

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Criterion I Curriculum Aspects

Mahatma Gandhi was keenly aware that his efforts to reconstruct the society, on the principles that he was enunciating from time to time, would need the support of academia. The mainstream academia was following the ideology of western civilisation and Gandhi was clear that it would not be relevant for a country like India. The situation is no different today. The new realities that have been emerging on the field and the problems that are slowly being unfolded in the areas of social and economic development of a poor and caste ridden society, there has been a felt need for conceptualising the new development premises. Thus the vision of Gujarat Vidyapith is to educate students for a sustainable society based on Truth and Non-Violence where every citizen is at peace with self, with fellow human being, and in harmony with nature by practicing for liberation through self-discipline. In this respect curriculum of the Gujarat Vidyapith could be the fountainhead for developing alternate development paradigm.

Gujarat Vidyapith imparts education to youth so that they can through their work mainly in rural areas try to achieve equity, self-development, community and national development through rural reconstruction and self-employment. The emphasis and insistence on dignity of labour, propagation of Khadi and village industries and commitment to Gandhian values have been weaved in the mode and content of teaching. Class-room instruction, prayer assembly, off-campus programmes, internship, community living, craft training, and educational tours are helpful in translating institutional goals in to academic programmes. Research is conducted based on Gandhian Philosophy and *Nai Talim* keeping the betterment of rural areas and urban slums in focus. For contributing in the field of increasing literacy and developing scientific temperament in the society, the institute has established remarkable mile-stones through various departments and Rural Science Extension Centre.

Peer review by neighbouring institutions, guidelines from UGC and suggestions from the Vidyapith *Mandal* are instrumental in need assessment. For curriculum development process; faculty, academic experts, *Abhyaskram Vikas Ekam* (Curriculum Development Unit), *Abhyas Samiti* (Board of Study) and *Vidya Sabha* (Academic Council) are actively involved. A draft is prepared while taking into consideration guidelines provided by the relevant bodies like UGC, NCTE, and AICTE etc. The proposed draft is put before the *Abhyas Samiti* for discussion and deliberation, followed by approval of *Vidya Sabha*. After the suggestion made by the *Kulpati* (Chancellor) in 2007 to review entire curriculum for all subjects was done and they were revised with focus on Gandhian thought, a fresh effort in the direction has been made in a major way. Vidyapith curricula have three components, classroom academics for which the available models of UGC and other bodies are used; community living in which living together is practiced and vocational skill that had taken a back seat for a while, has been revived again. Equal emphasis is placed on theory and practical. We believe that globalisation would also generate serious negative externalities. We propagate sustainable development of the rural societies that are self-reliant. However, we have welcomed technologies that reduce drudgery, improve productivity in decentralised production systems and that conserves natural resources.

Prayer assembly, *Samuh safai* (students participation in maintaining clean campus), spinning-weaving are important daily activities. It is evident that community living is one of the best methods to part human and societal values. This has helped in building an all-round personality of the students and their employability is also better ensured. Besides, project-based and field-related researches, presentations in national seminars, poster presentations help students in their overall development.

As far as academic flexibility is concerned, there are options available to learners, although not in wide range. Vidyapith conducts its own entrance test where the cut off marks is forty per cent. It also offers PG programme in Gandhian Thought in distance mode and part-time programmes of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy. University neither has a twinning nor any self-financed programme. University has accepted semester system as per UGC recommendation since June 2010.

University does collect feedback from all the stake holders in the form of feedback forms from students, meetings, NSS camps, *Gram Jeevan Padyatra* and during seminars and departmental meetings. The views are discussed and if found relevant, due changes are made in courses. Department of Rural Economics, Gandhi *Darshan*, Rural Management are the departments where changes have been made.

By identifying the trends with help of research and discussions with academic peers, curricula are updated at regular intervals to accommodate the changing academic environment. Gujarat Vidyapith has introduced ICT, Yoga, Crafts, block placements and *Gram Jeevan Padyatra*. Such programmes help in overall development of students, equipping them with multiple skill development. Hence we focus on ICT, Community living, *Udyog* and social service. They also help the students to acquire gainful employment opportunities.

In all, curriculum aspects facilitate dual objectives. First, they interweave Gandhian Philosophy in each subject. Second, they incorporate current trends in the concerned subject with due weight to theory and practice keeping in mind social relevance and holistic development of students.

## **Criterion II Teaching – Learning and Evaluation**

For the wide publicity of admission process, the university advertises in region based leading newspapers and its website for all courses. The teachers of the institution visit education institutions in tribal and remote areas and disseminate information regarding courses and infrastructure of Gujarat Vidyapith. Vidyapith application form contains its brief history, vision and general instruction. Transparency is assured by presence of all members of the selection committee during the entire admission process. Any candidate can approach the committee if she has grievance against the process. The institute has its own entrance test consisting of a paper on Gandhian thought and a paper on subject concerned, followed by personal interview and for special courses group discussion. Vidyapith has always encouraged women, students from economically weaker sections of the society. It has made the campus specially abled friendly. The university has relatively good sports supportive infrastructure.

*Abhimukhata Shibir* (Orientation Programme) serves dual purposes of orienting students in Gandhian ideology and identifying needs of new entrants at the beginning of the academic

calendar. Gujarat Vidyapith makes no distinction of students on the basis of gender, caste, creed or income. With different economic and cultural back ground, the learning ability of a student differs. The distinction between slow and fast learners can be observed during lectures and internal evaluation, group guidance, personal contact with *Gruhpati*, *Gruhmata* (Warden) and teachers. Accordingly, special care is taken for the slow learner whereas challenging tasks are awarded to fast learner to encourage her skills.

At Gujarat Vidyapith, the teaching learning process is smoothly established. Academic calendar is prepared by Examination Centre in consultation with different colleges, followed by discussion on it in the *Vidya Sabha* and final decision is taken. The calendar also includes celebrations of important national and social occasions besides regular curricular and extra-curricular activities. A typical day is well planned for a student. In the morning there is community education which involves prayers and campus cleaning. This is followed by kitchen tasks and room cleaning. Vocational training is either in the morning or after classes. Formal teaching is between 11 am and 5 pm. Learning time is 5 pm onwards. The University Library is open between 8 in the morning until 7 in the evening. Girls' hostels are equipped with special reading room facility with access to computer.

Teaching method includes, in addition to conventional class room teaching; assignment, field visit, field work, small project work, book review dissertation, seminars, workshop, reading camps, guest lectures and dialogues with practitioner/activist. Student-cantered activities include lectures through storytelling, teach-back, display board, box activity, workshops for the guidance of practice lessons, lesson plans, preparing teaching aids, questions sessions, peer group learning, assignments, computer assisted learning whereas participatory activities include project work, seminars, discussion sessions, practice lessons, internship, action research, open forum and quiz.

As counselling can play an important role in development of student, this need is also addressed at Gujarat Vidyapith. Faculty monitors the progress or lack of it of students constantly besides *Gruhpati* and *Gruhmata* through personal communication, term exam, laboratory problems solutions, assignment, presentation etc. and also individual interaction in and out of class room.

To keep up the pace with recent developments, students and faculty make optimum use of computer and internet facilities. Referred journals, subject specific newspapers, interactions with experts and discussions at seminars/workshop also help in the process. Library is one of the important features of Vidyapith. Apart from university library which is used physically by 300 students and 20 faculty members per day, some departments also have library. Students and teachers avail INFLIBNET facilities through various seminar, training and conferences. SOUL Software is used by student and teacher of the university library.

Library collects books and journals by approval and order. Since last few years, Vidyapith invites reputed publishers to exhibit their collections from which teachers select books. The library staff also visits national book fair for the same. New arrival information on email and in library, book exhibition are some of the forms of catering needs of teachers and students. 30 books to faculty members and 3 books to students are issued.

Against 177 sanctioned faculty positions, the existing strength is 121 out of which 62 are from universities other than Gujarat Vidyapith. The student-teacher ratio is 16.96:01. Gujarat

Vidyapith follows the standard procedure established by UGC in recruiting a teacher. Because of its unique nature, Gujarat Vidyapith also tests the candidate for her acceptance of Gandhian vision, viz., commitment to wearing Khadi, daily spinning, active participation in activities related to Gandhian ideology. The university also invites visiting faculty or substitute teachers where the requirement is not met.

Gujarat Vidyapith provides all infrastructural and administrative facilities to the department that are required to host conference or seminar. In addition, intellectual input is also provided by the *Kulpati* (Chancellor) and *Kulnayak* (Vice Chancellor) to the concerned departments. Teachers/departments are always encouraged to participate/ hold seminars and workshops. University is sensitive as far as gender representation is concerned. Women constitute around 45 per cent of staff and 6 departments are headed by women. Teachers attend refresher courses as and when necessary and about 15 per cent of faculty share its expertise in such courses and workshops. More than 80 per cent of faculty has participated in various quality enhancement programmes. The training in computer and audio-visual tools has helped the faculty for more effective presentation.

The evaluation of teachers at Gujarat Vidyapith is transparent. A teacher is asked to fill self-assessment report annually. Based on the assessment, Vidyapith organises workshops or summer school. Very recently the university has started evaluating teacher's performance on the basis of the feedback from students.

For students' performance, evaluation is year round process. Monitoring of students during the lectures and weekly seminars, internal test help their continuous development. Internal to external evaluation ratio is 40:60. The procedure is explained to the students at the beginning of the year by the head of the examination section/ head of the department/principal. Examination procedure is fully computerised. Introduction of moderation is one of the important reforms during last few years. Results are declared within 45 days. If not satisfied by the result, student can approach for rechecking or reassessment of the answer sheets. There is provision of providing photo copy of answer sheet under the right to information. Grievances, regarding evaluation, are discussed in *Vidya Sabha*. During last few years, 2-5 cases of malpractice have been reported and necessary actions have been taken.

The teaching, learning and evaluation processes at Gujarat Vidyapith have always tried to encourage not only faculty but also the students to strengthen their capacity and realise their potential. The transparency in the process has also created a healthy and friendly ambience.

### **Criterion III Research, Consultancy and Extension**

Research at Gujarat Vidyapith is Gandhi and Rural centric. Unlike conventional research, our quest has been to find solutions for an alternative development paradigm that would lead to creation of sustainable society. Vidyapith have a central research committee for overall guidance, but different departments have constituted informal committees for research. Although, extension activities are emphasised at Gujarat Vidyapith, research is also an important component starting from Masters' programme. Gujarat Vidyapith provides adequate facilities to promote research like computers with internet access, INFLIBNET. Students and faculty are also provided expert guidance, library, laboratory and other infrastructural facilities. At present two minor research projects have been taken up. It also receives research assistance from NCERT, GCERT, DPEP and various voluntary agencies.

Gujarat Vidyapith offers scholarship to its doctoral students, but does not offer post-doctoral programme.

A few departments have been associated with collaborative research. The department of Gujarati is working on updating the *Sarth Jodani Kosh*. Department of Rural Economics is involved in Understanding Tribal Economic Development Vision. The department of Education is guiding its Bachelor and Masters students for case studies of post basic schools and survey of *Ashram shala* and existing situation of post basic schools. In January 2009 a faculty member of the Peace Research Centre received the ‘Ambassador for Peace Award’ by Universal Peace Federation, New Delhi. Several awards were bestowed on various faculties and leadership of Gujarat Vidyapith. The faculty has been presenting papers at national and international levels and has published large number of books, articles, monographs and theses.

Gujarat Vidyapith is a university carved differently by Mahatma Gandhi. As mentioned earlier, it aims for reconstruction of rural society and its population. Hence, consultancy services at Gujarat Vidyapith have a different connotation. The majority of services that Vidyapith faculty provide are voluntary and honorary in nature. However in recent years Gujarat Vidyapith has received consultancy of approximately Rs. One Crore. Gandhian Philosophy department and Peace Research Centre provide consultancy services in the sphere of Gandhian Philosophy to the scholars and institutes. It also provides research consultancy in Elementary Education, Adolescents Education and Basic Education and training in the field of ICT in education, population education, *Karm Yogi Taleem*, science education, creativity and yoga.

*Gram Jeevan Padyatra* has become perhaps the most important outreach programme of Vidyapith. It can be considered as an educational pilgrimage. The students, along with the faculty, visit villages in order to identify and understand rural realities. It is an enriching five day learning programme for students and faculty. Attending annual camp of National Social Service is compulsory at under-graduate level. Different departments/colleges frequently organise medical checkup programmes, blood donation camps, yoga programmes for different diseases and fitness camps. Neighbourhood networks are promoted in a number of ways. Organising computer literacy programme, livelihood training programmes where participants can learn to earn income, social extension projects to sustain village community like alternative energy generation by *Gobar* (Bio) gas, soil sampling, water testing.

For promotion of participation among students and faculty, Gujarat Vidyapith organises *Samuh Safai* of neighbourhood on special days like *Gandhi Jayanti*. It also organises awareness campaign for health and hygiene, nutrition, women’s rights protection, campaign against tobacco, alcohol and AIDS awareness. Gujarat Vidyapith students and faculty are also working on environment protection, Thelesamia, plague, swine-flue awareness programmes, creating awareness about various rural development programmes. Special programmes include rehabilitation work for Surat (2007) and Bihar (2008) flood; rehabilitation work after Nepal Earth quake (2015), Uttaranchal disaster (2013) and working with survivors and family members of victims of liquor tragedy (2009). It is also trying to have its own peace army that can help to diffuse communal tensions. Since Gujarat Vidyapith works for marginalised sections of the society, programmes for women and children also find important place in its extension activities.

The impact of extension activities on the fabric of society is significant. Reduction in superstition, especially in neighbourhood of rural campuses, increased importance of literacy among girl child, greater adoption of biogas plants and renewable energy resources are some of the impacts of the extension activities. It has also narrowed down the gap between society and academic institution. It has resulted into a meaningful and healthy relationship among both the parties. Faith and respect earned by Gujarat Vidyapith has been remained intact over the decades. Society expects very high standards of ethics from Gujarat Vidyapith for which it has to introspect itself continuously.

Gujarat Vidyapith has linkages with voluntary agencies, academic and research institutes, industry and cooperative sector and government departments. Such linkages help in receiving better exposure for the students, mutual interaction, skill and capacity building and enhancement as well as better understanding of issues. The Peace Research Centre with the help of the trust funds like Kamalnayan Bajaj Charitable Trust, Rameshwar Tantiya Trust, Bajaj Family Trust conducts public lectures on Science and Non-violence; Science and Society; Ethics in Business; Peace, Education and Women as well as Political Issues and Peace annually. These lectures help teaching community immensely.

*Gram Shilpi* programme is another feather in the cap of Gujarat Vidyapith. It helps its alumni who make lifelong commitment to work for rural up-liftment. For three years it provides financial assistance besides expert training to him/her. After completion of two years, Vidyapith association with the *Gram Shilpi* does not end. It guides and helps the *Shilpi* whenever help is required

#### **Criterion IV Infrastructure and Learning Resources**

Gujarat Vidyapith have three campuses spread over 98.21 (Ahmedabad-28, Sadra-37.41, Randheja-32.8) acres. It has adequate infrastructure to run its existing academic programmes effectively. It has impressive buildings that house departments and administrative offices. There are large and well-ventilated classrooms in each campus. Some of the classrooms and seminar halls have multimedia projection facility. A number of departments have well-equipped laboratories for teaching and research. The offices of the *Kulnayak* and *Kulsachiv* (Registrar) are located in the main administrative building at Ahmedabad campus. All administrative functions of Gujarat Vidyapith are conducted from this building. Adequate water and electricity supply are ensured in all buildings including staff quarters and hostels. Other facilities available on Ahmedabad campus are Canteen, Cooperative Store, Health Centre, two Guest Houses, 109 staff quarters, Bank, Yoga Centre, Swimming Pool, Gymnasium Cum Indoor Stadium, Cricket ground, Volleyball courts, 400 meter track etc. Energy friendly Auditorium with 750 seating capacity at Gujarat Vidyapith has become an added attraction recently. *Khadi Bhandar* and Gandhi book shop selling literature on Gandhi are also important infrastructural facilities at Vidyapith. The rural campuses at Sadra and Randheja also have adequate infrastructural facilities.

Maintenance of all the campuses has been looked after by Estate department. Major repairs and maintenance activities are subcontracted. They comprise of housekeeping, security, equipment maintenance, water supply, drainage system, telephone system backbone, air conditioners and building maintenance. Premises cleaning and clearing are done by the

students and staff on regular basis. There are five water harvesting structures on the main premise.

Library plays a crucial role for any university and Gujarat Vidyapith is no exception. Located in the main campus, it is housed in a spacious building measuring 6984 Sq. mtr. with reading room facilities. It functions under the supervision of a Library Advisory Committee. It has a collection of about 6,10,000 books and textbooks and 26,554 reference books. It subscribes to 244 Indian and 42 foreign journals and 300 Magazines. It has 26570 back volumes of journals. It also provides access to 2227 online journals through INFLIBNET. It has a special collection of rare books and manuscripts, dissertations and Braille material for the visually challenged. Central Library has been fully computerized (automated) since 1988; currently it uses SOUL application software developed by INFLIBNET. It remains open for 12 hours on working day and for more than 15 hours during examinations. Even on holidays, it can be accessed for 7 hours; general reading area is kept open for 364 days. Library has open access system for all members (users). It also offers inter library loan and Book Bank facility. It has a seating capacity of 270. The library has an archive section. It provides a number of services like printing, audio-video cassettes and microfilms. There is bibliography compilation, references, reprographic, photocopy, Internet browsing, user orientation/information literacy. It has spent nearly Rs. 90 Lakhs in last two years on purchase of new books, journals and other resources. Since the library building was built keeping in mind future requirements, major infrastructural developments in library in the last five years are renovation of some part of building, internal changes, purchase of new furniture and equipment. The budget of the library is 10.51 per cent of the total budget of Vidyapith.

Computer can be a complementary resource to library for knowledge generation. The Department of Computer Science was established in 1987 to undertake Library Computerisation at Gujarat Vidyapith. The Department has been providing central computing services and facility to all sections of Vidyapith. It performs a number of functions like managing the website, mail server, firewall, and Internet Gateway. Besides developing software, it also handles software and network related issues. It also helps in ICT enabled teaching, learning and research. Gujarat Vidyapith has 155 Mbps lease line for internet. Departments/collages have their own computer laboratory. Most of the teachers have computer on their desk with Internet facility. Fiber optic cable has been laid for campus networking including girls and boys hostel, while inter campus networking is done through wireless radio link connectivity. Internal networking of each building use Cat-6 UTP base LAN. The University Science and Instrumentation Centre (USIC) looks after hardware maintenance and fabrication works of Gujarat Vidyapith. All the audio-visual production is prepared in-house by the Audio-Visual Production Centre (*Sanjay Drushti Bhavan*) under Journalism and Mass Communication Department. It also acts media center for Vidyapith.

Since community living is a very important aspect of Gandhian vision, hostel becomes compulsory for the students. As a consequence, Gujarat Vidyapith management has tried to improve the standards of hostels and the amenities related with hostel. There are 6 boys' hostels having 325 rooms and 4 girls' hostels having 212 rooms to accommodate approximately 2000 students. All rooms are well equipped with critical minimum furniture. The other features of hostels include reading room, prayer hall, TV and DVD player in common rooms, musical instrument, *Udyog* room, water cooler, solar water heater, mess and

communication facilities. It has good health centres providing medical treatment to students and staff with residential medical officers. The cost of medical treatment of the staff and student is borne by Vidyapith. There are five girls/women common rooms in different buildings. It has a State Bank of India branch in the campus.

The Placement Cell of Vidyapith helps students to look for employment opportunities. Women's cell looks after grievances of women employees and girl students, if any. It also has good sports, games, art and craft and co-curriculum facilities. The energy park at Ahmedabad campus reflects the alternative energy paradigm.

Looking at an overall scenario, Gujarat Vidyapith has adequate infrastructure at all of its three campuses. Library and computer centres are important resources for information gaining and knowledge building. The buildings, including hostels and staff quarters, are well maintained. The Gandhian concept of 'simple living and high thinking' can be applied to its campuses.

### **Criterion V Student Support and Progression**

Gujarat Vidyapith is known for its contribution of infusing moral values in the students along with education. As a principle it maintains its pledge to impart education in mother tongue yet Hindi-Hindustani is equivocal. Students from rural sections and *Gram Vidyapiths* (Rural Universities) look forward to get into higher studies in this institution. Maintaining the belief that *gurukul* system is essential to infuse moral values and build a good character, all the courses of Gujarat Vidyapith are residential. Their full day schedule is so arranged to teach a disciplined way of life. The schedule starts with early morning prayer followed by cleaning of campus, community life lessons, craft and *Udyog* up till 8 a.m. Lunch is served at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. combined prayer session with all the working staff of Gujarat Vidyapith and spinning Charkha take place. From 12 afternoon to 6 p.m. students undertake theory, practical and library sessions. At 7 p.m. there is an evening prayer session followed by dinner and rest.

The total student strength of the university is 2080. The overall proportion of male and female students is 60 and 40 per cent respectively. The overseas students usually take up research courses in Gandhian thought and Gandhian Philosophy. In Vidyapith large proportions of students come from tribal, rural and poor socio-economic background. Total student strength in last 5 years i.e. 2009-10 to 2014-15 was 10745 of which 13 per cent, 27 per cent and 32 per cent were SC, ST and OBC students respectively. 26 per cent belonged to general category. The average dropout rate after enrolment in last five years has been approximately 10.21 per cent. In last five years from all the courses 19.9 per cent students opted for higher studies whereas 5.7 per cent and 21.4 per cent students opted for government and private sector jobs respectively, whereas 7.4 per cent have opted for lectureship. In last five years 175 students have passed various competitive exams of which 87 have cleared NET and SLET.

The University publishes the prospectus, information brochures, newsletter (*Setu*), handbook (*Dainandini*) and a refereed journal (*Vidyapith*). The prospectus and brochures contain descriptive information about the activities of the departments, their specializations, kind of programs offered, number of seats, general regulations and eligibility conditions. In 2014-15, a total sum of Rs 13,08650.00 Lakhs was given as scholarships to 283 students of Vidyapith.



891 SC-ST students were paid Government Scholarships. All the students obtaining 60 per cent marks in final examinations are paid a sum of Rs. 4000-5000/- as Scholarships by Gujarat Vidyapith *Mandal*. The exclusive support services are not generated for the overseas students but treated at par with all other students. SC and ST students are provided academic, financial, infrastructural support as well as cordial environment. The university has taken initiative in advertising for special training to under privileged and rural section before entrance examinations. Specially abled students are provided ramps in all colleges, lift in some buildings, wheel chairs are distributed to all the departments of the university.

The University has established *Rozgar Parmarsh Ekam* (Employment Cell) which caters to the placement needs of the students. Organisations/industries hold campus interviews for students especially for Social Work, Human Resource departments. Often voluntary as well as government agencies contact the concerned department for seeking suitable candidates. The faculty also participates in personal and educational counselling of the students. Teachers also use their personal contacts to find suitable placements for the students.

Being a residential university, *gruhmata* becomes an important part in lives of women students. The lady teachers in the departments also counsel the women students regularly. The in-house doctors regularly meet students and talk about health and personal hygiene. Experts from various fields are invited to stay with girl students and provide counsel for their personal and health problems. About 90 per cent of the faculty members have provided counselling to the students in the academic and personal matters.

Gujarat Vidyapith as an institution has always encouraged for self-reliance and sustainable development in life. At Vidyapith all the students are involved in career orientation activities (*Udyog*). They include spinning and weaving, candle making, chalk sticks making, tailoring, food and recipes, computer and mobile repairing, sports equipment repairing, composting and bio-fertilisers, soil and water analysis etc.

Gujarat Vidyapith has its Alumni Association, known as *Gujarat Vidyapith Snatak Sangh*. It holds meeting once in a year on the foundation day, i.e., 18th October. The university also facilitates one of its alumni that has contributed significantly to achieve the objectives of Vidyapith. Seven departments of Vidyapith also have their Alumni Association that meets once in a year and discuss development of the respective department and employment opportunities of the current batch of students.

An institution with Gandhian ideology would not have a Grievance Cell in text bookish sense. The hostel committee comprises of *Kulnayak*, *Kulsachiv*, Principals/coordinators of the Mahavidyalaya, *Gruhpati*, *Gruhmata*, representative of estate department and students' representative meet fortnightly to discuss grievance of the students, if any. It is solved by Gandhian manner of non-violence and cooperation. Hence, Vidyapith does not have any complaint in formal manner. Number of schemes for welfare of students exists. They can be categorised as academic, cultural, social and financial, infrastructural and health.

Students are encouraged to enhance the quality of education. Important steps can be summarised as: admission on basis of entrance examination in some of the programmes, provision of Scholarships/fellowships, availability of teacher besides from 11 am to 6 pm, more than 240 working days, accessibility of library for major part of the year, training for NET/SLET and encouragement to participate in Cultural, Sports and Social activities.

Students provide feedback during their daily meeting with wardens, weekly meeting with head of the department, fortnightly meeting with principal and monthly meeting with the higher management. During last few years a formal feedback procedure has also been taken up following UGC guideline.

Students, for any university, are in the center. Being a residential university, student interaction with wardens, teachers and management is frequent than the other university. Vidyapith education system tries to give the country an ideal citizen with good character building, commitment and capability that would serve the nation, especially the rural society to the best of her ability. Hence it tries to cultivate the student in the path chartered by Gandhi, The *yatra*, although difficult is not impossible and Gujarat Vidyapith has taken on that pilgrimage.

### Criterion VI Governance and Leadership

*Sa Vidya ya Vimuktaye*. That is Education that liberates. The principal objective of Gujarat Vidyapith is to prepare through education, workers with character, ability, culture and conscientiousness necessary for the conduct of the movements connected with the regeneration of the country in accordance with the ideals given by Mahatma Gandhi. This is reflected in Education that is propagated by Vidyapith that translates into virtues of equity, dignity of labour, propagation of Khadi, and commitment to Gandhian Values. It also strives to establish live linkage with the communities in society through its numerous extension activities. It has also linked productive work with education.

Vidyapith has initiated five workshops for academic and administrative staff for quality enhancement in last five years. The head of the institution guides and facilitates the employees of the institution. *Kulpati*, during the convocation address, charts out the road map of the institution for the next academic year. Special emphasis is made on adherence to Gandhian values in these difficult times. *Kulnayak* takes active interest in the academic pursuits and encourages the faculty to develop innovative teaching methods besides ‘chalk and talk’. The same is true for research activities. By suggesting new and relevant topics and relating them to Gandhian ideology, the leadership has been trying to provide Gandhian dimension to the research activities of the institution. For extension activities, the leadership has started new programmes like *Gram Jeevan Padyatra* and *Gram Shilpi* keeping Vidyapith vision as the goal to achieve.

The Gujarat Vidyapith was fortunate to be blessed by veteran Gandhian Shree Narayan Desai as chancellor till 7th March 2015, followed by Sushree Ela Bhatt the Silent Revolutionary and founder of SEWA; both with strong commitment and conviction to follow the path laid out by Gandhiji. Prof. Shudarshan Iyengar, as former Vice Chancellor, led Gujarat Vidyapith for better while achieving quality higher education and combining it with Gandhian vision. From January 1 2015 Prof. Anamik Shah has taken charge as Kulnayak (Vice Chancellor) who is a renowned scientist in the field of medical chemistry.

Decision making at the university is a democratic process. Every year eight members of the faculty are selected on rotation basis as Trustees of *Gujarat Vidyapith Mandal*. Some of them are selected for the *Karobari Samiti* (Executive Council) that takes all important decisions. Besides, the heads of the departments are members of the *Vidya Sabha* that take all decisions regarding academic matters. *Mandal* is the apex body of Vidyapith. Besides, there are a

number of committees to look after the smooth functioning of the university. Important committees are *Nanan Samiti* (Finance Committee); *Bandhkam Samiti* (Construction Committee); SC-ST Cell; Development, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Committee. These bodies meet fairly regularly to evaluate the ongoing programmes/projects. All important policy decisions are taken in these bodies regarding efficient and successful workings of Vidyapith are completely implemented. All the departments and sections are coordinated by these committees and are directly responsible to the *Kulsachiv*. The management meets the faculty monthly at the prayer meeting. If required, the management convenes meeting with the faculty to discuss contemporary academic and administrative issues.

The staff recruitment process is fairly transparent. University management evaluates total work load of the department/centre against the number of employees by preparing the list of existing employees and their allotted work responsibility. If the right balance is found lacking, management accepts need for staff recruitment. While selecting a candidate, UGC norms and procedures are adhered. Commitment to Gandhian values is an important criterion for selecting a candidate besides her academic/administrative competency. Out of 121 faculties, 62 teachers are from other institutes/other states. At present, teaching to non-teaching ration is 1:0.65 with technical staff and excluding technical staff is 1:0.55. For teaching and non-teaching staff, there exists a self-appraisal method that helps each individual to work more efficiently and effectively. This appraisal is useful during promotion procedure. Number of courses have been organised to upgrade the skill of non-teaching staff based on the performance appraisal. Accountancy Training, Intel Training, Skill up gradation in computer application are some of the programmes that were organised by Vidyapith during last two years.

Like its first *Kulpati*, Vidyapith as an institute has learned to economise on expenses and work within the allocated budget. It has adequate funding for smooth functioning. It has internal and external audit system like any other institute. The accounts are audited fairly regularly.

Fees for Vidyapith courses range between Rs. 2560/- to Rs. 34440/-. The latest revision was made in 2010. The institute provides a number of facilities to the students by mobilising resources through donations like awarding medals, scholarships and waving food-bill of student from weaker section. A part of infrastructure and its maintenance is also be looked after by Vidyapith through donation. Extension activities like *Gram Jeevan Padyatra* and others are supported by Vidyapith.

Gujarat Vidyapith has been trying to revive the Gandhian vision that helped the institute to evolve over time. For nearly two to three decades, it was mainly following the mainstream system of education. The Leadership at Vidyapith has been trying hard to reintroduce the basic tenets of *Nai Talim*, the pedagogy of education that Gandhiji had envisaged evolving around the learning of Hand, Heart and Head in that order. To sensitise and develop the staff, the leadership has been organising workshops in concerned areas like teaching, research and extension. Vidyapith has deployed substantial amount of human as well as financial resources for extension activities to achieve the mission of reconstruction of rural areas.

## Criterion VII Innovative Practices

According to Gujarat Vidyapith the best innovative practices are:

- 1) Gram Jeevan Padyatra: Direct students and faculty interaction with the society during NSS camps and *Gram Jeevan Padyatra* result in satisfaction of stakeholders. Involvement and participation of stakeholders at various levels in formulation, operationalisation and evaluation of activities/projects provide satisfaction. 3000 families have welcomed the idea of building toilets as a result of efforts of students and teachers.
- 2) Computer Hardware Software and Network Maintenance: The program started by computer department led to Skill development in students and saved monetary resources for the institute. In-house software development and Open Source initiative is also an innovative practice started by the computer department catering the needs of the university, keeping in mind the Gandhian Philosophy that knowledge should be kept in open domain.
- 3) Students and Teachers of Microbiology department motivated 300 hotel owners on highways to build biogas plants without any government support. At the Biogas Research Centre at the rural campus of Sadra, various research activities are going on, viz., economic feasibility of small scale *Gobar* gas plants. The extension activities link the institute with the society. Extension work has remained a strong aspect of the institute.
- 4) Swabhiman Fellowship: This program generates Rs. 50 per hour for the student i.e., Rs. 24000 / year during vacation period. This amount is adequate for a student to fulfil lodging and boarding expenses for two years.
- 5) *Gram Shilpi* program: One of the main functions that were visualised in the beginning of Vidyapith was to train volunteers to work in rural areas for rural reconstruction. The Gramshilpi scheme, which has been initiated in 2006, has led a reverse trend (contrary to conventional universities) where students after higher education voluntarily decide to go back to rural areas for serving the society based on Gandhian vision.

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