



**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI**

**REPORT OF THE UGC EXPERT COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE
PROPOSAL OF PONNAIYAH RAMAJAYAM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY, THANJAVUR FOR GRANT OF 'DEEMED TO BE
UNIVERSITY STATUS' UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE UGC ACT, 1956.**

(VISITED ON 21st to 23rd APRIL, 2005)

INTRODUCTION

The University Grants Commission (UGC) had constituted the following Expert Committee (vide D.O. No. F.6-86/2004(cpp-I) OF 19-04-2005) to visit the Ponnaiyah Ramajayan Institute of Science and Technology (PRIST), Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) to assess its proposal for grant of Deemed to be University,:

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| 1. | Prof. B.S. Sonde
Former Vice-Chancellor
Goa University | Convenor |
| 2. | Prof. O.N. Srivastava
Deptt. Of Physics
B.H.U, Varanasi | Member |
| 3. | Prof. R.N.K. Bamezai
School of Life Science
JNU, New Delhi | Member |
| 4. | Prof. M. Naidu
Department of Management
Sri Krishnadevaraya University | Member |
| 5. | Prof. C.L. Kundu
Former Vice Chancellor
H. P. University, Shimla | Member |
| 6. | Prof. P.S. Grover
Department of Computer Science
University of Delhi | Member |
| 7. | Dr. Dev Swarup
Deputy Secretary
University Grants Commission
New Delhi | Member Secretary |

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The Committee visited the PRIST Tanjavur from 21st – 23rd April, 2005 as decided by UGC for on the spot assessment of the physical and academic infrastructure available with the institution. All the members of the Committee were present except Professof Dr. R.N.K. Bamezai who could not accompany the Committee at the last moment and expressed his inability due to personal reason.

In the first internal meeting of the Committee on arrival at tanjavur, the committee was briefed by the Member Secretary, He indicated that the UG C had received a proposal from Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science And Technology, Thanjavur consisting of the following three Colleges for grant of 'Deemed to be University' status.

1. **Ponnaiyah Ramajayam College, Thanjavur**
2. **P.R. Engineering College, Thanjavur**
3. **Ponniyah Ramajayam College of Education, Thanjavur**

The Screening Committee constituted by UGC did not recommend this institution for visit of the Expert Committee, since the faculty in position and research publications of the institution was on the lower side and there were many other shortcomings . Apart from these, the State Government of Tamil Nadu had not favoured the grant of Deemed to be University status to one of the Colleges to the institution namely P.R.E College. However, PRIST filed a writ petition in the High Court of Madras, Chennai requesting that the inspection be caused for fulfillment of Deemed to be University status to the institution. The Hon'ble High Court of Madras, Chennai in its Order dated 2.3.2005 directed the UGC to constitute an Inspection Committee to conduct inspection and pass appropriate orders with in 3 months i.e by 1st June, 2005.

As per the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, the Chairman, UGC has constituted an Expert Committee, consisting of the above members, to visit the three institutions of PRIST, Thanjavur and to give its recommendations for conferment of 'Deemed to be University's status. The Committee then planned its assessment work and the steps to be taken for the report preparation and proceeded to East Campus of PRIST for its assigned task. On arrival the Committee was received and welcomed

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by Prof. P. Murugesan, Managing Trustee, Prof. R. Panneer, Director Planning and Development, Dr. K. Santhanam, Dean and other senior faculty members.

Then a senior representative of PRIST made a power point presentation before the visiting Committee with regard to its salient features, physical infrastructure, academic and other achievements, research output and future plans of the Institution.

He informed that PRIST, Thanjavur, is a registered society (under the public trust act) established in the year 2004 to provide Higher Education in Science, Technology, Commerce, and Business Administration to Socially and Economically backward areas.

The Institution has listed the following as its aims and objectives:-

- To impart quality higher education in science technology commerce, business administration and teacher training with utmost discipline to rural students hailing from socially and economically backward set up.
- To create a centre of excellences for imparting state of the art education, training and research in Basic Science, Management studies, Commerce, Humanities, Life Sciences, Education, computer Sciences, Computer Applications, Engineering & Technology. and Teacher Training.
- To anticipate the futuristic scientific and technological needs and to plan to impart education to students suitably.
- To develop programmes for vertical development in academic area to suit the needs.
- To develop collaboration with industries and other academic and Research organizations.

The Committee then visited in detail both the East and the West campuses where all the three Colleges namely, Ponnaiyah Ramajayam College, P.R. Engineering College and Ponnaiyah Ramajayam College of Education, are located and met the faculty members, students and the non-teaching staff at separate meetings. The Committee has its final meeting with the Managing Trustees at the end of the visit and followed this up with its

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1. PG and Research Department of Microbiology
 2. PG and Research Department of Bioinformatics
 3. PG and Research Department of Computer Science

As per the information provided in the proposal, there are 43 approved research guides, 30 staff members are having Ph.D. qualification, 36 members are doing Ph.D. and 65 M.Phil scholars.

B. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ponnaiyah Ramajayam College, is located in an area of 11 acres and has total built up area of 20000 sq. mt. The College has well laid out approach road from the State High ways. The College has a Health Clinic with Qualified (fulltime) Medical Officer with good equipment, Basket ball and Volleyball courts are available. Canteen and Bus facility are available. The boys hostel is exiting in the campus and also a separate Girls hostel available. Xerox facilities are available for the students in the campus.

C. EQUIPMENT

The college has major Equipment worth about Rs. 290 lacs list of which is enclosed in the **Annexure-I**.

D. LIBRARY

A large well stocked library is located in the first floor of the main block having an area of 800 sq.m. A large number of reference books are stocked for the staff and UG/PG/Research students. The Library has **18934 books worth Rs.95 lakhs**. It subscribes to **205 National and International journals**. Automated catalog system is available in the library. Digital library facility is also available. Besides the central library, most of the departments. have their own departmental librariess. The list of journals subscribed is enclosed as **Annexure-II**

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E. **ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES**

The College is running 12 UG courses, 18 PG courses, 5 M.Phil and 4 Ph.D. programmes in the fields of Computer Science, Information Technology, Chemistry, Biotechnology, Biochemistry etc. The academic programs include subjects in Arts, Science, Commerce, Management, Catering and Hotel Management is also being conducted by the College. As per the presentation made the College offers 21 innovative programs in emerging areas of Bioinformatics, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biochemistry etc.

F. **FACULTY**

The College has a faculty strength consisting of 20 Professors, 11 Readers, and 113 Lecturers. The detailed list of faculty along with their Designation, Qualifications, Date of Appointment, Pay Scales etc. as provided by the institution is enclosed as Annexure-III The faculty seems to have a good academic and sound research base. The institution claims that the faculty has published 313 research papers.

G. **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The College has good academic track record with 203 University ranks, 16 gold medals (1st rank holders) and 100 % result in many programs. The College has produced on an average 89 % results in PG programs. The College had been accredited with "A" grade by NAAC in the year 2003 and seems to be the only co-education college to enjoy this status in the Bharathidasan University area. The College has organized a number of Seminars, Conferences Symposia, Workshops regularly. Some of these Seminars are sponsored by National Agencies like UGC, DBT, DST, Tamil Nadu State council for Science and Technology and NAAC. The College has succeeded in placement for 28 students in the last four years.

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H. **MOU's, TIE-UP's AND MEMBERSHIPS**

The College has signed 15 MOU's, Tie-ups with various national and international Educational Institution and Industries.

The College is a member of the following Agencies:

- 1. City & Guilds of London Institute,
- 2. South India Hotels & Restaurant Association
- 3. Federation of Hotel & Restaurant Association
- 4. Confederation of Indian Industry

2. **PONNAIYA RAMAJAYAH ENGINEERING COLLEGE, THANJAVUR**

Year of the Establishment of College 2000

The Committee visited P.R, Engineering College, Thanjavur located in the west campus of PRIST and observed as follows:-

P.R. Engineering College , Thanjavur is consisting of the following departments:-

- 1. PG Department of Computer Science and Information Technology
- 2. Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- 3. Department of Biotechnology

A. **RESEARCH ACTIVITIES**

There are 3 approved research guides, 1 staff member doing Ph. D, 41 Research Papers are published and 9 staff members are having Ph. D qualification.

B. **PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

P.R. College of Engineering, Thanjavur is located in an area of 48 acres and has total built up area of 22,500 sq. mt. The College has well laid out approach road from the National High ways NH45. The College

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has a well equipped Health Centre with Qualified (fulltime) Medical Officer, Play ground with 400 mts. Running track, football field, Volleyball court and cricket pitch. Canteen and Bus facility are available. The boys hostel is existing in the campus and also a separate Girls also available. STD & Xerox facility are available for the students in the campus.

C. **EQUIPMENT**

The College has major Equipment worth about Rs. 300 lacs list of which is enclosed in the **Annexure-IV**

D. **LIBRARY**

A large well stocked library is located in the ground floor of the main block having an area of 800 sq.m. A large number of text and reference books are stocked for the staff and UG/PG students. The Library has 18011 books worth Rs.90 lakhs. Automated catalog system is available in the library. Digital library facility with 8 computers is also available. Besides the central library, all the departments have their own departmental library.

E. **ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES**

The College is running 5 UG courses, 3 PG courses, in the fields of Computer Science, Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Bio-medical engineering. The academic programs include subjects in engineering and technology. All the programs offered by the College are innovative.

F. **FACULTY**

The College, has a faculty strength consisting of 7 Professors, 8 Assistant Professors and 51 Lecturers. The detailed list of faculty along with their Designation, Qualifications, Date of Appointment, Pay Scales etc. is

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enclosed as Annexure-III The faculty seems to have a good academic and sound research base.

G. ACHIEVEMENTS

As per the information provided in the document, the College has good academic track record with 3 University ranks, 1 gold medal (1st rank holder) and 100% result in many subjects with in the period of 4 years. The College has produced overall result of 89.3 % in UG programs and 96% in PG programme. The College has been certified with ISO 9001: 2000. The College has organized a number of Seminars, Conferences Symposia, Workshops regularly. Some of these Seminars are sponsored by National Agencies like AICTE, DBT, DST, Tamil Nadu State council for Science and Technology.

The college has secured placement for 52 students out of the from the first batch. The Biotechnology Department of this College is ranked as 5th position in the Tamil Nadu State. The College received 'The Best College Award" during the year 2003-04.

H. MOU's, TIE-UP's AND MEMBERSHIPS

The College is a member of the following agencies:

1. Indian Society for Technical Education – Institutional member
2. Indian Society for Technical Education – Students chapter
3. Indian Society for Technical Education – chapter
4. Computer Society of India – Institutional member
5. Confederation of Indian Industry

3. PONNIYAH RAMAJAYAM COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, THANJAVUR

Year of the Estt. of the College 2004

The Committee visited Ponniyah Ramajayam College of Education, Thanjavur located in the west campus and observed as follows:-

Ponniyah Ramajayam College of Education, Thanjavur, is offering B.Ed programme.

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A. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Ponniyah Ramajayam College of Education, Thanjavur is located in an area of 5 acres and has total built up area of 3000 sq. mt. The College has well laid out approach road from the National High ways NH45. The College shares the well equipped Health Centre with Qualified (fulltime) Medical Officer, Canteen and Bus facility available on the west campus with P.R. Engineering College. The boys hostel is exiting in the campus. STD & Xerox facility are available for the students in the campus.

B. EQUIPMENT

The College has major Equipment worth about Rs. 10 lacs mainly the computers and some sociology equipments.

C. LIBRARY

A large well stocked library is located in the ground floor of the main block having an area of 200 sq.m. A large number of reference books are stocked for staff and students. The Library has 3816 books worth Rs. 19 lakhs. It subscribes to 15 National and International journals.

E. ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The College is running B.Ed programme only .

F. FACULTY

The College, has a faculty strength consisting of 2 Professors, and 13 Lecturers. The detailed list of faculty along with their Designation, Qualifications, Date of Appointment, Pay Scales etc. is enclosed as Annexure-III The faculty seems to have a good academic and sound research base.

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SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS

As a result of the detailed visit of the Committee to both the campuses of the institution its perusal of various documents provided by PRIST its interaction with teaching faculty, students and non teaching staff and its own in-depth internal discussions the Committee is making the following specific observations:-

1. The Institution has recently transferred the Society registration document form its earlier version namely Ponnayam Ramajayam Group of Colleges to Ponnaiyah Ramajayam Institute of Science and Technology,. But as yet the transfer of movable and immovable Assets has not been completed legally to PRIST. This is not acceptable as per the UGC Guidelines for grant of Deemed to be University status.

2. While one of the Colleges included under PRIST has a standing of 11 years it is mostly for under graduate programmes. But post graduate programmes were started at this college only in the last 4 or 5 years. This period does not seem to be satisfactory for the college to qualify as primarily a post graduate institution, in the spirit of the UGC Guidelines.

3. The research publication record of the faculty/students of the institution as per the list provided by the institution includes
 - (i) papers published by authors in their entire career, even outside their period of service, at PRIST.
 - (ii) papers presented at conferences,
 - (iii) papers published in few leading refereed journals
 Although a very large number is claimed , the actual number that can represent research quality as per (iii) is very small.

4. One of the Colleges namely PR Engineering College has been ranked by its affiliating University at No. 97 out of about 250 similar

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Colleges in the Anna University jurisdiction. This does not reflect a good academic standing for an institution seeking recognition to be Deemed to be University.

- 5. The Institution has recruited a number of faculty members at Professor level for its Colleges; But most of the persons recruited are already retired from there service at other institutions. The ability of these members to take responsible positions as heads of departments at this senior age is doubtful.
- 6. As per the proposal documents submitted by the institution, there has to be PG Department of Social Work; But in reality, no such department is present at the institution.
- 7. The Committee has not observed any innovation in the academic programmes, being run at all the three colleges proposed to be included under to be Deemed to be University. All the subject areas have been existence for many years at many institutions in the country. More over the syllabus of the courses are only conventional.
- 8. In spite of the best efforts of the Committee and its repeated requests, the Institution failed to provide information on

- (i) Fees structure for the programmes being conducted
- (ii) The pay scales followed for the different levels of teaching faculty member in the Institution specially the appointment letters of the faculty members.
- (iii) The details of the retired persons employed by the Institution in different position
- (iv) List of papers/research material published having application orientation.
- (v) Copies of MOU's executed

- 9. The infrastructure and the various facilities and equipment available at PRIST seem to be adequate for launching innovative proggmmes, intensify, research work, take-up sponsored projects

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and also undertake extension work for some years to come. But all these have yet to be introduced with seriousness at PRIST.

10. The Institution is on the right track and has been developing at a fast pace in providing Higher Education and research opportunities to students in a rural setting, But the present achievements of the institution are not yet adequate to become Deemed to be University.

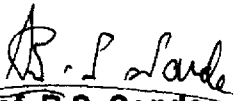
RECOMMENDATION

Having regard to the facts and the circumstances explained as above the Committee has unanimously come to the conclusion that Ponnaiyah Ramajayah Institute of Science and Technology, Thanjavur can not be recommended for Deemed to be University status at this stage.

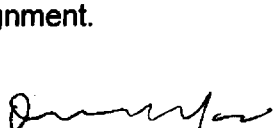
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT


The Committee wishes to place on record its deep sense of appreciation to the Management of PRIST for the various arrangements made for its visit, and its grateful thanks to the various functionaries, faculty, students non-teaching staff of the three Colleges for the useful discussions it had with them.

The Committee is also thankful to Chairman, UGC for constitution the Expert Committee for this important assignment.


Prof. B.S. Sonde
Convenor 23/04

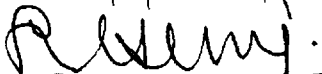

Prof. M. Naidu
Member


Prof. O.N. Srivastava
Member 23/04/05


Prof. C.L. Kundu
Member 23/04/05


Prof. P.S. Grover
Member 23/04/05


Dr. R.N.K. Bamezai
Member


Dr. Dev Swarup
Member Secretary 23/04/05

Place: Thanjavur
Dated : 23-04-2005