

6.5.3 Quality assurance initiatives of the institution by IQAC:

IQAC is the core academic and administrative cell of the HEI with the help of which institute is catering the increasing demands of the youths of this area. HEI has established IQAC on 15 December 2000. All academic and administrative activities are planned and executed and conducted with the guidelines of IQAC using academic and other supportive committees, subcommittees and student council. IQAC has actively planned and following steps employed in bringing out the fruitful outcomes. These are elaborated as follows:

1. Planning and Execution: Academic Calendar is the key aspect of all academic activities of the institutes. The academic calendar is designed before the beginning of the every academic year. Academic calendar adheres with the academic calendar of affiliation university, SPPU, Pune.. Academic calendar for 2020-21 is composed of planning of class time table by online as well as offline mode due to the pandemic, keeping in mind the feasibility of blended education. The schedules of commemorative days, national festivals, national days, training programmes, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc were also planned in the academic calendar. Teaching plans were prepared, published in academic diaries as well as notice boards and submitted to IQAC for approvals by the all the faculties through their HoDs. The academic year began flexibly from June 15, 2020 due to uncertainties of COVID 19 waves. The teaching-learning process started in an online mode and evaluations are also carried out online during odd and even semesters. The teacher representatives use to meet frequently through zoom platform for efficient planning and its execution for AY 2020-21 under the guidance of Hon. Principal. The IQAC meeting was conducted in presence on 28.01.2021 for the detailed discussions and formal approvals of the initiatives and activities in order to smooth functioning of institute. The periodic reviews are taken activities are rescheduled due to pandemic and decisions from higher authorities and executed accordingly.

2. Policy Documentation: The activities are conducted on campus with a specific procedures and policies of HEI. The policy documents and standard operating procedures (SOPs) are framed, reviewed and reframed as per the needs by IQAC and approved by CDC from time to time.

3. Training programs for Teaching and Non-Teaching staff: The modes of conduct of all activities of academic year 2020-21 were fully modified due to COVID 19 pandemic. The first wave of the pandemic hit India in March 2020 that led to a nationwide lockdown for almost six months. A much more aggressive second wave before three months brought the state of Maharashtra to a stand-still. During the first lockdown i.e., from March – July 2020, faculty members were trained to equip themselves to confidently face the challenge of online teaching in the academic year 2020-21. The training programs towards effective use of PowerPoint, OBS software, Google classroom, Video cutter, google meet, zoom, sisco-webex, Microsoft team were conducted for teaching faculty members during June-July 2020. A six-day long computer training programme was conducted for non-teaching staff from 06th to 10th July 2020. Training program on Stress Management at Workplaces was also conducted for all staff of HEI on 20.08.2020 to cope up with the present situation and accept the challenges due to pandemic in the continuation of all activities of the institute.

4. Admission and Examination process: The admissions for the UG and PG classes were completed as per guidelines and norms of the state government and affiliating university through online procedure by conducting online counseling sessions as per the classes and programs in the months of July-August 2020 and October 2020 respectively. The students were admitted with the fee concessions as suggested by the affiliated university and state government. About 80-85% fee collection was carried through an online mode in 2020-21. The online admissions for SY classes were carried out as per the suggestions of SPPU, Pune, as no examinations were conducted for their previous even semester, and hence these students were promoted on the basis of their performance of their previous odd semester. The academic year for all students began virtually from July 2020. The final semester students of UG and PG of the 2019-20 batches appeared for online examinations in October 2020 and received their grades by the end of the same month.

5. Teaching-Learning and Co-curricular Activities: The first year degree classes began on 27th August 2020 and PG classes began in the first week of November 2020. Although the odd semester was disturbed due to pandemic wave and the attendance of the students was observed to be poor, the even semester went on smoothly from December 2020 and ended in May 2021 with some improved attendance. Google Meet and Zoom platforms

were used for deliberations of lecture sessions, practical sessions, webinars, workshops, and other academic activities. Each of the lectures was of 50 minutes with a 10 minutes break before the next session. The reports of the lecture conducted are noted in the Diary of the concerned teacher. The Teacher's Diaries are verified monthly by the respective HoDs and approved by Vice Principal and Principal at the end of each term. The practical sessions were conducted with reduced time interval as per the requirement of time for experiment as well as the data pack available with the students. Google classrooms were initiated for all classes of the respective programmes and used by concerned faculty members. Google forms were used for online summative and formative assessments towards continuous internal evaluations. Due to the pandemic, we all working at HEI adapted a new theme for this period 'Accept the Challenge and Bring out a Change' in line with the vision-mission statement of the college and faced the challenges and continued our activities to excel in academics, research as well as extension programs. Because the policies and procedure adapted in implementation of online education the number of students admitted to various programs was observed to be increased. HEI could not conduct the annual function and other traditional and cultural activities due to the pandemic.

6. AQAR Report: HEI follow the strategies of quality audits and accreditation norms. The regular and timely submission of Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR) is a practice of our HEI. To facilitate the process of data collection for AQAR 2019-20 and supporting evidences, seven subcommittees instituted and headed by the chairman, one for each criterion collected the data on academic, research and extension activities and compiled for the submission in a scheduled time period. As a result AQAR 2019-20 of HEI has been successfully submitted to NAAC, Bangalore on 28.01.2021 at 5.35 pm after the approval from CDC meeting held on 28.01.2021 and is approved and acknowledged on 29.01.2021 by email. AS, HEI is due for the fourth cycle of reaccreditation on 30 October 2022, IQAC has started the compilation of the data towards timely accreditation in 2022-23.

7. Academic and Administrative Audit (AAA): In order to keep the momentum in academic, research and extension activities, IQAC conduct the AAA every year. AAA of all departments for 2019-20 activities was conducted on 22nd July 2020 to ensure the quality policies and effective documentation of the evidences of the programs and activities conducted in the said academic year. For this, Dr. A. D. Harkal, IQAC Coordinator, NACS

College, Ahmednagar (Autonomous) was invited as External Member and worked as Chairman. The committee had raised some queries and gave important suggestions during audit. The audit reports are generated, signed and approved by IQAC Coordinator, IQAC Chairman/Principal. This audit also ensures the professional development of the faculty members. During this period 31 teaching faculties have completed FDP / STC/ RC/ OC by online mode. Apart from this a Green, Energy, Electrical and Safety Audit are also carried out. A fully developed Cactus Garden in the form of well grown cactus species is the attraction of our Botanical Garden.

8. Feedback mechanism: HEI believes in the role of stakeholders in the all-round development and growth of institute. In order to ensure the participation of all, we have set an offline and/or online mechanism for feedback from all stakeholders for collecting suggestions for continuous improvements. The points used in feedback consists of questionnaire on TLP, quality of teachers, curriculum employed, placements generated, research opportunities and scholarships as well as infrastructural facilities. The feedbacks obtained are analyzed for the shortfalls, suggestions and action taken report is prepared and approved in IQAC/CDC meeting. These feedbacks are useful for further planning and execution of all kind of activities. The analysis reports are also shared with individual teachers for understanding their strengths and weaknesses as and when required through their HoDs.

9. Academic and Professional Growth: HEI is always supportive towards the professional developments of our stakeholders in general and faculty members in particular. HEI has a policy and provides the facilities for the professional developments and upgradation of the qualifications of all the staff members in terms of leaves, recommendations as well as financial support. As a result of this policy during this academic year five of our teachers have completed their Ph.Ds. from different universities, one of the teachers has been newly recognized as a Research Guide in Physics, Dr. T. S. Thopate (Chemistry), Dr. S. L. Kadam (Physics) and Dr. S. K. Aher (Botany) have been promoted as a Professors under the CAS. During this academic year 2020-21, five new students have registered in addition to previous eight students, for their Ph.D. degrees in Botany and Chemistry at our Research Centres under the guidance of Dr. R. K. Aher, Dr. R. N. Deshmukh and Dr. R. S. Diggikar respectively.

10. Collaborative Activities: The collaborative activities have a greater impact on their outcomes. HEI has 32 functional MoU and collaborations with various institutes, organizations, and NGOs. These collaborations are mainly useful in designing and conducting the joint programmes, activities like conferences, workshops, seminars academic exchange, research, training and placements as well as extension activities and outreach activities. During this year, HEI has signed 8 MoUs and establishes linkages, to name few of they are, Center for Materials for Electronic Technology (C-MET), Pune (a research recognized laboratory of DST, India) and JNPG College, Dongargan, Chhattisgarh (CG). With few of these collaborations, HEI is conducting cultural and heritage activities to for all round development of students.

11. NIRF, IIC, ARIIA and AISHE Participation: HEI is continuously participating in the NIRF ranking since 2017 as well as in AISHE. In 2017, HEI achieved Rank Band 101-150 in NIRF ranking and continued for data submission every year regularly. HEI has established MHRD IIC, SPPU Innovation and Start-up Cell as well as participated in ARIIA ranking of institutions at all India level.

12. DBT, DST, RUSA proposals: For innovation and incubation cell, the HEI has applied for the grants from DBT, the result is awaited. The HEI has applied on 25 June 2021 for the incubation grants under the iTBI (Technology Business Incubator) scheme of DST. Under RUSA scheme, Govt. of Maharashtra, the proposal for the additional grants has been submitted and is under consideration.

13. Syllabus Training Workshops: The workshop on new CBCS pattern at UG and PG level in the subject of Botany and Chemistry has been conducted by the HEI as a host during August 2020. The feedbacks received from these workshops are helping in the delivery of curriculum.

14. Conferences, Seminar, Workshops conducted: HEI conducted 40 events in online mechanism in the form conferences, workshop, seminars etc. at National / International / State / University level in heterogeneous subjects.