

**DRAFT PEER TEAM REPORT ON INSTITUTIONAL ASSESSMENT
OF
T. ROMANA COLLEGE, AIZAWL, MIZORAM.**

Section 1 : Introduction

T.Romana College was established in June 1992 with the initiative of a student body out of an urgent need to provide admission to economically and academically disadvantaged students. The financial assistance and resources required initially were contributed by Mr. T.Romana after whom the college takes its name. It continues to occupy a rented house in a campus covering 0.41 bighas.

This private college was granted affiliation by North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in 1995 but is at present affiliated to Mizoram University which came into being in 2001. The college came under grant-in-aid scheme from 2002. However, it is yet to be recognized by UGC under 2f & 12B provisions of UGC Act. It has the distinction of being the only morning college in Mizoram which can therefore cater to the requirements of self-employed students.

The college offers a three year Bachelor's degree in both General and Honours courses in eight subjects in the humanities stream consisting of Mizo, English, History, Education, Economics, Political Science, Sociology and Public Administration. At present the student strength stands at 385. The college has 33 sanctioned posts of teachers. At present 32 sanctioned posts in the college are filled and there are three part time teachers.

The College is a Government aided College supervised by a Governing Body which takes keen interest in the management and welfare of the college. The unit cost of Education works out to Rs. 17,936/- and Rs. 2308/- with and without the salary component respectively.

T. Romana College volunteered for assessment and accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore and submitted its Self

Study Report (SSR). The NAAC constituted a Peer Team consisting of Prof. Mrs. K.S. Lyngdoh, former Pro Vice-Chancellor, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, as Chairperson; Prof. Girish Sharma, Professor, Guwahati University, Assam and Dr. Sanghamitra Mukherjee, Principal, Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, West Bengal as members along with Dr. Jagannath Patil, Deputy Advisor, NAAC, as Coordinator. The team visited T. Romana College on 23rd and 24th January 2007. Interactions were held with all stakeholders including Principal, Teachers, Non-teaching staff, students, Governing body members, Parents and Alumni, etc. to validate self study report. Based on the details in the SSR, information elicited during interactions and on verification of documentary evidences, the team has prepared an evaluative report keeping in mind the seven criteria and overall assessment framework recommended by the NAAC.

Section 2 : Criterion-wise Analysis

Criterion – I : Curricular Aspects

The objective of the college is to impart education to develop individual personality emphasizing on both spiritual and moral growth and to create therein responsible citizens of the country who are socially, economically and politically aware of their immediate surroundings in particular and of the nation and the world in general.

While six of the departments namely Mizo, English, History, Education, Economics and Political Science began with the inception of the college in 1992, the department of Public administration and Sociology were introduced in 1997 and 1999 respectively. The college has not been able to introduce any computer training programmes owing to financial constraints. The college provides only limited programme options in Arts faculty.

Being affiliated to Mizoram University all courses are prescribed by the Board of Undergraduate Studies (BUGS), the authorized curriculum designing body of the University. Hence the college does not enjoy much flexibility in course design excepting through the participation of some of its faculty members as members of

BUGS. The syllabi are reviewed and updated at intervals of five or six years .The last syllabi update in most of the subjects took place in 2004 and teachers were required to attend orientation programmes organised by the University on the new syllabus content.

Academic flexibility permitted to students in completing a course is also dictated by the University norms which permit up to five years for completion of the three year degree course failing which fresh admission has to be sought. However, the college strives to help slow and disadvantaged learners from rural areas by conducting tutorial classes.

The college follows annual pattern of examination. The college would do well in obtaining feedback of stakeholders on curricula offered.

Criterion II: Teaching -Learning and Evaluation.

Admission is given to students to the BA General courses on the basis of their academic records in the last qualifying examination. For the Honours courses the cut off marks are stipulated by the University and the departments adhere to these norms. However, in keeping with the mission of the college to provide education to the economically disadvantaged special consideration is sometimes extended to those who have distinguished themselves in sports activities.

After admissions, student skills and knowledge are continually assessed and students found unsuitable for a certain course may be advised to pursue some other option. Remedial classes are conducted for those deficient in English while advanced learners doing Honours courses are assigned special tasks and given guidance to develop accordingly. Awards are earmarked for recognition of merit in both the Honours and General courses.

The departments prepare teaching plans to cover the syllabi within time frames permitted by the Academic Calendar. Progress is monitored periodically by the Principal in consultation with the Head of Departments.

Conventional teaching methods are pursued in the classrooms. Field trips and site visits are undertaken and to encourage student participation in the Honours classes' seminars are held in which students are encouraged to make paper presentations and hold discussions. Teaching aids such as maps, charts and graphs are used. However, the departments do not have departmental libraries and students need to be exposed to academic programmes and activities involving other colleges.

Periodical class tests are held on a monthly basis. Assignments and Tutorials are conducted to monitor academic progress. Annual examinations/selections are also held to prepare the students for the University examinations.

In the last academic year out of 224 working days, the college effected 180 teaching days as per the Academic Calendar of Mizoram University. Each teacher spends at least five hours per day taking classes or attending to student and college welfare. Actual teaching averages 12 hours per week for classes.

The state government creates teaching posts in the college and has constituted a Selection Committee comprising six members who conduct the selection and promotion of the faculty according to the guidelines provided by the Directorate of Higher and Technical Education. The Governing Body makes the appointments in accordance with the Mizoram aided College Employees Rules, 1990.

The composition of staff has a healthy female bias which is not due to any reservation policy for women. Faculty members are apprised of and encouraged to participate in Refresher/Orientation courses but no training programmes are organised by the Institution for them.

Teachers are assessed annually by the students through assessment forms submitted to the Principal who oversees the entire exercise maintaining confidentiality and takes necessary action for the improvement of the teaching –learning process.

Apart from assessment of the teachers by the students, self-appraisal methods are also pursued in evaluating their performance all of which is reported in the A.C.Rs.

At the beginning of each session students are provided with the course curricula and evaluation methods are explained to them. The college insists on regular attendance and overall performance is also judged on the basis of general conduct. Though the University does not provide for internal assessment from the affiliated colleges in the final evaluation, the college reserves the right to bar students from appearing in University examinations if they do not conform to the college rules.

Criterion – III : Research, Consultancy and Extension.

The College is not a recognised centre for Ph.D. programmes and no research projects are being carried out either in collaboration with other recognised organizations or in the form of minor or major projects sponsored by the UGC or any other external agency. The College has no linkages with Research Institutions for research and extension. One of the permanent teachers of the History Department has obtained a Ph.D degree while in service and another has completed her M.Phil degree in English. Altogether, 9 teachers are engaged in research activities, while 4 of them are doing Ph.D under NEHU and Mizoram University, and the other 5 are doing M. Phil under MKU. Teachers are encouraged to attend Orientation, Refresher courses and to pursue research. They can avail of research fellowships from the state government to pursue research for which study leave can also be availed. The college has not been able to organise any state level or national seminars or conferences to date.

The extension activities of the college are two pronged being conducted by the NSS units and the NCC. At present the college has four units of NSS having mobilized 400 student members. The commendable programmes pursued by them are

- Annual Blood donation camps
- AIDS Awareness campaigns through inter college Quiz Competitions in collaboration with external agencies like United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Coordinated HIV/AIDS Response through Capacity-building and Awareness (UNODC – CHARCA)

- Community development and Public utility construction work
- Adoption of several villages for progressive development and literacy campaigns
- Participation in Government plantation and afforestation programmes

The NCC has produced the Best shooter in the Rifle shooting Competition at Jorhat, and awardees of the Best Discipline Award at U.P in trekking. Cadets from the college have participated in the Independence Day Parade bringing home the 3rd prize and a good number (18) of them have completed the 'B' certificate Examination.

The 'Clean Mizoram Committee' of the College a registered body under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 conducts regular Cleanliness drives within and outside the college with the active participation of the Principal, faculty and almost all the students.

The Staff Welfare Association of the College looks after the welfare of the staff by standing by them in times of hardship or loss, by facilitating interest free loans from the funds of the Association and even awarding contributions for academic achievements or felicitation gifts as the occasions may demand. A contribution to the CM's relief fund has also been made on one occasion.

The faculties of the college do not engage in rendering any consultancy services to any agencies.

Criterion – IV : Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college has not yet acquired a campus of its own and is housed in a rented building spread over an area of .41 bighas. All the floors of the three-storeyed building are not available to the college resulting in insufficient classroom space.

The College library approximately 620 sq.ft in area stocks 4200 books and 9 journals. While the library is not computerized a computer is used to keep records of the books but reprography and internet facilities have not yet been introduced. The college office is equipped with a computer and printers, a photo copier machine, and a fax machine. The Students' Union is also provided with a computer.

Some indoor sports facilities are made available in the college building. For outdoor sports, nearby College Veng Public Ground is used. Students are provided with a common room in one corner of which a canteen operates. The government has promised that the college would be provided a separate site and building in the near future.

Criterion – V : Student Support and Progression.

A prospectus provides all details about the courses offered the fee structure and the rules and regulations of the college. The Alumni Association of the college was formed in 2006 and its activities are yet to begin. Records of students pursuing higher studies are not available in the college but most students seek employment after graduation in the Public and Private sector or under self employment schemes. The college primarily caters to needs of tribal and rural population from adjoining villages. Government scholarships and concessions are available to the students.

A Grievance Redressal Cell allows students and staff to voice their grievances which are looked into in close coordination with the Principal. Recreational facilities in the form of indoor games, social and cultural programmes, debate, quiz, essay writing competitions organised by the Students' Union and outdoor games are held and prizes and certificates are awarded for the various events. The college participates in the inter – college sports held annually by the University and won the championship trophy in 2005. The college has a consistently good record of pass rate. In the last five years a few students secured ranks in University Examinations.

Criterion VI : Organisation and Management.

The Principal is the secretary of the Governing Body of the college which works in accordance with the Government aided college rules of the state government. The Principal is responsible for maintaining the general discipline of the college and for monitoring the efficiency with which the staff discharge their duties.

A number of committees have been constituted to ensure the smooth functioning of academics and the administration and to prepare for the NAAC assessment. The Academic and Examination committee prepare the academic calendar in accordance with government orders and the calendar proposed by the University.

The rate of fees collected from the students is in accordance with Government stipulations notified to the colleges. Financial support for the college comes exclusively from the state government.

Grievance redressal mechanism is put in place. Different facilities like loan, advance, etc. are available to teaching and non-teaching staff as per Government of Mizoram rules.

Criterion – VII : Healthy Practices.

The relationship between the students, Staff and Governing Body members of the college is very healthy being smoothly coordinated by the Principal. The functioning of the administration is also maintained transparently and smoothly and in a decentralized environment. Some of the healthy practices are

- Assessment of teachers by students, through self - assessment and ACRs submitted by the Principal to the higher authorities.
- Tutorials and remedial courses for the slow learners and seminars and paper presentations by advanced learners
- The promotion of spiritual and moral development of students through the activities of the Student Evangelical Union.
- The award of cash prizes as academic incentives.
- Publication of the annual college magazine.
- The NSS and NCC programmes and other awareness programmes which inculcate civic responsibilities in students putting into action the motto of the college 'Service to mankind'

Section 3 : Overall Analysis and Suggestions

The College came into being with the initiative of a student body who felt the need for an institution for financially backward students. It is the only morning college in Mizoram which runs on convenient hours, permitting self-employment by the students, many of whom are financially backward.

The checkered history of the college stands testimony to the struggle it is making. It took 10 years for the college to receive grant-in-aid. The college is yet to receive permanent affiliation by University and recognition by UGC making it difficult to access grants.

The objective of the College is to impart education for the spiritual and moral development of the students. The faculty members are all very dedicated and very interested in student progress. Financially backward students are given special consideration.

Annual assessment of teachers by the students in terms of feed-back forms filled up by them and submitted to the Principal helps maintain teaching standards by the Principal.

Commendable extension programmes are run by the NSS and NCC. Welfare Committees of teachers and students run effectively.

Infrastructure in terms of classroom space, student facilities, a playground, departmental staff rooms and a medical unit are immediate requirements of the college. The limited computer facilities may also be augmented. The library may be extended and arrangements be made to acquire books not sufficiently available in the state. There is a need to develop a research culture among the teachers.

The drop out rates varying between 5% and 13% in the departments need to be addressed. The attendance of students is not always up to the mark, and in view of the lack of classroom space, cannot be enforced.

Though the success rates are moderately high in most departments, the results of Honours Students are usually very average.

Facilities for excursion and tours outside the state are to be encouraged for both teachers and students. Teachers are not exposed to seminars and conferences outside the state either due to lack of information or on account of financial constraints.

Despite several constraints, the college is making a considerable effort to serve the student community. Young and dedicated teaching staff is the real asset of the college. These promising young academics have the potential and willingness to take the college to a higher level. The concerted efforts by stakeholders and support by the Government is the need of the hour.

Recommendations:

While appreciating the efforts taken by the college and adverse situation in which the college is operating, the team wishes to make the following recommendations for future growth of the institution:

- A permanent site with own building is an urgent necessity. The Government should come out with a decision to help the institution grow in this direction, as the college has already prepared a master plan and submitted a detailed project report.
- Security of the teachers in terms of service conditions is a matter of concern. Appropriate authority may be approached for this purpose.
- Opening of new programmes like Computer Science, Environmental Sciences, Home Science, Spoken English, may be taken into consideration. Self-financing courses may also be introduced.
- Job-oriented courses like Tourism, Social Work, Journalism, etc. may be introduced.
- An entrepreneurship cell may be initiated by the teachers to inculcate the spirit of enterprise in the students.
- Teaching – Learning process may be improved by introducing new methods, e.g. use of OHP's, CD's, VCD's, Wall magazines, Computers, etc.

- Teachers may take initiative in organizing seminars, raising funds from NGO's and the like.
- Periodical training of the non-teaching staff may also be considered.
- A Women's Study Centre may also be developed.
- Sports facilities should be improved.
- Career Counseling and Placement Cell need to be activated for benefit of students.
- Alumni and parents may come with concrete help in terms of donation, etc. to help address infrastructure problems.
- The library should be equipped with more books, newspapers and other collections to keep students informed of the latest developments.
- Concerted effort should be made to tap resources from regional and national funding agencies like NEC and DONER Ministry.

The peer team wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation for efforts taken by the Principal, Coordinator and Faculty Members of T. Romana College for volunteering for assessment despite many odds and trying their best for smooth conduct of peer team visit. The team wishes a bright future to this college.

Names and Signatures of Peer Team Members:

(Dr. KERMA S. LYNGDOH)

Chairperson

(Dr. SANGHAMITRA MUKHERJEE)

Member

(Prof. GIRISH SHARMA)

Member

I agree with the report

(Dr. F. LALHMINGSANGA)

Principal, T. Romana College

Aizawl, Mizoram