (27%). As this is a young College, alumni have not started occupying high positions, nor have they passed exams like Indian Civil Services. Students are guided for writing competitive exams. Dept. of Psychology takes care of counseling. The College has realized the importance of alumni association and has started one. It has some indoor games facilities, and students have opportunities to participate in debates and cultural programmes. The college is planning to publish a magazine this year.

The college has a NSS unit with 40 girls and 34 boys. They have conducted a NSS camp in a nearby village with 20 girls and 20 boys. In 2003 a boy attended a camp in cultural activity in Pune and later got selected to participate in the Pre-Republic Day Celebrations at Mumbai in 2003. Another boy attended a National HIV - AIDS Conference in 2003 and won the First Place in street play. It is a feather in the cap of the NSS unit as a girl got selected to lead a 40 number contingent of NSS volunteers in the Republic Day Parade in 2004 in Mumbai. Another boy has attended a district level NSS leadership camp. One of the novel activities was visiting the leprosy sanatorium on the Rakhsha – Bandhan Day and the girls tying 'Rakhi' on the lepers. The volunteers have taken up tree plantation and during 'Navaratra' festival have cleaned 'Pratapgarh'. They have also taken cleaning work in the bus stand. The

students have served as volunteers during the Pulse Polio Programme. They have conducted AIDS awareness rallies, blood donation camp and blood donation promotion work. During Youth Festival in Pen, Dist. Raigad they presented street play, thereby creating awareness. The activities of the NSS unit are given wide media coverage.

Though the college doesn't have play ground, it encourages sports. It conducts annual games and has facilities for indoor games like Chess and Carrom. The boys' 'Kabaddi' team played up to the semi final level in the inter – collegiate competition conducted by Mumbai University. One boy has participated in inter – collegiate Wrestling Competition.

Taking into consideration the limitations with regard to space, even in the absence of a full time Physical Education teacher, the college has tried its best to encourage sports and games activities. A member of the faculty has been put in charge of Sports activities. The activities of NSS unit are commendable and both boys and girls are equally involved in the activities.

CRITERION VI : ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

To manage curricular and extra curricular activities, there are many committees with teaching and non-teaching staff and students. The Local Management Committee takes care of planning, taking policy decisions, preparing and sanctioning budget, sanctioning new appointments etc. The College conducts professional development programmes for non-teaching staff. Grievance redressal forum ensures that the grievances of the staff and students are redressed in an atmosphere of understanding. However, no representation has been made to this forum so far.

The College conducts professional development programmes for non-teaching staff, and not for teaching staff. No money is budgeted for repair and maintenance. Though Rs.15,000 is budgeted for periodicals and journals, only Rs.8628/- is actually spent.

CRITERION VII : HEALTHY PRACTICES

The College has a democratic way of functioning with many committees taking care of the activities. With its commitment to the society and the underprivileged, the College very much wanted to start B.Sc IT course. There is value education class and Prof. Somoshi Ravindra Shrihari takes special interest. Attempts are made to impart values like love for Nature, respect for labour, civic values etc., N.S.S unit is used to create civic awareness and attempt is made to fight drug, tobacco and smoking. Effort is taken to conduct personality development programmes. In a society that hesitates to send girls for higher education, the College has taken effective and pioneering efforts in bringing them to the portals of higher education. Their constant effort has resulted in increase in the number of female students enrolling in the College. The College tries its best to have close contact with the local community. Being a College with Marathi as the medium of instruction, special efforts are taken to give training to students in spoken English. Weak students are given special attention in Statistics and Mathematics. It also takes part in various religious and secular activities of the society.

SECTION III: OVERALL ANALYSIS / SUGGESTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Sundarrao More Arts & Commerce (Sr.) College Poladpur, Raigad, Maharashtra was established in the year 1998 in the tribal and hilly region of Poladpur Dist. Raigad, Maharashtra with a noble mission of imparting higher education to the educationally and economically backward society. It offers two UG Programmes i.e. in Arts and Commerce. It is not yet recognized by UGC. It has got permission from University of Mumbai to start English optional from next academic year. It is yet to have its own building and at present it is functioning in a rented building. The Shivai Shikshan Prasarak Mandal has purchased 1.75 Acres of land to have their own building. Being a nascent institution, the Society is trying its best to improve the facilities and offer more courses for students in the years to come.

Students have participated in many inter – collegiate cultural programmes and competitions at District , University and State levels. Students like Mr. Rakesh Sawant and Mr. Sunil Pawar have won many laurels. Students have participated in competition like Story Telling, Elocution, Debate, Mimicry, Mono-Acting, Folk Dance, Street Play etc. The college has presented a One Act Play in Zee TV.

Being a new college almost all the facilities are inadequate even to meet the requirement of present courses. Hence, the Management should act immediately to expedite the construction work of the new building and other infrastructures in the newly purchased land and the college should be shifted to the new campus at the earliest.

More need based and applied courses can be started after shifting to the new building. Efforts should be taken to get UGC recognition under 2f and 12B. The College should have computers, audio visual aids, canteen etc.

Computerisation of the Library and the office can be taken up soon after shifting to the new building. The College should not give up its attempt to start IT degree programme which was sanctioned last year.

Women students need better facilities like more spacious non-residential students' centre. As the College wants to empower women through education, a Women's Cell headed by a lady teacher will be a boon. This alone will help remove superstitions regarding education for women.

The number of books in the library should be increased, and subscribing to magazines will help students update their knowledge. More number of daily news papers in Hindi and English have to be subscribed. Book bank facility may be introduced to help students coming from financially underprivileged sections.

The College has not paid any attention to research, and so it is suggested that the management takes very special efforts to encourage the teachers to take up research/ research projects and attend seminars, workshops, training programmes, refresher courses etc.

As many first generation learners come to this College, it is desirable that there is an active career guidance cell. Employment cell/ placement cell with competent

and trained teacher in charge will help the students seek suitable employment. As the College has a concern for the people around, the management should use the infrastructure and the faculty to equip people to appear for competitive exams, entrance tests etc. As there are many illiterates around, taking up adult literacy programmes will be a great service to the society. As many students want to take up positions in military or police force, it is suggested that the College gives information about selection procedures and conducts programmes to help students to appear for entrance tests. The College need not fear about competition from colleges that are likely to come up in the area if only it is determined to cater to the needs of the society by starting new and challenging courses, and conducting them efficiently. Action may be taken to start a NCC unit in the college.

Cultural activities should be encouraged by giving necessary guidance to the students by forming a Cultural Forum. This will not only enhance the inherent talent of students but also will help to preserve the Folk Art of the region.

The Alumni Association has to be formed and registered at the earliest. Being a new college it will be easier to keep track of old students and the process can be started immediately by keeping names and addresses of all out going students by using the computer facility. The Alumni Association and Parent Teacher Association should be made to involve actively in all developmental activities of the college.

Sunderrao More Senior College of Arts and Commerce, Poladpur has started functioning from 1998 and all facilities are in a developing process. At this stage, a proper master plan has to be prepared for the new site, so that all infrastructure will be scientifically laid in the years to come. Proper provisions for class rooms, library, labs, office, Principal and staff room, Ladies Common Room, separate space for NSS, NCC and sports should be made in the new building. Further, new courses have to be introduced only after a thorough study and analysis of the need of the local students and society. Priority will have to be given to the subjects of urgent need i.e. a Computer lab should be started at the earliest, so that a computer literacy programme can be started for the benefit of all students, faculty and non-teaching staff.

To summarize, the Peer Team of NAAC appreciates the efforts of Shivai Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Mahad in establishing a higher education institution in a remote backward area like Poladpur. This has enabled the socially and economically backward and tribal students especially girls to have an opportunity to get education without going to far away places. However, the society has to make serious attempts to enhance facilities to meet the requirements of the present courses including Library, Computer lab, Internet, sports etc.

Name and Signature of the Peer Team

Prof. M. Abdul Rahiman

M. Abdul Rahiman 29/02/04
Chairman & Coordinator

Prof. (Mrs.) S. Bhalla

S. Bhalla 29.2.04.
Member

Prof. J. Dinakarlal Thavamony

J. Dinakarlal 29/02/04
Member

I have read through the Report and agree with the observations and recommendations contained in it.

Date: 29-02-2004

Rathod Nathiram Laxman
29/2/04
(Prof. Rathod Nathiram Laxman)

Name and Signature of the I/c Principal with

the College Seal.

I/C PRINCIPAL
Sundarrao More Arts, Commerce (Senior) College
Poladpur-Raigad

