PEER TEAM REPORT

ON

INSTITUTIONAL

RE-ACCREDITATION
(THIRD CYCLE)

OF

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Dates of Visit
09th – 11th December, 2013

PEER TEAM REPORT ON
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF STELLA MARIS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Place: CHENNAI   State: TAMIL NADU

Section I: GENERAL	Information
1.1 Name & Address of the Institution:	Stella Maris College (Autonomous), 17, Cathedral Road, Chennai – 600086, Tamil Nadu.
1.2 Year of Establishment:	1947
1.3 Current Academic Activities at the Institution (Numbers):	
• Faculties:	03
• Departments:	23 (Arts 8, Science 8, Commerce 1 & Others 6
• Courses offered:	38
• Permanent Faculty Members:	175 (Aided 70 & Management 105)
• Permanent Support Staff:	111 (Aided 27 & Management 84)
• Students:	3991
1.4 Three major features in the institutional Context (As perceived by the Peer Team):	• College with Autonomy and Star College status. • The college focuses on holistic approach to education on curricular, co-curricular and extra-Curricular activities. • Access and equity are the primary consideration for the institution. • Visionary leadership with clear mission and objectives.
1.5 Dates of visit of the Peer Team (A detailed visit schedule may be included as Annexure):	9th - 11th December, 2013
1.6 Composition of the Peer Team	
Chairperson:	**Prof. Mrs. Mariamma Varghese**
Member Co-ordinator:	**Prof. Muvva Vijayalakshmi**
Member:	**Dr. Fr. G. Vazhan Arasu**
NAAC Officer:	**Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar**

Section II: CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS	
2.1 Curricular Aspects:	
2.1.1 Curriculum Design and Development:	• Academic programmes have been conceptualized and implemented in accordance with mission, objectives and core values. • Curriculum development process is systematic considering employability, innovation and inter-disciplinary applications. • Involvement of all stakeholders and IQAC in curriculum development and restructuring based on need assessment.
2.1.2 Academic Flexibility:	• Choice Based Credit System is implemented with adequate elective options and interdisciplinary courses. • 16 self-financing programmes are offered based on need assessment. Admission procedures, fee structure and teacher qualification for self financing courses are at par with the aided courses. • Many options are offered to Students according to their ability and interest. • There is scope for flexible learning and credit transfer systems.
2.1.3 Curriculum Enrichment:	• Number of value added courses are planned to enrich the curriculum in emerging areas. • Curriculum is revised once in three years. • Soft skills, value education, women empowerment courses etc., are introduced.
2.1.4 Feedback System:	• Systematic feedback mechanism exists. • The feedback and suggestions are discussed and reviewed and remedial measures are taken. • Regular internal and external academic audit conducted for enhancing quality in curriculum and teaching-learning processes.

2.2 Teaching-Learning & Evaluation:	
2.2.1 Student Enrolment and Profile:	• Transparent admission processes. • Government policies and norms on reservation are complied with. • Demand ratio for the courses is fairly high. • Need to adopt strategies to increase the intake of students belonging to ST category.
2.2.2 Catering to Student Diversity:	• Offering appropriate Remedial/Bridge courses after assessing students' learning level. • Adequate steps are taken to encourage advanced learners. • Caters to the needs of differently-abled students.
2.2.3 Teaching-Learning Process:	• Academic calendar, examination schedule and evaluation methodologies are prepared and informed to all stakeholders. • Well prepared course plan with experiential methodology. • Teaching-learning process is enabled by ICT to a great extent. • Student friendly practical manuals are used in science departments. • Eminent scholars and experts invited to supplement and to inspire the students.
2.2.4 Teacher Quality:	• Significant proportion of teachers with Ph.D. qualification and others as per UGC norms. • Incentives/awards/recognitions received by the faculty. • The faculty development programmes are well planned and implemented. Some are sent for UGC sponsored Orientation and Refresher courses.
2.2.5 Evaluation Process and Reforms:	• Institution has an integrated examination system for pre-examination, examination and post-examination processes. • Examination system and the office have been

	computerized with advanced computer programmes. • Progress of students monitored in a systematic manner.
2.2.6 Student Performance and Learning Outcomes:	• Every course clearly states objectives and learning outcome of programmes offered. • The pass percentage and completion rate of students are good in UG and PG programmes. • Progress of students monitored in all dimensions.

2.3 Research, Consultancy & Extension:	
2.3.1 Promotion of Research:	• Research Cell and Centre for Research in Science & Technology are in place to initiate and monitor research activities. • College provides sufficient infrastructural facilities and resources to encourage research activities. • International and National researchers of eminence are invited to facilitate research.
2.3.2 Resource Mobilization for Research:	• Four science departments have been recognized as Star departments by DBT and Mathematics department with FIST grant from DST. • Some research funding has been received from International and National agencies. • Faculty need to go for patents.
2.3.3 Research Facilities:	• Adequate infrastructure in the departments to facilitate research. • New Books, Journals, N-LIST, E-journals and E-books are provided to address challenges of research programmes.
2.3.4 Research Publications and Awards :	• 97 papers published in National and International journals, 35 papers published as chapters in books and 22 books published with ISBN numbers.

	• Few faculty members are qualified and registered as Ph. D. & M.Phil. guides.
	• Faculty could be encouraged to publish research papers in journals with good impact factor.
2.3.5 Consultancy:	• Some amount is generated through consultancy services.
	• Consultancy services are limited to some departments.
	• Academic consultancy regarding Archives, Autonomy and CBCS is done.
	• Consultancy policies need to be framed.
	• Steps could be initiated to publicize the expertise of the college for consultancy services.
2.3.6 Extension Activities and Institutional Social Responsibility:	• NCC, NSS, Youth Red Cross and Rotaract Club are vibrant and very active and received 14 awards for outstanding performance.
	• Received 9 awards for extension and community development works.
	• Significant outreach and innovative programmes are organised by all departments to sensitise students on social responsibility.
2.3.7 Collaborations	• Adequate MoUs signed with National and International agencies to enhance the quality of research.
	• Students of Commerce visited France under the exchange programme.
	• Institute - industrial interaction needs to be strengthened.
2.4 Infrastructure and Learning Resources:	
2.4.1 Physical Facilities:	• The college has good infrastructure.
	• Well maintained four girls hostels with Wi-Fi facility.
	• Facilities provided for physically challenged.

	• Play grounds, Open Air Theatres, Seminar Halls, Conference Rooms and Audio Visual Rooms are provided to promote Co-curricular and Extra-curricular events.
2.4.2 Library as a Learning Resource:	• Spacious library (6500 Sq.ft) with 400 seating capacity and fully automated. • The Library has 1,01,878 books (Student-Book ratio 1:25), back volumes, and theses, 110 journals, 808 CDs and digital resources of EBSCO, JSTOR, Questia & N-LIST. • Library facilities are well utilized by the staff and students. • eBlis library software, 47 computers, 8 Mbps internet and DSpace containing papers, power point presentations, lecture notes and e-books are the ICT resources in the library. • Well maintained Archives.
2.4.3 IT Infrastructure	• 18 servers, 562 client computers with 100% network optic fibre cable LAN facility with 12 Mbps lease line are available. • Every department is provided with a laptop, computers, internet, LCD projectors and OHPs • 6 SMART Boards are installed for interactive teaching. • Media centre and video conferencing facilities are available.
2.4.4 Maintenance of Campus Facilities:	• The campus is well maintained by the manager and a team of support staff. • Electricians, Carpenters, Plumbers and Technicians are appointed for maintenance and repair. • Buildings are well maintained and renovated periodically. • Adequate budget allocation is made for maintenance.

[7]

2.5 Student Support and Progression:	
2.5.1 Student Mentoring and Support:	• Students support services are provided through The Pathway Programme, The Multimedia Language Lab, Language Partnership Programme, Bridge Class, Remedial Coaching, Personal Counselling, Career Counselling, Soft Skills Training, Free Medical check-up, Spoken English and Placement services. • An annual magazine, monthly online newspaper and 8 journals/magazines are published by the students. • Every student is assigned to a mentor to monitor academic and personal growth. • An active registered Alumni Association with chapters in Kerala, Karnataka, Madurai, Dubai, Malaysia and USA with participation in placement for students.
2.5.2 Student Progression:	• Student progression from UG to PG is 50-60% • 33 students cleared NET/SLET and 5 cleared Civil Service examinations. • Pass percentage rate is high. • The dropout rate is low.
2.5.3 Student Participation and Activities:	• Clubs are available for students to participate in sports, games, curricular, cultural and extra-curricular activities. • Number of students participated and won prizes in games and sports at the International, National, State, Zonal and University levels. • The college has an active Student Council and there are student representatives in Academic and Administrative bodies. • Students' participation in quality initiatives is commendable.
2.6 Governance, Leadership and Management:	
2.6.1 Institutional Vision and Leadership:	• Vision and Mission and objectives are in tune

	with higher education objectives.
	• Management is committed and has a genuine desire to provide quality education.
	• Enlightened leadership by the Board of Management, Governing Body, Principal and her team.
	• Participatory, decentralized and transparent administration is implemented.
2.6.2 Strategy Development and Deployment	• The college has perspective plans.
	• The grievances are promptly attended and resolved effectively.
	• Feedback from all stakeholders is analysed and utilized for reviewing and further decision making and action.
	• Good internal organization.
2.6.3 Faculty Empowerment Strategies:	• 14 welfare schemes are available for teaching and non-teaching staff.
	• Gender sensitization programmes are regularly organized by the Centre for Women studies.
	• Capacity building programmes are regularly organized to promote professional development of teaching and non-teaching staff.
2.6.4 Financial Management and Resource Mobilization:	• The college has a good system of internal auditing and regular external auditing.
	• Financial transactions are carried out in a transparent manner.
	• More scope for mobilization of financial resources from internal and external sources.
2.6.5 Internal Quality Assurance System:	• IQAC has definite structure to internalize and institutionalize quality culture.
	• Academic Auditing of departments is co-ordinated by the IQAC.
	• The IQAC conducts regular programmes to enhance the quality of education through quality evaluation, promotion and sustenance activities.

2.7 Innovations and Best Practices:	
2.7.1 Environment Consciousness:	• Solar lights, solar water heaters, LED lights and CFL bulbs have been installed. • Rain water harvesting, sprinklers for irrigation and grey water-recycling unit are implemented. • The campus has 800 trees belonging to 60 species with lush greenery and birds. A separate herbal Garden is maintained. • For waste management the college has implemented vermicomposting, replacement of dissections with simulations, green chemistry, and 'buy back' policy. • Environment courses as part of the curriculum.
2.7.2 Innovations:	• Under the CBCS, initiatives were taken to enhance knowledge, skills and employability. • Training in Soft Skills introduced to increase self-confidence, leadership qualities and holistic development. • Campaigns on social themes such as 'Make Chennai Heat Safe', 'Plastic free Salai' and 'Minsar' activities are organized.
2.7.3 Best Practices:	• Language partnership for enhancement of communication in English is facilitated through student peer groups. • Institutionalization of the mentoring system. Campaign titled 'Paryavaranam' with the motto 'Practice Green and Preach Green' • A Door-to-Door campaign on Garbage Segregation. • Disability Access Audit is conducted.

[10]

Section III: OVERALL ANALYSIS	Observations
3.1 Institutional Strengths:	• College with Autonomy, Star College and Star department status. • ICT enabled teaching and learning. • Excellent infrastructure for curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. • Administrative, financial and academic activities have been computerized. • Enthusiastic, energetic and motivated faculty with good team spirit. • Eco-friendly campus.
3.2 Institutional Weaknesses:	• Limited consultancy. • Limited collaboration and MoUs. • Limited research. • The college is constrained due to ban of recruitment of Grant-in-Aid in teaching and non-teaching posts.
3.3 Institutional Opportunities:	• Starting of P.G, M.Phil. & Ph.D. programmes in more subjects relevant to the local needs. • Steps could be initiated to move towards University status. • MoUs with reputed International and National Organizations. • Student participation in International events. • Starting of Professional and Technical courses.
3.4 Institutional Challenges:	• To keep in pace with Global requirements. • Create a brand image by becoming a world class college. • Starting of new campus outside Chennai city. • Dual degree and twinning programmes. • Sustaining and retaining teachers under self-finance courses.

[11]

Section IV: Recommendations for Quality Enhancement of the Institution

- Initiatives could be taken to strengthen research.
- Capacity building for research management.
- Research publications could be strengthened.
- Number of innovative PG and Ph.D. programmes could be introduced.
- Professional and Technical courses could be introduced.
- Dual degree programmes and twinning programmes could be introduced.
- Many more MoUs with reputed International and National Research Institutions could be signed.
- Student and faculty exchange programmes could be encouraged.
- Wi-Fi campus with internet net connectivity could be implemented.
- Best answer scripts could be displayed.
- The college could work towards attainment of University status.

I agree with the observations of the Peer Team as mentioned in this report.

Seal of the Institution

Signature of the Head of the Institution

PRINCIPAL
STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS)
17, Cathedral Road
Chennai - 600 086

Signatures of the Peer Team Members:

Name	Designation	Signature with date
Prof. Mrs. Mariamma Varghese, Former Vice Chancellor, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.	Chairperson	11/12/13
Prof. Muvva Vijayalakshmi, Professor & Head, Department of Botany & Microbiology, Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh	Member Co-ordinator	M. Vijayalakshmi 11.12.'13
Dr. Fr. G. Vazhan Arasu, Principal, St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Sadar, Cantt., Jabalpur, M.P.	Member	11/1/13
NAAC Officer: Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, Bangalore	Co-ordinating Officer	

Place: Chennai

Date: 11-12-2013