

7.3.1 - Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust

Acquiring Institutional Autonomy during the Pandemic

Ever since its last NAAC accreditation in 2015-16, the priority of the College had been to study and understand various aspects of Academic Autonomy and apply for the same before the next NAAC accreditation. The College was in its last leg of the application procedure for acquiring autonomy, when, towards the end of AY 2019-20, the World around suddenly, literally stopped due to the COVID -19 Pandemic. This unforeseen eventuality, brought forth till-date unheard of challenges in TLE, college administration as well as the numerous IQAC initiatives.

Evidently, marching forth to apply for such an academic autonomy under such circumstances, was intimidating to say the least. The College, however, took up this challenge, braced itself up for the design and development of our own curricula and setting up our own administrative systems and submitted the proposal for Academic Autonomy to UGC in November 2020.

Here is a glimpse of the efforts put in by IQAC in the year 2020-21 to ensure that in spite of the Lock-Downs and resultant WFH situations, in spite of the added burden of online TLE processes on part of the teachers and in spite of the challenges to continue all the administrative work seamlessly, all the concerned stakeholders are mentored and empowered towards accepting and successfully executing this autonomy.

1. 16th June 2020 – A National webinar on ‘Rebooting the Indian Higher Education System: A March towards Self- reliance’ in association with University of Hull, UK and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The titles of the three sessions, namely, ‘Paradigm shifts in Higher Education during Covid-19: A Global Perspective’; ‘Challenges to Indian Higher Education System in the Operational Resilience during Covid-19’ & ‘Mitigation Measures for Indian Higher Education for a self-reliant Future’ are eloquent enough to point towards GCC’s focussed approach towards autonomy.
2. 24th June, 2020 - webinar on ‘College Autonomy’ in which Dr. Uday Salunke- Director of Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research, Mumbai and Bangalore to share the expertise on preparation for autonomy.
3. From 19th June, 2020 to 26th June, 2020 - Conducted 7 days online FDP on ‘Online Teaching, Learning and Evaluation Tools’
4. 28th October 2020 - Online guidance session by Dr. Dilip Sheth, Principal, SP College on College Autonomy
5. 19th November, 2020 - an online guest lecture by Dr. A.P. Kulkarni on ‘New Education Policy’
6. 4th December 2020 - Online guidance session with special reference to Conduct of Exams on College under Autonomy & Administrative Essentials under Autonomy by the Principal and faculty of St. Joseph’s College of Commerce, Bangalore.
7. 11th and 12th February 2021 - Two-Days’ workshop on ‘Various Programmes Designing under Autonomy’ was conducted to design program objectives and program outcomes

On 17th Feb 2021, UGC officially confirmed the conferment of Autonomous Status to MES Garware College of Commerce and the College is all geared up to take up this challenge during the on-going Pandemic.