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OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

FURKATING COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

A NAAC Accredited College with A⁺ Grade (4th Cycle)

P.O: Furkating, District: Golaghat, Assam, INDIA, Pin: 785610

Dr. Apurba Saikia
Principal

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Ref: FKGCC/EPRR/2023-24/6590

Date 21/11/2024

To

Mr M.K. Meena

Under Secretary

UGC, New Delhi - 110002

Sub: Submission of External Peer Review Report for the Year 2023-24

Ref : No.F. 2-10/2023(AC-Policy)

Date-2nd June,2023

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above I would like to submit herewith an External Peer Review Report on academic & administrative aspects of this college for the Year 2023-24.

Yours faithfully

(Dr Apurba Saikia)

Principal

Furkating College

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Introduction

Furkating College, established in 1981, has been a cornerstone of higher education in the Golaghat District of Assam. Over the years, Furkating College has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to academic excellence, community engagement, and holistic student development.

The college achieved a significant milestone on June 2, 2023, when it was granted **Autonomous status**. This recognition underscores its journey toward academic autonomy and its dedication to enhancing educational quality.

This report is prepared for the Academic Session 2023-24 highlighting academic, administrative & financial arrangements made by the college to implement autonomous status.

2. Accreditation History

Furkating College has consistently pursued excellence in education, as evidenced by its accreditation history by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC):

2003: Accredited with a C++ grade, **2010:** B grade (2.63), **2016:** B++ grade (2.76), **2022:** A+ grade (3.36)

3. Academic Programmes

Furkating College offers a wide range of programmes across undergraduate and postgraduate levels, demonstrating its commitment to holistic education and inclusivity:

1. Undergraduate (FYUGP) Programmes:

❖ Bachelor of Arts (BA):

- Subjects: Assamese, Economics, Education, English, History, Political Science, Sociology, and Geography.

❖ Bachelor of Science (FYUGP in B.Sc.):

- Subjects: Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, and Mathematics.

2. Postgraduate (PG) Programmes:

- Subjects: Assamese, Political Science, History, and English.

3. Vocational Education:

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- B.Voc. in Hospitality Management, enhancing employability through skill-based education.

4. Faculty Profile

The college has diverse faculty strength that reflects a balanced mix of experienced and emerging contributing significantly to the quality of education and research at the college.

- Associate Professors: 7
- Assistant Professors: 14
- Contractual Faculties: 14

5. Autonomous Status and Academic Reputation

The conferment of Autonomous status on June 2, 2023, has been pivotal in enhancing Furkating College's academic flexibility and reputation. This strategic shift has contributed to the college's notable national ranking of 132nd by *India Today*, reflecting its growing academic stature.

MAJOR CHANGES MADE POST-AUTONOMOUS STATUS OF THE COLLEGE

1. Introduction

- ❖ Constitution of Statutory Bodies as per UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures For maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2023
 - Reconstitution of the Governing Body
 - Constitution of Academic Council
 - Constitution of Board of Studies
 - Constitution of Finance Committee
- ❖ Key curriculum decisions were made with due approval from the Board of Studies and Academic Council meetings convened on 24.07.2023, 22.12.2023 & 07.09.2024 to implement significant curriculum reforms.
- ❖ Preparation of academic regulations and approval by the Academic Council in the meetings held on 24.07.2023, 22.12.2023 & 07.09.2024
- ❖ Addition of new academic programmes - UG Science stream, PG programmes in History, Assamese, Political Science, and English, and AICTE-approved BCA and BBA courses.

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Director
(IQAC, AWU,
Jorhat-78

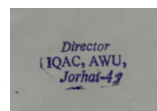
- ❖ Vocational courses such as Diploma in **Front Office** under the Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.) programme to cater to emerging industry demands.
- ❖ Inclusion of **Bodo** as a **Modern Indian Language (MIL)**, promoting linguistic diversity and regional cultural preservation.
- ❖ **Introduction of 13 skill-oriented certificate courses** including 7 under **PMKVY 4.0** and 1 under **SWAYAM**
- ❖ Establishment of a dedicated **Examination Cell** as per UGC (Conferment of Autonomous Status Upon Colleges and Measures For maintenance of Standards in Autonomous Colleges) Regulations, 2023 to ensure smooth execution of evaluations and examinations
- ❖ All **academic activities**, including **examination**, are conducted in accordance with the **SAMARTH** portal established by the **Government of Assam**.
- ❖ An **Examination Branch**, equipped with all requisite facilities, was established as a **significant infrastructure** reform following the grant of autonomy.
- ❖ **Formulation** of key policies such as **Research Policy, Examination Result Policy, and Publication & Ethics Policy** to align with NAAC standards.
- ❖ Furkating College adheres to the **standardized fee structure approved by the Government of Assam**, which is subject to periodic revisions.
- ❖ A nominal fee collected from **graduating students** upon the conferment of their degrees is deposited into the **Alumni Fund**.
- ❖ The institution's **only source of funding**, apart from the **fees collected from self-financed courses**, is limited.
- ❖ **Constitution of different Committees/Cells** as per UGC regulations – Internal Complaint Committee, NEP Cell, Indian Knowledge System, Student Grievance Redressal Cell

OTHER MEASURES POST-AUTONOMOUS:

- **Digital and IT Advancements** observed in implementation of an **ERP system** for seamless management of academic and administrative functions.
- High-speed **fiber internet (60 Mbps)** ensuring uninterrupted access to digital resources.
- **Enhanced Library Resources** with access to **DELNET**, and a digital repository via the **D-Space app**.
- Constitution of the **Institution's Innovation Council (IIC)** to foster research, innovation, and entrepreneurial initiatives, aligning with the college's commitment to research reforms.
- Increased faculty engagement in publishing research papers in **UGC CARE and Scopus-indexed journals**, and authoring books on diverse topics like socio-cultural studies and literature.

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- The institution has introduced **financial assistance for faculty**, allocating ₹100,000 as seed money to support research projects fostering a robust research culture.
- **Some new methods** initiated for continuous evaluation of students – Book review, Viva-voce, MCQ test.
- A Job Fair organized in collaboration with AISECT, providing placement opportunities to a significant number of selected students.
- Organization of national seminars and workshops, such as the seminar on “Re-Establishing Bharat as Vishwaguru”.
- Noteworthy Best Practices: **Enhancing Employability and Skill Development**

Other Observations based on existing aspects:

- **Experiential Learning:** Integration of field projects, internships, and industrial training for real-world exposure.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Regular feedback from students, faculty, alumni, and employers to enhance institutional quality.
- **Outcome-Based Education:** Curriculum aligned with industry standards focusing on skill development, employability, and holistic growth.
- **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** Introduction of interdisciplinary courses and updated assessment policies.
- **ICT Integration:** Adoption of smart boards, LMS, e-resources (INFLIBNET, DELNET) for enhanced learning.
- **Participatory Learning:** Peer teaching and support for slow/advanced learners.
- **Grievance Redressal:** Structured mechanism for addressing exam-related grievances.
- **Mentoring System:** Individual counseling, remedial classes, and motivation for holistic student development.
- **Annual Student Satisfaction Survey** to evaluate academic quality and teaching practices.
- **Faculty Engagement:** Increased research publications in UGC CARE and Scopus-indexed journals.
- **Community Engagement:** Active NSS/NCC programs; MoUs with resorts and training institutes for internships.
- **Infrastructure:** Modernized classrooms, upgraded library, multi-functional auditorium, and well-equipped science labs.
- **Inclusivity:** Accessibility features for differently-abled students; clean drinking water facilities.
- **Sports & Fitness:** State-of-the-art sports facilities, including football, cricket, indoor stadium, and multi-gym.
- **IT Infrastructure:** 73 computers, SOUL 3.0 for library management, upgraded website.
- **Financial Support:** ₹54,68,620 in government aid and ₹55,940 in institutional support for students.

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- **Competitive Exam Guidance:** Structured programs leading to placements and higher education admissions.
- **Faculty Development:** FDPs and skill enhancement workshops for teaching and administrative staff.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Waste management, solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, and eco-friendly campus initiatives.
- **Gender Equity & Social Responsibility:** Programs for gender awareness, women's rights, and empowerment, alongside participation in national initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

SWOC (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges) Analysis

The Peer Team visit to Furkating College (Autonomous) involved a comprehensive review of the college's SWOC analysis, focusing on key aspects that impact its overall growth, effectiveness, and reputation. Below is a detailed assessment based on the findings of the SWOC analysis:

Strengths

- **Autonomous Status:** Enables flexible curriculum, innovative teaching, and customized assessments.
- **Regional and Cultural Integration:** Promotes Assamese culture and fosters community pride and cohesion.
- **Diverse Academic Programmes:** Offers practical, industry-relevant courses, including B.Voc and PMKVY 4.0 training.
- **Community Engagement:** Actively participates in health camps, environmental initiatives, and scholarships.

Weaknesses

Resource Limitations: Budget constraints hinder infrastructure, research facilities, and digital resource development.

- **Limited Postgraduate Offerings:** Fewer postgraduate programmes restrict higher education opportunities.

Opportunities

- **Digital Learning Expansion:** Enhancing online and blended learning for greater accessibility and resource integration.
- **Industry Partnerships:** Boosting vocational training and job opportunities through collaborations.
- **Research and Innovation:** Establishing centres focused on regional issues like Assamese culture, sustainability, and agriculture.

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- **Cultural and Tourism Promotion:** Partnering with organizations to highlight local culture and tourism.

Challenges

- **Funding and Financial Sustainability:** Limited finances impact infrastructure, faculty, and academic growth.
- **Curriculum Relevance:** Adapting to rapid industry changes demands constant resource investment.
- **Student Retention:** Supporting rural students facing financial and familial constraints.

Recommendation:

- An exclusive feedback on the newly introduced Autonomous Status must be taken from the students & other stakeholders.
- The self-financing courses must be reviewed and a rigorous policy must be adopted for the smooth functioning of these courses.
- Causes of drop out students across discipline must be identified.
- Teachers must be encouraged to publish UGC care listed journal and specially for research project.
- Courses on global importance such as artificial intelligence may be incorporated in near future.
- Initiative for industry –academia collaboration at both departmental & institutional level must be taken in near future.

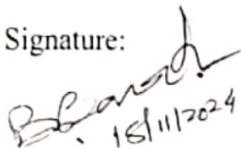
Conclusion

The AAA Team acknowledges Furkating College's commitment to academic excellence and community engagement post-autonomous status. By addressing challenges and leveraging opportunities, the college is poised for continued growth and societal impact.

Signature of Members of AAA Team

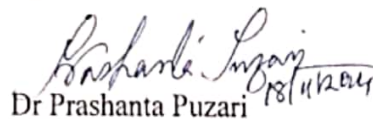
Chairman :

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Dr Bimal Borah
Former Principal
J.B College (Autonomous), Jorhat

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Dr Prashanta Puzari
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