ST.XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), AHMEDABAD-9

External Evaluation Report: 2017 – 18

The transformation that has happened to the institution at every level was the focus of the external evaluation conducted by the institution at the end of 4th year of autonomy. The external team was consisting of Dr Arockiasamy Xavier, S.J, Principal of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu; Dr. Jacintha Quredras, Principal of Maris Stella, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh and Dr. FatimaVasanth, Deputy Principal, Loyola College, Chennai. The external audit was conducted on 8th and 9th October, 2018.
The observations of the committee is as follows:

A) STRENGTHS OF THE COLLEGE

1. St. Xavier's College has a far sighted vision & mission translated into concrete and scalable heights. The College has been constantly ranked high by several agencies for its excellence in education.
2. The Institution is much sought after for quality education and the demand ratio is high which is a good indicator. It is a great credit to St. Xavier's to be a model college in Ahmedabad.
3. The College has optimally explored the multifarious potential of autonomy with diversified Academic Programmes ranging from Conventional Science courses to Technology driven courses. Industry & Academic collaboration such as TCS handholding is an excellent Model.
4. Hands on Research, entrepreneurial ventures as anchored by Physics, Chemistry & Biochemistry-Biotechnology department are commendable and noteworthy.
5. Innovative courses such as B.Com-BPS &M.Sc. Big Data Analytics is setting trends in Higher education arena.
6. Process of Admission is transparent and student friendly. The college engages Staff & Student counselors at the time of admission to provide a comfortable environment for the new entrant which can be observed as healthy practice.
7. Inclusive education is provided and there is an effective institutionalized mechanism in place for accompaniment of students through several initiatives. Student profile reflects the equity & access to students from different state & diverse talent.
8. Through mentoring, remedial learning, personalized and group study the college addresses the challenges of slow learners.
9. Process involved in recruitment of faculty is rigorous with due weightage given to student's inputs on demo sessions & enhancement of qualification and capacity building of faculty is appreciative.
10. Implementation of API keeps faculty to upscale their progress and monitor gaps which is a competitive practice.
11. Excellent research culture is observed in many Depts. Initiating & recognizing students into quality research at an early stage is commendable. The MOU's with International & National organization particularly with ISRO, IDR, ACTI and ISC is appreciated.
12. Team work and cooperation in some departments are excellent and visible as they joyfully work for the betterment of the college.

13. A full fledge use of ERP for online admission, data Base of students and examination related governance, positions the college technically strong.
14. The IQAC office is functioning very systematically under the able leadership of the committed co-ordinator.
15. The office of the Controller of Examination is well structured and is effectively functional. It is robust and all systems are in place. With minimum staff he is doing excellent work.
16. Student Support centre is to be appreciated for their sincere work.
17. Positive and supportive Management is responsible for steady forward progress. Congrats to Fr. Principal for his admirable way of functioning, participatory governance and democratic leadership which is simple, unassuming, accommodative, and able to get things done.

B) CONCERNS & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Each Department can develop their respective Vision to align it with the overall Vision and Mission of the college.
2. Upgradation of all UG programmes to PG Level and starting new courses that are market relevant can be on the road map. However the workload concerns should be addressed.
3. More visibility for the entrepreneurial projects undertaken by the Depts. of Chemistry, Physics and Bio Technology is needed. The college website can enable to capture this.
4. Departments can be encouraged to have start ups and the ongoing projects at the Dept. of Chemistry can be replicated by other depts.
5. E-learning materials of the faculty could be generated and uploaded in the college website. Orientation and Training is required for developing e content.
6. Academic programmes in the departments are to be strengthened. Department wise Academic Audit could be conducted every year and blue print should be prepared for up scaling.
7. Bridge course in English can be introduced for the first year students before the commencement of regular classes to address the problems in communication and for slow learners.
8. A clear policy on Consultancy and Research has to be framed by the College Management.
9. Counselling & Mentoring can be formalised and brought into the system as part of Students support services.
10. Research culture can be cultivated with more robust activities. College has to explore all avenues to carry out quality research.
11. Human Excellence / Foundation Courses could be introduced where learning will become life oriented and relevant to learners.
12. International conferences and joint research publications with foreign universities can be organised for global visibility and networking.
13. Technology driven teaching and administration to be accelerated.
14. Along with the existing MoU's, more networking, collaboration, with premier institutions and foreign universities could be contemplated and strengthened. Particularly MoUs with top Government Science centres in Ahmadabad can be visualised as many industries in Ahmadabad could fund researches if approached with good research proposals on contemporary topics.

15. New methodologies of assessing students can be tried out, such as MCQ, Tech-enabled assessment, online tests to take students away from conventional methods.
16. For blended learning MOOCs, NPETL Courses can be introduced for students and a special drive can be undertaken for enrolment.
17. Some departments require to resolve internal conflicts. It is suggested that team building activities are periodically organised by the Management and effective teams are formed.
18. Cleanliness and maintenance of the campus should be given priority.
19. Timeline for preparation for Autonomy & NAAC should be made ready as you have very limited time for the submission for both the NAAC reaccreditation and Autonomy Review. IQAC has to gear up to get the college ready for the visits.

Highlights of 2017 – 18
1) Initiating 3 new self-finance programmes namely MSc Mathematics, MSc Biotechnology, MSc Chemistry (Analytical), and M.Sc Physics
2) Industry & Academic collaboration such as TCS handholding is an excellent Model.

Members of the Committee:
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