

**Assessment Report for
Institutional Accreditation of
Himachal Pradesh University
Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**

December 2-4, 2002

**National Assessment and Accreditation Council
Bangalore**

Assessment Report for the Institutional Accreditation of Himachal Pradesh University Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Section I: Preface

Himachal Pradesh University was established in June 1970 by an Act of Himachal Pradesh State Legislature with the objective to provide the people of Himachal Pradesh the facilities for higher quality education. Prior to its formation it was a Regional Center of Punjab University, Chandigarh, at Shimla. The University is situated in Shimla in a picturesque and sprawling campus, spread over 200 acres presenting a panoramic view of snow peaked mountains. The University also has a regional campus at Dharmasala, Kangra (HP) in a picturesque land of 50 acres.

With the goal and mission of disseminating and creating knowledge at higher intellectual level, in one of the most difficult, high altitude regions of the country, the University has grown in its strength with 12 faculties (8 of them campus based), 29 P. G. Departments (in the campus), 101 U. G. and P. G. affiliated colleges, 4 constituent colleges, 18 Post Graduate Centres and 1 Recognised Research Institute. It provides a unique service to the entire population of Himachal Pradesh, being the only multi-faculty University in the state. About 1,35,000 students are trained in various disciplines of higher education through the regular and distance modes of learning.

The University has a faculty strength of 285 consisting. 227 of them have Ph. D. degree, 24 of them have M. Phil. and 34 of them have P. G. degree. Some of the faculty members have distinction such as FNA, FNSc and Bhatnagar Award and Bhartendu Harsh Chandra Award. It has 803 students enrolled for UG courses, 1801 students enrolled for P. G. courses, 140 students enrolled for M. Phils. Programs and 664 students enrolled for Ph. D. programs in the campus. There are 7 Post Doctoral students and 334 Diploma/ Certificate course students. About 5 percent of students on the campus are from other states and there are significant number of NRI students and one overseas student. The enrolment in the self financing courses is also significant which is an important feature of this university.

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The University volunteered to be assessed by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Bangalore, and submitted its Self Study Report. NAAC constituted a Peer Team to visit the University and to validate the Self-Study Report. The team with Professor Satya Prakash, Vice-Chancellor, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, as the Chairman and Professor A. K. Sengupta, Lucknow University, Professor Nirupa Rani, Andhra University, Professor V. Krishna Kumar, University of Calicut, and Professor Furqan Qamar, Jamia Milia Islamia as members visited the University from 2-4 December 2002. Dr. M. S. Shyamasundar, Deputy Adviser, NAAC, coordinated the Peer Team Visit.

The Peer Team set off with the task of studying and analyzing the Self-Study Report submitted by the University. After the initial assessment based on the self-study report, the institutional visit was organized to collect more evidences. During this visit the team went through all the relevant documents, visited all the activity centres, facility centres and interacted with all the constituents of the institution including Court Members, Members of the Executive Council, the Vice Chancellor, administrative officers, the faculty members, the students and all the non-teaching staff. Based on these interactions and fact-finding exercises and keeping in view the criteria identified by the NAAC, the university was assessed for the quality of higher education offered. The assessment of the university under various criteria, the commendable features and issues for further development are presented in the following sections. The assessment of distance education has been excluded.

Section 2: Criterion-Wise Analysis

Criterion I: Curricular Aspects

The University offers 174 Academic programmes through 12 Faculties which comprise of 29 Departments, 18 Specialized Centres and one satellite campus. Besides, the university also has 101 affiliated colleges and 4 constituent colleges. There are 4749 students enrolled in the campus of which only 803 are in the undergraduate courses while another 334 students are enrolled in certificate and diploma programmes. Thus the university teaching Departments mainly focus on postgraduate education and the undergraduate education is largely assigned to

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the associated and affiliated colleges. But some of the colleges of the university are also engaged in postgraduate teaching. Thus as many as 72, 893 undergraduate and 1062 post graduate students are enrolled in the affiliated and associated colleges of the university. Besides, the university also has International Centre for Distance Education and Open Learning (ICDEOL), which offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to more than 37, 000 students, largely located in remote areas of the region. Most of the teaching departments of the university have M.Phil., Ph.D, DSc/DLit programmes which is a yardstick of academic standards.

The university offers a wide range of academic programmes, which in addition to the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes also include Post-Doctoral, Ph.D., M.Phil., Postgraduate Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas and Certificate Courses. These programmes, as indicated earlier, are provided through 12 Faculties, of these 8 Faculties are located in the university campus. These include the faculties of Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Law, Social Sciences, Commerce, Vocational Studies, Management, Medicine, Engineering and Performing Art.

Analysis of the broad spectrum of courses offered by the university shows that they are largely relevant to the societal needs and cater to the special needs of the region where the university is located. As many as 17 postgraduate programmes and nearly all diploma programmes were found to be career-oriented. The undergraduate courses available on the campus are generally career-oriented and professional in nature.

The temporal plan of academic work in the University is in both semester and Annual systems. The postgraduate programmes, the diploma and certificate programmes are all semester based while the undergraduate courses are on annual examination basis.

Academic programmes and curricula of the university are regularly reviewed and updated every 5 years or even earlier depending upon the needs of the students. In curricula update, the Board of Studies of each department, which has 30 to 40% experts drawn from other universities, takes into consideration the national curricular resources such as UGC, AICTE etc, and their recommendations are incorporated in the syllabi. Normally it takes one year for the changes in the curricula to come into effect because the curricular revision requires consultation with an Expert Committee, recommendation of the Board of Studies and Faculty Board and finally the approval of the Academic Council. In order to expedite the process, the university has constituted a Standing Committee of the Academic Council which may approve the changes in the curricula pending the approval of the Academic Council. It has, however, been felt that the curricular revision should be comprehensive and must introduce contemporary concepts and issues. Besides, the recommended readings mentioned in the syllabi need to be kept up-to-date.

The university has also been keeping pace with the latest developments and requirements of the society which it caters. During the last year, the University introduced seven new Professional programmes, mostly on self-financing basis and has plans to introduce another seven new programmes. These initiatives are constructive as they provide the students opportunity to receive most relevant higher education. Besides, the introduction of self-financing seats in these courses help the University generate the much needed financial resources and create employment opportunities.

In all Science Courses such as those offered by the Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Information Technology and Biotechnology, the teaching is Laboratory based and Project work has been made an integral part of academic component. In professional courses like

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Management, Information Technology, Tourism and Vocational Studies, field survey and in-industry and on-job training has also been incorporated to make these programmes more meaningful. Students are required to participate in seminars, group discussions and other confidence building activities. Activities like these provide a thorough work-oriented practical training to the students and is quite a useful component of the academic programmes of the university. The University has also developed linkages with other universities and institutions not only in the Himalayan region but also with other national and international (MOU with Soka University, Japan) institutions, which has widened the academic horizons of university community and the teaching programmes that the University offers.

The Board of Studies is empowered to redesign the curricula and also dispense with existing programmes paving way for induction of new courses depending upon the nature and requirement of the subjects. A few initiatives in this regard deserve special mention; the university was quick to restructure its MFC and MIB programs as MBA(Finance) and MBA(International Business) in order to cater to the needs of the industry and corporate business houses and international organizations.

In many teaching departments of Science, particularly in the Computer Science, Business Management, Information Technology, Bio-Technology, Remote Sensing and Environmental Studies, Inter-Disciplinary approach has been adopted. In departments like Management Studies, Computer Science, Vocational Studies, the students are provided with placement opportunities and it is heartening to note that courses like Masters in Tourism Administration (MTA) have been able to attain cent per cent placements for their interns.

It was felt by the Committee that the curricula of the certificate programmes offered by such Departments as Geography, Bhoti Language, Public Administration, Sanskrit, Political

Science and Commerce are career oriented but can be strengthened further. Course in Bhoti language is unique and has a potential and the University may consider establishing a separate Centre for Buddhist Studies. The University may also consider restructuring some of its existing departments which are allied in nature but have meagre resources in a single unit so as to improve resource use efficiency and quality.

Yet another area where the University may concentrate is the integration of computer awareness in the curricula of all of its academic programmes. This will provide Computer orientation to all teaching programmes of the University.

Criterion II : Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

The university receives sizable number of applications for admission in nearly all of its courses and the admission processes is quite competitive. Admission in some programmes, particularly the professional courses, is done through a combined entrance examination on national basis, followed by interview. In certain courses such as Management, Information Technology and Tourism, interviews and group discussion also make a part of admission process. The entrance examination question papers consist of multiple choice questions (MCQs) and these are evaluated through OMR and the results are declared promptly. In most of the conventional courses, the admission is based on merit of the performance of the student in the qualifying examination.

In most of the teaching Departments semester system of teaching is followed at the postgraduate and diploma level programmes. However, internal assessment and continuous evaluation is practiced only in few departments such as Information Technology, Tourism and Bio-technology. In general the student-teacher interaction is adequate. In the teaching process, however, greater emphasis needs to be placed on problem-oriented approach.

Most of the teaching departments do not have separate departmental library, which is needed for a better learning process. This is because of the paucity of funds. The students have to depend on the Central Library.

The University also provides other avenues for the students as well to improve their skills; these include seminars, symposium, workshops, field visits, field surveys, on-job

training, in-industry training and media outfits. The University also offers bridge courses in Arts and Science, which promotes integration of weaker students in the main stream. Departments of the University also invite occasionally learned scholars, professionals to give additional academic inputs on areas of contemporary relevance. In some of the departments such as English, History and Tourism, the student-teacher interaction is positive, and encouraging and this sort of harmony helps the student in adopting the new ideas very quickly and effectively.

The University has 262 working days out of which teaching is carried on 180 days. The ratio of teaching staff to non-teaching staff is 1:3. This data is very satisfactory for the academic programme.

Since its inception, the University has been carrying out evaluation through a combination modes, which includes spot evaluation, postal evaluation and door evaluation. Door evaluation is especially practised in case of distance education programmes. During the last one decade the method of evaluation has changed only once, however, the method of evaluation needs to be reviewed regularly and may be changed as per need of the course.

While the University has Semester System in all of its postgraduate programmes, it is the considered opinion of the Committee that the university needs to introduce continuous evaluation. This will provide a better training to learn a given subject and especially in science subjects. Continuous assessment with participation of teacher who teaches and with transparent instruments to check possible abuses need to be put in place. It may be realised that external examination system does not create sufficient faith between the teacher and the student. The examination system should be more accountable on the part of the students and teachers and this should motivate the students to put in continuous hard work.

The university practices double evaluation in programs offered by its Medical Colleges and Engineering Faculty. Facilities of rechecking and revaluation have also been extended to the students of most programs. Moderation and adjustment is done at the time of evaluation of results of both post-graduate and undergraduate levels. However, the strong point is that the merit remains unchanged. The results are regularly declared in time, and no academic session or semester has ever been lost by the University due to delayed declaration of results. Examination dates comprise part of University Ordinance and University strictly adheres to it.

The University may consider reviewing its examination system. Excessive choices in the examination question papers may not be allowed. More quantitative and application-oriented questions need to be added as per requirement of NET and other State level examination tests. The University may also consider introducing a proper grading system by improving the quality of question paper and also by method of evaluation. It is desirable that the regular examination of the University be delinked from the distance education examination.

The faculty of the university is highly qualified and as many as 113 teachers have one step higher qualification than the mandatory minimum level. The recruitment of the young staff in the last two years is only 22. The faculty members update themselves by attending seminars, conferences, workshops and involving in research programmes. While on the one hand the faculty members of the science departments are having computer knowledge, majority of the teachers in the social sciences and humanities may benefit a great deal if the university provides them training in computer application. The faculty members have also availed study leave and sabbatical leave to update themselves to the research programme. The University has also established national and international linkages in the professional courses.

Criterion III: Research, Consultancy, and Extension

The library is well endowed with 1.83 lakh books and 532 journals. The University has acquired research libraries of eminent scholars and has tie-up with the Institutes of Advanced Studies. Some of the Departments are also interlinked to other institutions to get the information about the recent developments. However, more funds are required to subscribe to the standard journals especially in the areas of science. The University also needs to subscribe to online journals and online data base to promote research environment. It is time to start marching towards transforming the Library to a digital library.

About 80 percent of the faculty members are actively engaged in research; as many as 17 major and 10 minor research projects, mostly in sciences, have been going on in the University. About 19 research projects were completed during the past two years. It is felt that the faculty members should write more research projects to the funding agencies. There are a very few research projects in Arts Faculty, in Languages and in the Professional Courses. University may take special care to get the research projects in these subjects to promote the

academic excellence. As compared to the intellectual and physical strength of the faculty the number of research projects at hand is meagre.

Research Committee constituted for each discipline monitors the Ph.D. programmes in respective departments. This committee examines research proposals, ensures standards and recommends the appointment of examiners; About 664 research scholars, mostly full time, are currently enrolled in the University besides 7 post doctoral fellows, mostly in sciences. Out of the large number of students enrolled for Ph.D., 15 scholars are getting the UGC and 5 CSIR fellowships. The University awarded PhD degree to 225 research scholars during the past five years period. However it has been observed that only half of the enrolled PhD scholars are actively engaged in research work. Perhaps a better and healthy student-teacher interaction is called for to improve the situation. A large number of students of the University have qualified UGC-NET examination but only few students have been qualified for fellowships.

During the past five years, faculty members published 611 research papers in the national and international journals. As many as 214 books were also published by the teachers. 3 patents are registered, which is a credit to the Institution. As far as the quality of research publication is concerned in the Science Faculty, in departments such as in Physics, Chemistry, Biosciences and Mathematics it is excellent. Some faculty members are Fellows of Scientific Academies; Prof. Banerji in Mathematics has received the Bhatnagar Award : Most of the Science Departments have high potential for research and these departments should apply for SAP, COSSIST, FIST and other value oriented research programs. In Arts Faculties in the Departments such as Sociology, History, English, Journalism and Sanskrit has quality publications. Prof. T.D.S. Alok in Journalism has been awarded Bhartendu Harsihchand Patrakarita Award. The Department of History has been recently selected for special assistance (SAP) by UGC. Research programs in departments like Political Science, Public Administration, Commerce and management and in other professional courses requires special attention.

The newly conceived project on Integrated Studies on Himalyan Regions, the people, the resources and the environment offers unique opportunity for various faculties to interact and to strengthen their research capabilities and acquire multi-disciplinary orientation. It is

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worth mentioning that the University has been chosen by the University Grants Commission as the Center of Excellence in this area innovative.

The broad areas of consultancy provided by the University in areas such as computer application, biotechnology, chemistry, tourism, entrepreneurship development and adult education generated revenue of Rs. 49.30 lakhs. These efforts are largely individual based and the university needs to develop institutional mechanism and a nodal agency to promote strong industry and university interaction leading to adequate revenue generation. The Departments running professional courses have potential to generate large resources.

The university involves in extension activities through Adult & Continuing Education, Distance Education, Women's Study Center, Yoga Center, Health Center and Rural Development Centre. Extension activities are also envisaged under the newly established integrated institute for Himalayan Studies. These studies further need to be strengthened, coordinated and streamlined as per the requirements of the rural areas.

Criterion IV: Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The physical infrastructure consists of administrative building, 13 blocks for teaching departments, one Central Library, 7 boys hostels serving 700 students and 5 girls hostels for 500 students, Health Centre, Sophisticated Scientific and Instrumentation Centre, Employment, Information and Guidance Bureau, One Bank, Post Office, Accommodation for Teaching and Non-teaching staff, Guest House, one General Auditorium, one Auditorium for Girl Students, 8 Conference Halls, Students Service Center, canteen etc., These are located inside the campus. In addition to the 6 buses of the University 2 more buses are hired to take care of transport facility. Available infrastructural facilities are adequate to meet the requirement of the present academic programs in the University. However, on priority basis additional buildings be contemplated to accommodate such departments as Journalism, Geography, Buddhist Studies, Staff Club, Community Centers and others. Few hostels for girls and boys may also be added on need basis.

Maintenance is done through maintenance wing of the university and the furniture etc are repaired through its store purchase office. Cleanliness is done by the in-house staff and a separate Estate Officer is there to ensure plantation and beautification of the campus. The university has a

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well-organized security system to safeguard its campus and facilities. However, it has been noted that the maintenance of Boys Hostels, some teaching departments, canteens, research labs, administrative building and common facilities need further improvement in their maintenance. A Cleanliness awareness campaign is needed in the university. Moreover, sizable non-plan grants are required for the maintenance and upkeep of the assets of the university.

The available infrastructure of the university is utilized to the fullest possible extent. The central library has a collection of about 1,83,689 books and subscribes to 385 national and 156 international journals. It is open for a period of 12 hours from 9.00 A.M. to 9.00 P.M. The ratio of library books to number of students enrolled is 55:1. The library provides the reprographic and Internet facilities and the Department of Library and information science also has audio and video facilities. The annual outlay of the library is a modest Rs.37 lakhs, out of which 20 lakhs are spent on journal subscription. This is 2.5% of the annual budget. In view of the new courses and high cost of books and international journals, this budget outlay is too meager. The reading rooms of the university library were found to be crowded which is a positive feature and it is felt that the university needs to establish departmental library system.

The university has many small computer centers at various departments like the library, the Computer Center, the Information Technology, the Academic Staff College, the Nodal Centers, the Computer Science and at many other places in addition to the Computer Centre. The computer facilities are adequate but they need to be integrated through networking and this facility should also be extended to those departments where such facilities do not exist. The Science Departments have adequate number of teaching and research laboratories as per the needs of the students. However, for competitive research, the research laboratories need to be upgraded and restructured. Faculty members may be encouraged to undertake research projects to generate additional resources for research.

There is a Health Centre, with Medical Officers, Para-medical staff and supporting staff. Compulsory general medical check-up, maintenance of health records and compulsory health insurance are provided for the teaching, non-teaching staff and students. There is an ambulance to take care of emergencies. The University also provides reimbursement facility for medical expenses. The medical services of the neighboring medical colleges are also available to the University community.

The University has adequate infrastructure for physical education through Department of Physical Education, Directorate of Physical Education. The Physical education center provides facilities for Football, volleyball, cricket, badminton and other indoor games. The sport-persons transit hostel and indoor gymnasium are under construction. A national seminar on "Trends in Physical Education in the new Millennium" was organized by the Physical Education Department. Sports scholarships, sports kit for participants free of cost, TA/DA, Refreshment Allowances, Sports Equipment for practice and participation, Extra weightage at the time of admission assigned to sports, Honours to sport persons with certificate of merit, colors, award and Credit for attendance are some of the incentives offered by the University for the promotion of sports activities. The achievement of students at national and inter-university level calls for special mention.

The university has a well maintained guest house for resource persons. The University Employment Bureau needs to be strengthened to be able to undertake career and job counseling through workshops and circulars to the Departments.

For settling the grievances of the University employees and faculty members, the University has a grievance redressal committee which periodically meets and settles the grievances.

Criterion V: Student Support and Progression

The campus student community of 3759 is mainly from the state of Himachal Pradesh. However a small percentage of (about 4%) students come from other states. There are about 4% NRI students and just one over-seas student. It has enrolled with huge off-campus student strength of under-graduate students at the affiliated colleges and distance mode centre. The University has a fully functional office of students welfare headed by the Dean, Student's Welfare. Good hostel facilities with T.V. and facilities like Telephone, cultural clubs and sports clubs (in door & out door) are available in the campus. The closure vicinity of the hostel complexes, a cooperative store which can meet their requirements may be thought about.

During interaction with the students two kinds of feedback was emerged, one concerning their studies, academic pursuits and the other pertain to interests and expectations, co curricular activities and also about facilities in the hostels and student support services.

Placement activities are organized by departments offering professional courses. However, its canvas needs to be widened. The faculty members also encourage the students of various departments for rendering community development services.

The institution publishes updated prospectus annually with relevant information for the students. The students are also benefited by academic and career counseling. The teachers of the faculty keep close relation with students and provide them with academic and career counseling through co-ordial means. The students are also encouraged for self-employment. The success rate in the undergraduate courses is about 52 percent and drop out rates are about 10 percent. However, in the Diploma courses the drop rate goes to 50 percent and the success rate is nearly 70 percent. In the postgraduate courses drop out rate is about 10 percent and the success rate is about 80 percent. The high success rate in the post graduate courses is attributable to the fact that these courses are located exclusively in the university campus.

Some Departments of the University has alumni association which keep track of their alumni. This activity needs to be streamlined, spread and strengthened with adequate record keeping and follow up.

The university does provide financial assistance in the form of fellowships, national scholarships and merit-cum-means scholarship. Not a very large number of students are benefiting from the financial aid programs. Besides, the amount of scholarships is too meagre to be of much help to the meritorious and needy students. Significantly, it may be noted that most of the students facilities such as hostel, canteen, library, transport, recreation etc are highly subsidized.

The university publishes its prospectus regularly and has a website which disseminate information to students and all concerned about the activities, rules and regulations of the university.

Criterion VI: Organization and Management

The university is governed by the Himachal Pradesh University Act which spells out the authority structure, offices, the bodies and committees, their power functions, and duties. It has a democratic structure and is fair and transparent through collective participation of University Authorities with representatives from affiliated colleges, registered graduates and

the Government. There are Academic and Executive Council, Faculty Boards and Board of Studies. The university follows the directive and guidelines issued by the UGC, Government of India and Government of Himachal Pradesh from time to time. The university also maintains the confidential report of the administrative staff. The university also provides opportunities to the administrative staff to attend the training programs related to administration.

University has carried out Academic and Administrative Audit to monitor and evaluate the quality performance in teaching, research and administrative practices to take the stock of the situation. This is indeed a distinct positive feature to ensure academic accountability and administrative efficiency.

The Academic Calendar which is prepared by the Dean of Studies and approved by the Academic Council is strictly followed. This advanced planning relating to announcement of examination dates undoubtedly contributes to the smooth and timely completion of examinations.

Teaching and non teaching staff are recruited through an open selection with well laid down mechanism as enshrined in the Statutes. Reservation rules are strictly followed at all places of selection and promotion to ensure social justice. The headship is rotational; continuity is maintained through Departmental Councils and inter-departmental coordination is facilitated through office of the Dean of Studies. Merits cum seniority criterion is being adopted for internal promotion of non-teaching staff as well. Committee recommends examination reforms by way of innovation/changes in the examination system. The recent initiative in this regard through limited computerization of the examination system needs further strengthening. There are statutory procedures laid down for purchases and procurement of books, journals (through Library Committee). Matters related to affiliation are looked after by a sub-committee known as Affiliation Committee. However, necessary arrangements may be made in the procedures for the smooth running of the system.

Teacher student ratio is 1:20 which is good but the ratio of the teacher in the campus to the administrative staff is 1:4. However this is to be analyzed in relation to the large number of affiliated colleges and the consequent work load. The code of discipline is strictly adhered to. Computerization of administrative services will ensure transparency and reduce the financial burden.

The internal communication facilities are adequate, however, the existing computer facilities also need to be utilized for administrative purposes. Moreover the administrative and examination offices need to be computerized.

The main source of income for the University is the state Government Grant, Plan Grant from UGC, Central Government Grants and income from self-financing courses. Some funds are also generated through donations, consultancy and a significant contribution does come from the self-financing courses and distance mode of education. However the income from the tuition fees and hostel fees is very meagre and there is need for progressive revision to bring it to a sustainable level. It has been observed that grants received from different sources have been fully utilized during the last two years.

The Finance Department maintains the record of the accounts of the university which are audited by the internal audit team as well as by the AG office auditors of the government. The budget of the university is forecasted by the Finance Department on the basis of the Departmental requirements and these demands for grants are approved by the Finance Committee comprising among others the Principal Secretary, Finance and Education Secretary and Chancellor's nominee.

Further financial resources can be mobilized by strengthening self-financing courses, revising the rent of the university property, by submitting research projects to various research funding agencies and by creation of chairs by corporate sector. Integration and restructuring of different facilitates may help in improving further effective utilization and augmentation of financial resources.

Criterion VII: Healthy Practices

The university significantly contributes to the total enrichment of the quality of life in this region by spreading the message of education to all at their doors in a very economic and synergic way. The university is acting as an instrument for the development of the rural people particularly the economically oppressed, women and children.

The University had linkages with Ford Foundation, NASA, DAAD, World Bank, Toyota Foundation, Commonwealth Higher Education Services, UNESCO, UNICEF and SOKA, College Development Council (CDC) serves as bridge between the university and the

colleges affiliated to the university; and the interaction and exchange of information is on regular basis.

The university holds regular meetings with the chairpersons of different departments of studies in order to involve them proactively in the decision making process. Meetings of the university authorities are held regularly. The University's MOU with Ford Foundation and SOKA Japan resulted in good campus diversity and more such MOUs need to be thought about.

The University has endeavoured to match the norms of the best institutions of its kind in terms of student-teacher ratio, qualification and pay scales. The Academic Staff College has very good infrastructure and is organising innovative training programmes for administrators, besides attending to functions assigned.

The university imparts education to the local folk at every nook and corner of this hilly region through a network of affiliated colleges, distance education; continuous and adult education, rural development programs and extension services.

The university also holds NSS camps for social awareness program in the very remote interior region of the hills. The university has a large number of social security measures, welfare schemes and safety nets both for students and employees of the university. More importantly, there is a full fledged course on value education in the university in its B. Ed program.

The student union of the university is actively participating in meaningful extension activities such as blood donation camps, tree plantation, environment awareness programs charity shows and in other areas of social concerns. These activities are really useful for social awareness and in keeping the student community closure to their cultural roots.

Cultural matrix of the campus is reflected in activities like youth festivals, cultural competition, sports meets, debates, quizzes, symposia and communication. All these activities are well coordinated by the Dean Student's Welfare.

Section 3: Overall Analysis

The Peer Team, after going through the Self Study Report and after interacting with various academic and administrative bodies and the academic and non-academic communities

of the University, leaves with a pleasant feeling that Himachal Pradesh University has made commendable progress towards fulfilling its vision and goals in the field of higher education.

The achievements of the University in terms of students' success rate in post-graduate examinations, quality research, impressive spectrum of teaching facilities and laboratories, introduction of career-oriented courses, innovative teaching techniques, and introduction of participation of its employees, students and teachers in the decision-making process are note worthy.

Despite the fact that the University is located in the periphery of the country and continues to encounter the limitations and challenges peculiar to hill Universities, it has developed an impressive infrastructure essential for evolving a culture for academic excellence. Its faculty members have distinguished themselves to certain extent through their achievements and scholarship both at the national and international levels. The management has been benign, cooperative and efficient. It is highly responsive to the emerging demands of the time as it has set up new centres and introduced the component of information technology/ computer applications in different courses.

But, there are many areas where it has to pay more focused attention. Some of these areas include development of productive research and extension culture, continuous renewal and up gradation of teaching courses and examination system and other facilities to match national and international standards, availability of electronic/ online resources for research, such as, electronic journals.

There are several positive features and good practices of the University which the Peer Team likes to commend upon.

- Academic options in tune with the objectives and goals.
- Introduction of electives giving horizontal mobility at the PG level.
- Strength of the student facilities and the concern shown to the academic needs
- Frequent updating of the curricula and syllabi to make them relevant for the societal needs and contemporary development;
- Presence of 30% outside experts in the Boards of Studies
- Establishment of Schools of Studies related to the Special Characteristic features of Himachal Pradesh

- Overall Academic Excellence of the Faculty
- Reasonable outlay of the budget set apart for academic activities.
- Self-financing courses and Career based courses introduced by the University
- Student support introduced by the University
- Consultancy and patent registration by the faculty members of the university
- Foreign visits of the faculty members
- Consistency in conducting examination and declaration of results in time
- Uninterrupted adherence to academic calendar year after year
- Resource generation through self-financing courses, consultancy and other fund raising drives
- Admission of students based on a combination of Entrance Examinations, group discussion, interviews in professional courses and merit of the qualifying examination in conventional courses.
- Computer and internet facilities and computer courses for staff
- The well-designed brochures for the students, particularly in professional courses
- The healthy relationship between the administration, faculty and the students.
- The recognition received by some of the faculty members
- Single window system of admission for foreign and NRI students
- Promotion of composite culture through its curricula and pedagogy

While the University works towards the fulfillment of its cherished objectives, to enhance the quality of its educational programs, the University may wish to consider the following:

- Introduction of credit based system for campus studies
- Reorganization of the departments as schools
- Structural set-up to offer inter-disciplinary courses
- Filling-up of vacant Faculty positions for effective teaching.
- Need to infuse young talents in areas of current interest at frequent intervals as teachers
- Strengthening the Computer facilities at all Departments along with the Internet facilities
- Extension Work among the tribal, economically and socially backward communities with the objective of empowering them
- Efforts to mobilize resources by exploring possibilities to get financial support from

external agencies like DST, ICAR, ICHR, CSIR, ICSSR, AICTE, etc.

- Administrative factors unfriendly to the operation of external projects should be identified and removed through modification of operating rules.
- Fees structure be progressively revised to generate more resources; however this should be done in such a way that the interest of socially and economically weaker sections are taken care of.
- The present availability of educational loans at lower rates could be tied up with the job-oriented courses.
- Career guidance to students in the present fast changing scenario to make them aware of emerging opportunities requires purposeful handling. More attention is to be given to this requirement. The affiliated colleges should also be encouraged to take initiatives in this regard by the University.
- The affiliated colleges should be brought under an e-net and avenues should be explored to make the expertise available in the campus accessible more widely.
- Maintenance and upkeep of the essential services needs special care in view of the aging infrastructure.
- Modernization of the library, laboratories and examination system.
- Streamlining Ph.D. admissions, monitoring and evaluation.
- Frequent update options to the teachers with incentives for doing good quality research.
- Promotion and Motivation for Researchers to go for quality research publication.
- In view of the serenity and beauty of the campus, the university is well placed in attracting foreign students, a drive needs to be launched in this regard.
- Promotional schemes, participation in university fair etc of the EdCil or any other similar organization may be availed for the purpose.
- Promotion of need based effective teaching learning process.
- University-industry interaction and collaboration, for placement activities and additional resource mobilisation need to be extended to all courses/programs at the postgraduate level.

The Peer Team records its appreciation of the purposeful Self-analysis carried out by the University and for the good-will extended to the team during the visit. The team wishes the University all success in its march towards excellence.

Ashish Prakash
4.12.02

Name and signature of the peer team members

1. Name of the Chairman : Prof. Satya Prakash

Signature:

Satya Prakash
4.12.02

2. Name of the Member : Prof. A. K. Sengupta

Signature:

A. K. Sengupta 4.12.2002

3. Name of the Member : Prof. V. Krishna Kumar

Signature:

[Signature]

4. Name of the Member : Prof. Nirupa Rani

Signature:

K. Nirupa Rani

5. Name of the Member : Prof. Furqan Qamar

Signature

[Signature]

I agree with the observations and recommendations made by the peer team in this report.

Name & Signature of the Head of the Institution

S. D. Sharma
4.11.02
Prof. S. D. Sharma
Vice Chancellor
H.P. University
Shimla-171005



राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद्

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission

Certificate of Accreditation

*The Executive Committee of the
National Assessment and Accreditation Council
on the recommendation of the duly appointed
Peer Team is pleased to declare the*

Himachal Pradesh University

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh as

Accredited¹

at the B⁺⁺ level².

(among the Universities)

Date : March 21, 2003



U. P. N. ai

Director

EC-27-60

1. This certification is valid for a period of Five years with effect from the academic year 2002 - 2003.
2. An institutional score (%) in the range of 55-60 denotes C grade, 60-65 - C* grade, 65-70 - C** grade, 70-75 - B grade, 75-80 - B* grade, 80-85 - B** grade, 85-90 - A grade, 90-95 - A* grade, 95-100 - A** grade (upper limits exclusive).