



## TOWARDS HOLISTIC FORMATION OF RURAL STUDENTS

PERSPECTIVE PLAN- 2018-2023



**ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE (Autonomous)**

(Reaccredited by NAAC at 'A' Grade with a CGPA of 3.66)

(Affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)

Karumathur, Madurai – 625 514



# ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE

(An Autonomous Institution Affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University)  
Re-accredited (3rd cycle) by NAAC with 'A' Grade - CGPA 3.66  
on a 4-point scale  
Karumathur - 625 514, Madurai District, Tamilnadu

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## ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Arul Anandar College (Autonomous), a Christian minority institution affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University is located in Karumathur of the Usilampatti Taluk, Madurai district, 22 km away from Madurai. It was founded by the late Archbishop of the Madurai Diocese, the Most Rev. Dr. Justin Diraviam in 1970 and was formerly known as De La Salle College. In 1972 it was renamed as Arul Anandar College. This institution is one among the six higher educational institutions, run by the Jesuit Madurai Province of the Society of Jesus. It became autonomous in 1987 and co-educational in 2001. It is a grant-in-aid institution recognized by the UGC under sections 2(f) and 12(B). The Minority Status helps the college to attend to the educational needs of the disadvantaged sections of the society through its admissions, appointments and administrative procedures. The Autonomous Status since 1987 added opportunity for the college to design its own curriculum pertaining to the contextual needs of the student community. One such programme is Rural Development Science.

Arul Anandar College is conscious of its avowed mission of rural social transformation in the neighbourhood villages where a sizeable population struggles to earn its wherewithal due to decline in agriculture and its related occupations mainly due to errant monsoons. The youth who opt for higher education have a definite purpose of transforming their livelihood by absorbing and adopting development-specific knowledge in the pedagogic process. Set against such a backdrop, this college has been sensitive to the changing times to provide the best of services so as to facilitate the process of development in the target region. The entire academic process is designed to fulfil the emerging needs of the contemporary social and economic reality the students are set to face. In recognition of its student-cum-community-centred initiatives through its innovative academic and extension programmes, the college was accredited with the most coveted Five Star Status by NAAC in 2001. The quality enhancement and sustenance strategies of the institution were consistent and continuously recognised in the following reaccreditations when the institution was reaccredited at 'A' Grade with a CGPA of 3.52 in 2008 and at 'A' Grade with an upgraded CGPA of 3.66 in 2014. Teaching-learning and research were further facilitated by the DST-FIST sponsorship in 2016.



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## VISION

- Integrated Development of Rural Students and Empowering them for Social Transformation

## MISSION

- To provide facilities for academic excellence, training in soft skills and job placement
- To enable students to be agents of social transformation by imparting skills in research and social analysis
- To build Arul Anandar College into a policy advocacy centre

## STRATEGY

- Empowering rural students through innovative and socially contextualized education
- Fostering a sense of human rights founded on dignity, equity and justice
- Initiating **ICT** integrated socially relevant research
- Promoting people-friendly policies and programmes through networking
- Establishing an organic link between 'Lab and Land'
- Facilitating gender equity both on and off the campus
- Promoting stakeholder participation in academic and extension activities.



## CORE VALUES

- **Global Awareness:** The Core Curriculum is designed to help one to expand one's knowledge of inter-dependent global community. The campuses are literally surrounded with diverse cultural experiences, compelling all entering them to imbibe easily the values of a true citizen of the world. The Jesuit educational philosophy is more than 400 years old and has moulded thinkers and leaders of every type in all walks of life.
- **Values-based Leadership:** At a Jesuit College, the curriculum emphasizes responsible leadership, with a consistent focus on personal integrity, ethical behaviour, civic engagement with justice and love. Arul Anandar College attains the goal through suitable curriculum communications focussed training programmes.
- **Commitment to Excellence:** Nearly all of the faculty members hold the highest degree in their fields, and all make abundant and full use of their resources to motivate their students to reach forever-greater personal achievement.
- **Preserving and Protecting the Environment:** Jesuits advocate interconnectedness of the universe and promote interdependent existence. Arul Anandar College communicates on sustainable interaction with nature and preservation of nature loving care.
- **Faith in God and the Religious Experience:** Faith is not an obstacle to learning—it can often enlighten one's intellectual search and provide meaningful context to one's studies and civic engagement. Arul Anandar College encourages a broad understanding of faith as part of a transformative education, and strives to promote religious and cultural pluralism.
- **Service that Promotes Justice:** Jesuits follow the principles of *cura personalis*—care of the whole person—as well as *homonis pro aliis*—people caring for others. Education and experience can enrich one's life, but they are not for one's benefit alone. Arul Anandar College prepares one to be a citizen who can use knowledge and skills to ensure freedom of inquiry, the pursuit of truth, and compassion for others.



## **INSPIRING PEDAGOGIC TRADITION OF THE JESUITS**

The Jesuit Management of the college belongs to the Society of Jesus, an International religious order of the Catholic Church. The Society has a long experience of establishing and running colleges and universities at international level. The leadership and educational experience and social commitment of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit Fathers) provide strong foundation to the college to cater to the educational empowerment of the rural and disadvantaged sections of the people. The Jesuits run 62 institutions of higher learning including two Universities in India.

## **TARGET GROUP**

The concentration of attention of the Jesuit Institutions including Arul Anandar College is on the marginalized, poor and those living in the fringes of the society, who have so far, not reaped the benefits of development or inclusion but can be shaped as future leaders of the country with zeal to build up a society of justice and equality.



## INSTITUTIONAL PLAN FOR FIVE YEARS

(2018-19 – 2022-23)

The changing and challenging Higher Education scenario demands periodical planning and time bound implementation taking along with it new innovations and initiatives in the teaching learning process. Recording, reporting and publicizing the plan of action and action taken report are essential for a transparent and accountable development of the institution. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell is entrusted with the role of promoting, monitoring and ensuring the proper functioning of the administrative and academic systems.

### CURRICULAR ASPECTS

Arul Anandar College introduced the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) for UG aided programmes in 2003 on an experimental basis. After thorough evaluation at different levels, the system was remodelled and extended to all UG and PG programmes in 2008. Further it was restructured in 2012. Almost fifteen years of vibrant experimentation with CBCS gently persuaded the college to identify areas of pedagogic innovation and implementation. The College entrusts the above task to the Internal Quality Assurance Cell and Curriculum Development Cell. They study new developments in CBCS and curriculum structure and modify the curriculum based on expert guidelines and suggestions. No institution can be satisfied with the status quo. The institution considers the vertical and horizontal growth as the most important agenda to be discussed under developmental plans. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell after a through feasibility study recommends the introduction of new programmes like B.A. Tourism and Hospitality Management, B. Voc. in Clinical Nutrition and Lab Technology, B.Sc. Physics (S.F.), B.Sc. Chemistry (S.F.), M.Sc. Chemistry, M.A. English Literature, M.Phil. Mathematics, M. Phil. Physics and so on.



The college while adhering to the admission policy of preferential option for the rural poor and the marginalised provides quality training to make them on par with the best/well accessed students. IQAC considers the training in language skills and other soft skills as continuous and progressive. Hence, IQAC recommends the Curriculum Development Council to incorporate them into curriculum by revamping the CBCS structure at regular intervals. While revising the CBCS structure of curriculum, the Cell also considers the introduction of wide choice under Electives and also the introduction of Credit Transfer facility.

### **TEACHING- LEARNING AND EVALUATION**

The college willingly promotes the education of disadvantaged and the less privileged. Further, the college is conscious of accompanying them in achieving their goals. IQAC suggests conducting a serious and methodological revamping of the Bridge Course to make it effective in helping the first-generation graduates to attain language skills and ability of confident communication. It also includes the activities that transcend cultural lag.

Four Foundation Courses are offered for the holistic development of the students thereby imparting the need to respect and understand people from other cultures and environments. The Department of Foundation Courses has to project the need, focus and comprehensiveness through multidimensional training and exposure. The Department also has to discover a new nomenclature that can speak the role, means and goal of the Department.

Only a good learner can be an efficient teacher. Openness and receptiveness are the qualities of an ideal teacher. One who is willing to acquire knowledge from anywhere and from anybody spreads also accordingly. Consequently, the knowledge is transmitted beyond the barriers. Old generation of teachers are good at chalk and talk method but hesitate to use ICT for easy and effective communication and new generation is good at ICT, but neglect systematic and methodological communication. Both are to be appreciated for their strength and encouraged to acquire the lack. The IQAC plans need based workshop on the application of ICT and LMS and their application in the teaching-learning and evaluation for the seniors and training in language skills, especially on writing skills for the juniors.





The current evaluation system has only a limited scope to test the knowledge levels beyond memory and understanding. It suggests to the Dean for Academic Affairs and the Controller of Examinations to use the potencies of Autonomy to modify exam system to accommodate evaluation strategies for the students to apply higher knowledge levels.

## **STUDENT PROGRESSION**

Knowledge emerges as the butter comes out from curd through the process of churning. Teachers have to facilitate the disciples to churn their worth and retrieve the best of them. The College realises the importance of mentor care programme in helping students to identify and develop their worth. All teachers are mentors, and they have to be trained to be effective mentors. Mentoring activities are to be skilfully complemented by incorporating the service of professional counsellors.

Advanced training and exposure can be given on mentoring and counselling to a group of selected members of the faculty in a training centre like Anugraha in Dindugal. Simultaneously, IQAC recommends adding a training programme on mentoring techniques in the inception programme of the new recruits.

Achievers become high achievers if they are properly encouraged and trained. Therefore, advanced learners and achievers in co curricular and extracurricular activities need to be provided with right exposure. The College has to publicise their achievements on the campus and promote their worth off the campus. During the major events of the college, they have to be brought into the limelight. The contributions are to be publicised with their photographs in the website, college magazine and in other publications.

As the College cares the poorest in the society, it has created lot of scholarships and endowments on the compassionate ground. The College has also to attend on the mobilization of resources to reward the merit of students as well as for conducting academic programmes.



## RESEARCH

The college created ambience to merge teaching and research. Many members of the faculty completed their Ph.D. The College encourages and facilitates all Ph.D. holders to apply for research projects and a few have undertaken research projects. In this regard, IQAC suggests to the Management to establish seed money for funding research initiation projects for the young teachers especially from the self-financed streams.

The faculties have brought out a number of International and National level publications with impact factor especially by the Science Departments. In addition to the above members, Faculty members from other departments also have published in different journals, proceedings and books. IQAC decided to identify the Journals under UGC Care List and encourage them to publish in such recognized journals.

The Departments of Economics, Physics and Rural Development Science are approved Research Centers. There are faculty members from other departments of the aided stream who are recognized as guides under Madurai Kamaraj University. The IQAC proposes the Dean- Research to take necessary initiatives to make all such PG Departments as Research Centers.

Innovation and IPR Cell is taking its early steps by conducting workshops on various aspects relating to Intellectual Property Rights, copyrights and patents. It has to discover its place on the campus by conducting feasibility study on establishing Incubation Centres and Start Ups. The Cell may have to facilitate the innovators on the campus to get patent or copyright for their research findings or publications. The Cell along with the Management has to institute seed money for the promotion of IPR related activities. To start with a minimum funding may be ensured by allocating some fund in the budget.



## **EXTENSION**

Extension is a mode of interactive learning. All the participants including students and village beneficiaries are participants of learning. Students are the formal learners and the villagers, informal learners. Emphasis is to be given to life orienting and life generating learning. Hence, the focus of extension is shifted from mere experiencing of ordinary realities of life to the application of problem-solving scientific methodologies of learning and resolving the issues by availing public facilities. Students learn governmental measures for the social uplift and encourage villagers to active participants of the schemes. Thus, emphasis is given to health and hygiene, cleanliness, financial supports, transaction methods, and development of agriculture and animal husbandry.

ACPR can utilise the ARISE volunteers for training the farmers on the field and collecting data for documentation. ARISE emphasises on collecting data and doing group project work.

Training to the elected members of the panchayat has to be done periodically. Knowledge sharing with and through them can become a regular practice. All extension activities in the villages are to be done in collaboration with the village leaders and with the support of governmental machinery. Cleaning of village premises and ponds, construction of percolation tanks and planting of trees are to be done with the participation of village volunteers.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Arul Anandar College is conscious of its responsibility of improving infrastructure facilities in proportion to the increase in enrolment, programmes and services. Being in a remote area, deficit power supply hinders the development projects of the institution. The college is negotiating with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board for getting additional supply of power. IQAC proposes to the Management on the augmentation of alternative energy sources. Similarly, IQAC suggests conducting energy audit every alternative year for improving energy efficiency.



The college is determined to facilitate effective teaching-learning and evaluation through Information and Communication Technologies and Learning Management Systems. IQAC suggests the Management to conduct IT audit or seek formal expert opinion before upgrading the software or hardware. The same may be followed at the purchase of new software or hardware.

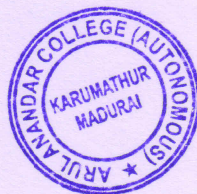
The college has to incorporate ICT facilities for ensuring administrative and financial documentation, transparency and accountability. Hence periodical and need based upgradation of ERP, ICT infrastructure, bandwidth and net connectivity are recommended by IQAC.

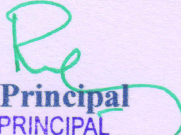
## GOVERNANCE

Arul Anandar College has developed a responsible and accountable governance system. The College has evolved a robust written or conventional policies, systems and procedures. They are mostly practiced as habits. The IQAC with the consent of the Board of Management has periodically intervened to make need-based alterations and strengthened the systems by specifying policies and procedures.

In this regard, IQAC plans to strengthen the process by ensuring the documentation of the reports of the meetings of the statutory and non-statutory committees through the college automation and ERP and publicising the reports and their outcomes in the college website.

IQAC proposes to the Dean for Academic Affairs to facilitate all the departments, offices, units and committees to place their recommendations and proposals in the appropriate Statutory Bodies like the Academic Council, the Board of Management or the Governing Body for formal approval and ensure that the approval is incorporated in the minutes of the meeting.



  
**Principal**  
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