6.5.3 Academic and Administrative Audit (AAA) and follow up action taken (2022-23)
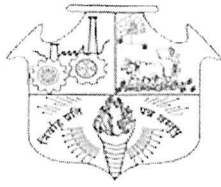
S.P. MANDALI'S

R. A. Podar College
of Commerce & Economics (Autonomous)

Peer Team Report

on

Academic and Administrative Audit

(2022-2023)

Report of Academic and Administrative Audit 2022-23

Date of the Academic and Administrative Audit: Thursday, 31st August 2023

Timing: 10:30 am onwards

Venue: R.A. Podar College Conference Room

Members of the Academic and Administrative Audit Peer Review committee:

Dr. Naresh Chandra, Chairperson

Dr. Rohini Kelkar, Member

Dr. Anita Kanwar, Member

1. Introduction

Profile of the College	
Name of the College	**R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous)**
	Place: **Mumbai** State: **Maharashtra**
Date of Visit	Thursday, 31st August 2023
Affiliating University	**University of Mumbai**
Status of the College	**Autonomous**
Financial Category	**Grant-in-aid Government funded** **Self-finance**
Type of College	**Co-education**
No. of Programmes:	**UG: PG: Ph D:** **06 05 01(4)**
Year of Establishment	**20th June 1941**

UGC recognition	2(f) & 12B		
Location of the College	Urban		
Area of the campus (in acres)	0.62 acres		
No. of Teachers			
	Men	Women	Total
Permanent:	8	11	19
Temporary Full Time:	1	14	15
Total no. of Teachers Ph. D:	3	5	8
Total no. of Teachers PG:	9	25	34
Librarian	1	0	1
No. of Students:			
UG:	1388	1554	2942
PG:	139	177	316
Ph.D.:	2	9	11
Total	1529	1740	3269

The interaction with the Peer Team was as follows:

Presentation NAAC Criterion Wise & IQAC presentation
Presentation by Principal Dr Shobana Vasudevan
Interaction with Students
Infrastructure visit
Interaction with Faculty
Document Verification
Meeting with Faculty to share observations
Vote of thanks

2. About the Institution

R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous) is one of the leading and premier educational institutions in the stream of commerce in Mumbai city run under the flagship of the Shikshana Prasaraka Mandali, Pune. The College is the first non-government Commerce college to be started by the University of Bombay, in January 1941. The college was granted permanent affiliation by the then University of Bombay, on 17th August 1950. The College is accredited by NAAC with an A+ grade and a CGPA of 3.68, in the third cycle on 22nd February 2017. (Valid until 21st February, 2024).

A single-faculty Commerce College, it offers six UG Programs - B. Com with Accountancy and Business Management, Bachelor in Management Studies, B.Com in Actuarial Studies, B.Com in Financial Markets, BBA in Shipping and Logistic Management and BSc in Data Science and Analytics. It also offers 5 PG programmes- M.Com - in Accountancy, M.Com - in Management, M.Com - in Business Analytics, M.Com - in Behavioral Finance, M.Com - in International Business and four Ph.D. programmes.

4

The philosophy of R. A. Podar College can be expressed in 2 lines –

'Samaani va aakooti samaanaa hridayaani vaham'.

Meaning: One in mind and one in heart -may this be the atmosphere in which we work at this college, so that a spirit of healthy competition prevails - one in which, each lives and lets another live a more purposeful life.

'Na hi gnyaanen sadrasham pavitramiha vidyate'

Meaning: There is nothing in this universe as pure as knowledge -may this be the mission that guides our students, so that they never stop drinking at the fountain of knowledge in all its forms, curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular

On February 12th, 2019, the college achieved a remarkable milestone by joining an esteemed league of autonomous institutions within the country. Since that pivotal moment, the college has embarked on a new and transformative journey, dedicated to providing inclusive, accessible, and affordable higher education of exceptional quality in the field of Commerce. The grant of academic autonomy has bestowed upon the college the power to explore innovative methods in teaching, learning, and evaluation. Operating under this autonomy, the college has gained the freedom to craft and shape syllabi, which are meticulously prepared by the Board of Studies and subsequently approved by both the Academic Council and the Governing Body of R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous).

This autonomy has served as the driving force for enhancing the standard of education in the college, fostering a cohort of individuals equipped with the profound ability to not only think critically, but also to analyze, synthesize, engage in thoughtful discussions, deliberate, and make sound decisions.

Demonstrating its commitment to academic advancement, the college has successfully introduced three new undergraduate programs and three new postgraduate programs, all of which commenced from the academic year 2022-23. This remarkable expansion underscores the institution's dedication to staying at the forefront of educational offerings, catering to the evolving needs of students and the demands of the contemporary professional landscape.

The college has demonstrated that it is NEP 2020 ready both in spirit and practice .The college has created awareness and received inputs from all its stakeholders to understand the principles of NEP 2020 and use innovative methods to implement it. The highlight is the 360 degree approach by the parent body the management (S P Mandali), Principal, faculty, non teaching staff, students, alumni, parents and industry leaders to facilitate the college in preparation and implementation of NEP framework in 2023-24 seamlessly.

Due to the Autonomous status, RUSA.2.0, funds were sanctioned and duly utilized in the academic year 2022-23. The utilization process is still on.

3. Core functions and activities at R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics (Autonomous) in 2022-23

a. Curricular Aspects

- Readiness for the implementation of NEP 2020
- Holistic development with skill-based learning
- Integrated Learner-centric approach programmes
- On-the-job training / internships (with 5 credits)
- Industry experts assist in framing the curriculum

b. Teaching, Learning & Evaluation

- Promoted Experiential and Participative learning through various forums and credit courses
- Student-oriented innovative methods for continuous internal assessment.
- ICT Based Teaching Pedagogy
- Well-defined Blended learning mode of teaching
- Complete In-house conduct and evaluation of examination.
- Decentralization of conduct of examination.
- College used SAFE IITB App by faculty who qualified to use them and mastersoft ERP.
- Examination reforms based on ethical practices for faculty and students are introduced.
- Special provisions for students doing CA training and internships

c. Research, Innovations and Extension

- Five students have registered in the Ph.D. Center.
- Publications - 7
- Conduct of research convention by Planning Forum.
- Research Methodology workshop was organized by the Research, Development and Consultancy Cell.

d. Infrastructure & Learning Resources

- Subscribed to Online Database, Library resources and Orell Language Lab
- A renovated playground.
- A separate room for planning student activities.
- A venue for placement activities

- New Library racks purchased for proper storage
- Trophy exhibition on the foyer of first floor aimed at displaying accomplishment and inspiring students
- "Lata Kunj"- multiutility space renovated
- NSS room renovated
- Memorandum of Understanding with Nestle for a snack kiosk

e. Student Support & Progression

- Support for Differently abled, Gymkhana students, Co-curricular students extended
- Support in career guidance, self-development cell (increased to twice a week)
- Provision of fee installment facility
- The Placement Cell facilitated opportunities for Internship and Job placements

f. Governance, Leadership and Management

- Participative Management and Regular staff meetings
- Updated ERP system installed
- RUSA 2.0 Funds: Timely and optimal utilization, (Lecture Recording room and Finance laboratory added)
- Feedback from all stakeholders collected, analysed and corrective action taken

g. Institutional Values and Best Practices

- Organized a stakeholders confluence - SAHASTRA CHANDRA DARSHAN(to commemorate 80 years of excellence in education)
- Conscious reduction of paper wastage
- Available garden space and open space well maintained
- Tree Plantation drive
- Life Enrichment Center and Responsible Citizenship- 2 mandatory courses offered to students
- Collaborative learning approach amongst students
- The college conducts AAA every year.

4. SWOC Analysis

Strength

- Brand Podar earned through goodwill in society and years of service in the field of commerce
- Inclusivity the hallmark of student profile
- 6 Undergraduate Programs and 5 Post Graduate Programs to suit the needs of students and industry

- Provides financial assistance, counseling
- Learner Centric Approach as seen in the teaching pedagogy
- Faculties well trained in use of IT skills.
- Collaborating with NGOs
- Standardized approach to the efficient delivery of teaching and learning.
- Maximum utilization of space
- Strong alumni network, who contribute towards strengthening academics, holistic development of students and their training and placement.

Weakness

- Limitation of physical space
- Non availability of NOC to fill some existing vacancy in sanctioned post
- Attrition of temporary staff

Opportunities

- Using the Good Will to build collaborations for academic, social and placement partnerships with leading financial institutions.
- Scope for utilization of E-Resources.
- Allowing internships on a regular basis and on the job training
- Interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning as per the new NEP 2020
- Generate interest in students the idea of self-exploration and sensitization towards peers
- NEP 2020 as an opportunity for holistic development of learners.

Challenges

- Loss in academic sessions for first year students due to various reasons
- Infrastructural constraints to introduce additional programmes
- Promoting PG programs to UG learners.
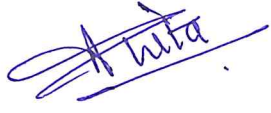- Orienting learners about new programs

5. Guidelines, Suggestions and Recommendations for improvement

1. Efforts are made to further promote research culture. More faculty members, be encouraged to undertake research projects, publish research papers in reputed journals.

2. Creating Vertical space to meet the space constraints for further the growth of the institutions.

3. Safety, Energy, Green audits can be carried out.

4. Efforts to be made to acquire University Status / Cluster University Status.

Signature of the Chairman and Members of the Academic and Administrative Audit Peer Team

Name of AAA Peer Team	Signature
Dr. Naresh Chandra, Chairperson, Director (Education), B. K. Birla (Autonomous) College, Kalyan.	
Dr. Rohini Kelkar , Member, Principal ,Vidyalankar School of Information Technology	
Dr. Anita Kanwar , Member, Principal, VES's College of Arts, Science and Commerce	

ACTION TAKEN REPORT 2022-23

Academic and Administrative Audit conducted on 31st August 2023 for the AY 2022-23. Following are the recommendations by peer team and action taken by IQAC

Recommendations by Peer Team	Action Taken by IQAC
Efforts are made to further promote research culture. More faculty members, be encouraged to undertake research projects, publish research papers in reputed journals	Promotion of Research aptitude developed amongst students resulted in Podar winning most of the Trophies in the International Research Economic Convention
Creating Vertical space to meet the space constraints for further the growth of the institution.	Constructed a place at Bharanpur to enhance rural connect.
Safety, Energy, Green audits to be carried on	Carried annual Energy and Green audits
Efforts to be made to acquire University Status/Cluster University Status	Forwarded the recommendation to S P Mandali, the college Trust