

RECOMMENDATION AND SUGGESTIONS

An institution of this nature has to guard against isolationism, fragmentation and a loss of focus in academic matters. While the emphasis on Kannada is understandable, it should not become an end in itself. The University should bear in mind the multicultural context in which it operates. Networking with institutions of higher learning both within the state and outside, spreading out in terms of research and dissemination in languages other than Kannada (including English) would be essential to guard against the isolation. As far as fragmentation in academic pursuits is concerned the University has to institute certain measures for consolidation. Certain departments, for example, may be merged to provide better and more cogent research orientation. The department of History, Archaeology, Epigraphy could work in union; so could the departments of tribal Studies, Folklore, Anthropology, Kannada Language and Literature and Kannada Language Development.



Thirdly the emphasis on short-term projects runs the risk of attempted empiricism with insufficient theoretical ground-base. Large long-term research projects that are multi-disciplinary in character involving more than one department of school would have to be planned to guard against such possibilities. For example, a project on manuscript illustrations can be jointly tackled by the departments of Manuscriptology and Fine Arts (Painting). Duplication of projects in various departments should be avoided.

In certain fields infrastructure needs improvement, like in computerization, library facilities etc. The Peer Team is apprehensive that new buildings under construction (the girl Students' Hostel and the Kannada Library) may not conform to this broad design. This the University should look into.

If possible, the University should organize one or two Art Fairs every year in order to exhibit as well as sell the art objects created by its students and teachers. It should also avail of such opportunities offered by country fairs by opening a stall from which books and artefacts can be sold. The Peer Team thought that the present fair being held at Banashankari was a good occasion to put up a stall. The Pustaka Yatra of the Prasara division should also have a component of Shilpa Yatra, as well as that of other materials produced by the University.

These other materials may be audio and video cassettes (or CDs) of musical and other performances prepared by the Tribal Studies or Folklore departments, who can sell them to the electronic media and to the general public.

We could also emphasize that given the very specified nature and mission of the University, and given that it has done a commendable job in such a short time on a rather restricted budget, to expect that it will raise internal resources on a significant scale in order to maintain and build upon its admirable record, we believe, will be totally unrealistic. We appreciate what it has achieved so far along these lines, including the initiative taken by the present Vice Chancellor in collection MP local area development funds. However, we feel it strongly that it is the State that has established it with a definite mission and philosophy, and it is the State that should bear by far the major responsibility of maintaining and nurturing this distinctive institution with sufficient financial and other support.