

**DRAFT REPORT OF THE PEER TEAM ON ASSESSMENT AND
INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF RANGAPARA
COLLEGE, RANGAPARA, SONITPUR DIST., ASSAM.**

PART I

Introduction

Located in the midst of linguistic and cultural diversity and close to the borders of Arunachal Pradesh of North-East India, Rangapara College was established on the 16th August, 1979, at the initiative of the local people coming under the marginalised section of society deprived of the benefits of higher education since long. Besides imparting quality education to the Bodos, scheduled castes and tribes and other backward classes coming from other regions such as Garo Hills, parts of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal, brought to the region by the British to work in rubber and tea plantations, the goals and objectives of the institution were not only to make them suitable for various occupations but also to integrate them into mainstream society. Promotion of equity among them along with a strong nationalist spirit were also among the proclaimed goals and objectives of the college.

The college imparts two programmes in general and major courses in Humanities, Social Sciences and Commerce at the degree level. It is affiliated to Gauhati University and comes under 12 B of the UGC Act 1956, since 20th March 1996. It is situated in a sprawling campus of 41 acres of land with plantation of valuable trees and surrounded by tea-estates, reserved forests and Nameri National Park.

Besides running Higher Secondary courses in Arts and Commerce, the college also runs certificate diploma course in Computer Application as a



job oriented program. The goals, objectives and mission of the institution are clearly spelt out in the prospectus supplied to the students at the time of admission. It also contains important information relating to courses and options, staff positions and fee structure. The college has basic support services such as a Central Library with stock of 11,169 books. It subscribes a number of magazines and journals. A central updated computer facility is also provided. The college has taken care to provide clean drinking water to its students in a flood-affected region.

The college volunteered for assessment by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and submitted a Self-Study Report (SSR). A Peer team accordingly was constituted with Prof. A. Saha as Chairman, Prof. R.N. Mishra as member coordinator and Prof. Margaret Ch. Zama as member which visited the college on 10th and 11th September 2004 to validate the self-study report. The peer team in the course of their institutional visit interacted with the principal and staff, president and members of the Governing Body, the students, alumni, and the guardians at length.

The college has provisions for teaching in Assamese, Bengali, Boro, and Hindi. The elective subject options include Economics, Political Science, History, English, Education and Commerce. There are 34 permanent teachers out of which 4 are Ph.D degree holders. There are also 4 M.Phil degree holders and two are awaiting for the results of their Ph.D Degree. The teachers are committed to their work and take a good deal of care in matters of welfare of the students.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Saha', written over a horizontal line.

PART II

Criterion-wise analysis

Criterion-I Curriculum Aspects

As an affiliated college, Rangapara College follows the syllabus prescribed by the Gauhati University and essentially caters to the needs of the economically backward people of the region dominated by the ST, SC, OBC, Minority and ex-Tea Tribe population. The college introduced B.Com course in order to increase the employment potentiality of its students in the surrounding tea gardens as well as in other government and non-government sectors. The students have elective options as well as non-core options with a limited scope for horizontal mobility. Since the college is situated near two reserve forests and lush tea estates, the area has great potential for developing eco-tourism. The college thus has future plans to introduce certificate courses in tourism as well as in Information Technology related subjects.

Criterion II - Teaching, learning and evaluation

The process of admission to the college is transparent and conducted by an Admission Committee through merit basis and also follows the reservation policy for SC, ST and OBC students. The college conducts various periodical tests to intensify the learning process. The SC and ST students along with other backward learners, are given special attention by providing them with remedial coaching. The college had 163 teaching days in 2001-02 and 181 in 2002-03. The ratio of teaching and non-teaching staff is 3:1 The students are informed of the college evaluation methods,


3

academic calendar and other necessary information through the prospectus at the time of admission. Every department brings out printed as well as manuscript write-ups and bulletins to provide learning materials to the students. They also hold a number of seminars at the college level involving students' participation.

The teachers are recruited as per the rules of the Government of Assam and as per norms prescribed by the U.G.C, through regularly constituted selection committees following advertisement made in the leading daily newspapers of the state. The appointment of teachers are subject to approval by the Directorate of Higher Education, Assam. During the last two years, three teachers have been appointed through this procedure. The teachers appointed to the non-sanctioned posts are paid out of the resources generated by the college. About 50% of the teachers have attended national level conferences, workshops and seminars, and a few of them have also taken part in international seminars. The teachers have the facility to avail themselves of study leave for research work. Most of them have completed the required number of orientation and refresher courses as prescribed by the UGC.

Criterion III - Research, Consultancy and Extension.

About 40% of the teachers are active in research at the M.Phil and Ph.D level as well as in minor project works. These projects are local in character and self-funded in most cases. A number of teachers are also members of national and regional academic bodies and contribute papers regularly for presentation as well as for publication. The local-based surveys



conducted by the staff and students on literacy, health and hygiene, environmental awareness etc are commendable.

In view of the potential present in this rural and backward region, more extension programme activities with regard to wildlife conservation and environmental protection, health and hygiene awareness, medical camp, adult education, blood donation camps and Aids awareness already conducted by teachers with student participation needs to be even more emphasised. Besides this, tree plantation in collaboration with the forest department is a regular feature.

Criterion IV – Infrastructure and learning resources.

The college has a master plan for future projected expansion. The entire building structure has Assam type construction with well ventilated rooms and electricity connection. The college has a generator as an alternative source of power supply in case of emergency. The building infrastructure consists of class rooms, administrative building including Principal's office, Teachers' common room, Students common room, auditorium, library, computer centre, canteen, cycle stand and chowkidar's quarters. These buildings are constructed from public donation, donation from tea companies and various Government Agencies as well MP and MLA LAD fund. At present, two hostels for boys and girls are under construction with financial help from Tea Board of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. These hostels are likely to be ready within this session.

Pure drinking water facilities are made available to the students while the Social Service Secretary of the College Students' Union with the help of



Campus Cleaning Committee and Gardening Committee helps to maintain the campus and the college buildings. The college playground is sufficiently large in size to facilitate organization of various games and sports. The college however, has no trained PET (Physical Education Teacher). A complete sports complex is being construct under Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex scheme under the aegis of the Panchayat, the total cost of which would be Rs. 9 Lakhs. It will include facilities for major games like Basket ball, Foot Ball and Cricket etc.

The library contains 11,169 books with 52084 titles, subscriptions of 13 journals and 8 newspapers. Besides this, the library computerized with SOUL softwares and also has book bank donated by past students and augmented by college funds. This book bank gives out books on loan to poor students. The library also has a number of audio visual cassettes. The working hours of the library are from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Every department has a computer and maintains a departmental library with a limited number of books for ready reference. The library has also provides for reading facilities which can cater to 50 students at a time and therefore plans are already on the way for expansion. Reprography facility is made available for the students at a subsidized rate. The college has also erected a 500 meter long concrete wall along its boundary with the main road where a railway track is running. This effort was funded through public donation.

The college has a lively Taekwondo Club since 1998 which at present has a total of 110 members, 45 girls and 65 boys. One of its members reading in second year B.A, is also a National level competitor, and her participation at the National Taekwondo Championship of 2002 is among the many laurels she has brought to the college.



Criterion V – Student Support and Progression.

A fair percentage of students pursue their higher education after completion of their college education, while others pursue their career in law, teaching, banking, government jobs and petty business. A few of them join the state civil service. The goals and objectives of the institution as well as other necessary information including college rules, subjects offered, academic calendar etc. are included in the college prospectus that is published annually.

Scholarships are made available to the SC and ST students and the needy students are exempted from payment of fees. Financial aid is awarded to students who achieve outstanding performance by the Kolony Tea Estate. The college has an Alumni and Guardian Association, Teachers' Association as well as Students' Union Body to extend support to the college. A college magazine is brought out annually which encourages the creative endeavor of the students. The students participate in inter-college football and cricket tournaments under Gauhati University, as well as in cultural programs during the Annual College Week and Youth Festivals organized by Gauhati University.



Criterion VI – Organization and management.

The new Governing Body of the College was re-constituted in 2004 which has representatives of Govt. of Assam, representative from the college, two University nominees, donor as well as representative of the Guardians. The last G.B Meeting was held on 10th August 2004. The Principal is Member Secretary of the Governing Body. The fee structure of the college was increased twofold in 2003 following instructions from the Govt. of Assam.

The teachers and employees of the college have a welfare fund out of a contribution made by them to extend loan facilities to its members. The major items of the college are purchased by the Principal after observing the formalities as per State Govt. Norms and resolutions adopted by the Governing Body. The accounts of the college are regularly audited by internal auditors appointed by the Governing Body the reports of which are submitted to the Govt. of Assam. The local fund auditors of the Govt, of Assam also audit the college from time to time. The last report of the Local Fund Audit was submitted in 1987.

Criterion VII – Healthy practices.

1. The student discipline in the institution is commendable. There are prescribed dress-codes for boys and girls by way of uniforms which is economically more viable for the students. This also helps to prevent unhealthy competition.
2. The college has a number of committees to help the administration. This decentralization helps to involve the


8

teachers in decision making and sharing of responsibilities and also contributes towards making the administration transparent.

3. The college through its cultural and extension activities seeks to integrate the multi-ethnic, cultural and linguistic groups residing and working in the region.
4. The Rangapara College Teachers and Employees Welfare Fund has now increased to a corpus fund of Rs. 12 Lakhs which gives out loan to its members on need basis.
5. A composite project of Tea Plantation, Horticulture and Fishery is already on the anvil for the near future, to be established within the college campus.
6. The college has valuable trees in its forest plantation area whose value will rise to Rs. 1 crore approximately in the next 25 to 40 years.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Habs', is written above a long horizontal line that extends to the right.

Part III

Overall Analysis

The members of the Peer Team carefully perused and shared among themselves the analysis of the self-study report, verified the relevant documents, and visited all the departments and other facilities available in the college. The marked features of the college may be summarised as follows :

In view of the location of the college in a border and backward area, the special role an educational institution has to play has been very well performed by the college.

1. The modest efforts made by the college in inculcating vocational skills among the students is commendable.
2. The computer facilities available for the students and staff in each discipline is a laudable step which is not usually available in a large number of colleges. However, all these facilities should be put to best use by the staff and the students.
3. The cultural and extension activities of the students are commendable in identifying themselves with the diverse population of the locality.
4. The presence of a good number of senior faculties has been useful in maintaining a desirable academic ambience in the institution.
5. With regard to academic performance, the college has had some laudable achievements in the recent past. The department of Commerce secured 1st class 5th position in the B.Com. final



examination under Gauhati University in 2003, while the department of Hindi secured 1st class 2nd position in the B.A final Examination of Gauhati University 2001

Recommendations :

1. It was observed by the peer team that a large number of students, both boys and girls, commute daily from distant places, some even as far as 40 kms. It is desirable that the college make a serious effort to provide transport services to ease the problem of inadequate transport facility to the student body perhaps by way of hiring of buses for college use.
2. In view of teaching in the regional language, the students are at a distinct disadvantage in cultivating the required communication skill in the English language. As such, the college need to undertake remedial coaching classes to improve the communication skills and development of the personality of the students.
3. The college is the only one which is within the easy reach of the students of the relatively vast region. As such, the absence of the Science stream at the degree level is keenly felt by both students and their parents/guardians. This makes it imperative for the college to introduce Science stream as early as possible.
4. In view of the opening of new subjects in the current academic session, construction of more class-rooms as well as expansion of common-room facilities for both boys and girls is highly recommended.



5. The rates of various snack items in the college canteen need to be subsidized for the students, bringing it below the current market rate.
6. The need for hostel accommodation for boys and girls was strongly felt by all. The principal informed the peer team that plans are underway for construction of the same, and the site was visited by the team. The work should be completed as early as possible.
7. The college has sufficient space for various sport facilities such as cricket, basket-ball and football. Efforts should be made to provide for these facilities during the current academic session.
8. The students and guardians unequivocally pleaded for opening of a coaching center for preparing students for various competitive examinations such as Assam Civil Service, Railway Services, Bank Services and coaching for recruitment into the armed forces, on self-financing basis, in the college. The Governing Body of the college may consider this proposal on a priority basis.
9. The college needs to make serious efforts to introduce job-oriented courses and vocationalisation of 1st degree programme on priority basis as per UGC norms.
10. The Governing Body should take steps to appoint/recruit more teachers in all those disciplines where there is acute shortage.
11. The GB should motivate the teachers particularly the younger ones to take up research work to promote the research culture.
12. Studies on folklore and culture can be introduced with inter-departmental understanding of Assamese, Bodo, Bengali, Hindi and English departments without having to employ new teachers.



13. The vast area of college land can be used for plantation of medicinal plants, turmeric, ginger etc. for resource generation. It is encouraging to note that the Teachers and Employees Welfare Fund is going to start.

The Peer Team would like to put on record its deep appreciation for the support and co-operation of the Principal, the President and members of the Governing Body, the teaching and non-teaching staff, the student body, alumni and guardians of Rangapara College.

Prof. A. Saha
Chairman

A. Saha
11/9/04

Prof. R. N. Mishra
Member Co-ordinator

R. N. Mishra
11/9/04

Prof. Margaret Ch Zama
Member

M. Ch Zama
11/9/04

I agree with the observations and recommendations of Peer Team made in the Report.



Behzad
11/9/04
Dr. Shamim Behzad,
Principal I/C
Rangapara College

Quality Profile

Name of the Institution : Rangapara College
Place : Rangapara, Dist. Sonitpur, Assam

Criterion	Criterion Score (Ci)	Weightage (Wi)	Criterion X Weightage (Ci x Wi)
I. Curricular Aspects	80	10	800
II. Teaching-learning and Evaluation	80	40	3200
III. Research, Consultancy and Extension	80	05	400
IV. Infrastructure and Learning Resources	80	15	1200
V. Student Support and Progression	70	10	700
VI. Organisation and Management	80	10	800
VII. Healthy Practices	70	10	700
		100	$\Sigma C_i W_i = 7800$

$$\text{Institutional Score} = \frac{\Sigma C_i W_i}{\Sigma W_i} = \frac{7800}{100} = 78.00$$

Urased
Director