



KANNADA UNIVERSITY, HAMPI
Vidyaranya – 583 276
Hospet, Vijayanagar District, Karnataka

AAA Report 2025

1. Introduction

Kannada University is established in the year 1991 by an Act (Kannada University Act, 1991) has the sole objective of promoting the ‘Kannada culture’ in the light of its rich literature, arts, culture, tradition and heritage in the broader framework of *Bharatheya* ethos as one stop centre for promoting and developing the language.

The Act believes to achieve this, through the conduct of intense multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research in different areas of the language covering various disciplines like history, politics, archeology, anthropology and visual art to name a few, thus promoting Kannada and *Kannadiga* identity for the posterity through teaching, learning and inter and intra disciplinary research. In order to achieve this tall order and ambitious vision the university through its Act redeems itself from the shackles of affiliation, jurisdiction and any limitations to introducing courses that are either multidisciplinary or integrated in nature.

This uniqueness of the university is captured by the observations of the first NAAC team which says“...that this University is a special kind of institution, and stands apart from a conventional university...” hinting at the need for a different approach to assess and accredit the functioning of this university.

As a university, this institution is well placed in the backdrop of a historically known UN recognised world heritage Center - a tourist site known as Hampi, which though is quite a rural canvas. As a monolingual unitary research university, this university has the state of Karnataka and beyond as its jurisdiction. The university though not specified in any form to be a limited

research based university restricting itself to the promotion of Kannada language and literature has over the years broadened its horizon by way of adapting to the new and socially relevant programs under humanities, social sciences, arts and science integrating the audio and visual media and the digitised world.

Vision

- To be a premier institution in the world specialising in Karnataka Studies
- To Produce and disseminate knowledge in Kannada and on Karnataka culture and heritage
- To explore the diverse textures of the ethos and culture of Karnataka and to sustain its pluralistic and secular character as a society.

Mission

- To promote inter and multi-disciplinary research in Kannada on culture, society, economy and polity.
- To make research materials (both discursive as well as material) available to scholars of Karnataka Studies
- To study the linguistic (textual, oral, performative and discursive) practices of the society in general and marginalised communities in particular
- To identify multiple knowledge systems with which the communities operate and theorize them
- To discover, decipher and preserve manuscripts inscribed on leaves, stone and on other materials
- To develop theory, method, concept and language to meet the research practices of Kannada research community
- To train and promote the spirit of multi-disciplinary research practices among the students
- To critically examine and make viable the agricultural, business and other livelihood practices of the communities
- To establish academic and community linkages to take the knowledge to society and to bring back the knowledge underlining their practices
- To make available research/knowledge in Kannada to both academics and those who are interested, through publications, databases and web services
- To be a platform for scholars of other institutions who are working in the

thrust areas recognised by the university

2. Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Challenges (SWOC)

Strengths

1. It's a research University located near Hampi, a world heritage site, thus gets an exposure to showcase its research and creative abilities without strain
2. University has earmarked adequate funds for research though the procedure for its allotment needs scrutiny and revamping
3. It is a green campus with well designed spacious and traditionally designed infrastructure that begs for greater utilisation and creative space management
4. Pro lower strata approach both in production and dissemination of knowledge is not only apparent but calls for greater utilitarian inclusive engagement
5. Outreach programs are sensible but needs to be shared more among the needy communities with proper strategies to enable its impact on the targeted communities
6. University offers programs of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary in nature, which aligns with National Education Policy of the country.

Weaknesses

1. Less efforts are made to make up the insufficient internal revenue generation
2. Lack of result oriented marketing strategies to sell the University programs and no visible attempts to contain the drop out ratio
3. Lack of enthusiasm to design collaboration, MoUs with national and international institutions
4. Lack of strategies to attract students from different parts of the state
5. Under utilization of the available Human Resources and lack of programmes to tap their capacity building
6. Very meek and timid trials of engagement with English Language either in teaching, research, or publications.

Opportunities

1. As this is the only university with a clear mandate to promote and work in the area

of Kannada language and culture the opportunity of it to transform itself into a premier research university is very high

2. It can by creating a data bank promote itself to be the hub of traditional knowledge and Indian Knowledge System.
3. It can by taking projects attract tourists to work towards generating interests among the tourists to stay in heritage villages, study native medicines and work with them in collaboration and market the goods and services of the artisans around thus contributing to the economy of the region (which is coming under 371J Kalyana Karnataka
4. It has the opportunity to bring in the employment oriented short duration courses based on skill like beautician, tattoos, pot making, yoga, visual arts etc to attract students from other countries and states.
5. Green and vast campus could be used to generate revenue by commercializing or by creating artificial villages and historical places as a tourist destination.
6. To undertake translation work related to Medicine, Engineering and other professional programs for the benefits of students within the state, which is one of the goal of NEP 2020.

Challenges

1. As a mono-disciplinary university with only Kannada as a language of medium of instruction in teaching and research there is a need to bring equivalence and recognition to the research, curriculum and academic practices to the works undertaken by the faculty such as qualitative assessments, blind reviews, review of projects by subject experts etc., and that seems to be a difficult step to take.
2. Negotiating against the market requirements and aspirations of students to compete in a larger competitive world by introducing new age program in Archeology Tourism and Indian Knowledge System and the skills of excavations with partnerships on a PPP model or ensuring placements to students is posing a challenge to the university as there are language barriers.
3. Generating internal sources of revenue with the decline of state funding is yet another challenge as there is neither consultancy nor major projects at hand. Retirement and clearance for new appointments have only complicated this matter as there are no innovation happening on the campus
4. Challenges of creating demand for the existing degrees and starting courses which

have ready demand in the market have failed the university as the integrated PhD programmes without farsighted thinking have abruptly stopped rendering admissions to many departments difficult

5. Students from economically and socially deprived classes are the core student population. Since the university is itself in financial difficulty these students are looking the other side for their survival has hit the University admissions
6. Many of the diploma courses are also running out of students as there are no plans to offer skills or internships to them while there is a demand for teaching for competitive examinations and English learning - these changed priorities are demanding the change in the structure and working of the university is also an institutional challenge
7. University can start English language lab with the support of national and state skill development scheme. Also university can engage partnership with industries to setup state of the art facility on soft skill programs as bridge course under CSR programs.

The University however will have to make a lot of efforts to overcome these challenges and ensure the future of those students who are currently there.

3. CRITERIA WISE SUMMARY

Criterion 1 – Curricular Aspects

Curricula Design and Development

- University offers UG, MA, PhD and UG and PG Diploma programs.
- Research Programs of the university equips the students with research skills and also with written and oral communication skills only in Kannada.
- Post Graduate courses in Visual Arts, Manuscriptology and Music equips the students with skills in the respective fields.
- Keeping in view of the requirements of NEP 2020, the departments offering these courses are required revise their syllabus once in three years as per UGC.
- External experts who are outside of the university system may be appointed as members of the BOS to update the curricula and syllabus.
- Value Addition Courses – for example, Communicative English, Tally, Digital literacy, financial literacy etc – may be introduced.

Academic Flexibility

- The focus of the university on multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary research and teaching restricting it to department or to the individual teacher undertaken through the funding given by the university is bringing results and producing knowledge - however, it is limiting the competence of the teachers to apply and get funds from major national agencies.
- Since most of these projects are in Kannada the academic strength of this research is not shared with the outside world due to restrictive language and translation opportunities. Adding to it is the lack of qualifying mechanism like book reviews or expert reviews.
- In order to achieve the above the faculty in the university as a whole must work towards building consensus on reinventing the university goals and priorities and if need be demand for an amendment in the act to inculcate 21st century curriculum and courses to raise funds through the participation of private investments.

Curriculum Enrichment

- In all the departments offering different courses care is taken to incorporate human values, sustainability of resources use and environment concerns
- In departments such as language, literature studies, Visual Arts, Music and Dance the programs offered supports the students to meet their creative, innovative and divergent competencies.

Feedback System

- This system has to be revised and made more transparent and discussed openly without inhibitions for the development of the university as a whole as this is the only source of true assessment of the university teachers and administration

Criterion II – Teaching, Learning and Evaluation

2.1 Student Enrolment and Profile

- Between 2019-25 the students enrolment has fallen drastically, the university has not made any visible attempts to find out the reasons.

- Majority of the students who were from rural areas with a difficult socio-economic and backward background seem disillusioned.
- There were one or two students were getting admission to visual arts program from other states, from last five years there are no students from other states.

2.2 Catering to Student Diversity

University cater the need of Scheduled caste, Scheduled tribes and other backward community including disabled students.

2.3 Teaching–Learning Process

- Students have the freedom to choose topics of their choice for research.
- Students are also encouraged to participate in seminar and workshops organized by the departments, on campus and outside the campus.
- Most of the departments organise extension activities.
- Students are involved in these extension activities
 - Teaching Kannada and Kannada culture to Kannadigas living in diaspora in collaboration with associations may be planned.
 - A language lab may be set up. It can be kept open to students as well as tourists to learn Kannada and English.

2.4 Teacher Profile and Quality

- In 2019-25 38 faculty members are in roll.
- There are 31 Professors, 1 Associate Professor and 6 Assistant Professors.
- All of them have Ph.D. Degree except one faculty.
- Majority of them have more than 10 years of teaching experience
- All of them are Professors through CAS promotion.

2.5 Evaluation Process and Reforms

- Through entrance exam candidates are selected for all the programs
- Before giving permanent registration for Ph.D. students after course work as per UGC guidelines.

- Mentor-mentee system may be strengthened. For example, students may be allotted a mentor soon after the admission.

2.6 Student Performance and Learning Outcomes

University programs aims to equip students with oral and written competencies to articulate their ideas and prepare them to excel in their chosen domain and contribute state development. Measuring outcome of each program is very essential as per New Education Policy.

2.7 Student Satisfaction Survey

It was observed that University has practice of taking feedback from students, alumni and faculty on syllabus, campus facility and the feedback was submitted to honorable vice-chancellor for necessary action.

III. Research, Innovations and Extension –

3.4. Research Publications and Awards

- It was observed that several teachers have taken up individual project and also participated in Department project.
- It was observed that very few teachers have undertaken research projects funded by various funding agencies.
- Several faculty members are involved with state government in framing policies by undertaking action oriented research work on social issues.
- It was observed that Department of Tribal studies have received funding under SAP scheme from UGC for creating digital archive of tribal in the state.
- Research output of both individual and department projects are published in book form or as chapters or articles in edited books or as articles in journals.
- 15 faculty members have received several national and state awards for their innovative works and also for their contribution to research.
- There are thirteen Chairs in the University. They are involved in publication and dissemination of knowledge in villages, academic institutions and organizations. The working of these chairs requires to be designed with a focus on Outcome and continuous evaluation.

3.5. Consultancy

Except in few departments like the department of Development Studies and Anthropology no department showed their interest in consultancy, however no clarity

on amount collected and distribution among department, university and concern faculty. Research and consultancy policies may be revisited in order to incorporate challenges arising out of new challenges.

3.6. Extension Activities

Either in the form of workshops or in the form of awareness camps or in the form of health camps extension activities were done. Workshops on gender law, child marriage, human rights, sexual harassment, camps on conservation and preservation of manuscripts, save historical heritage camps, workshop on writing subaltern history, workshop on tribal art - these are some of the examples of extension activities organized by the Departments of the University.

7. Collaboration

It was observed that several departments have MOU, very few MOU are functional. During interaction it's observed that few departments are closely working with state government departments, but no clarity on MOU.

Criterion IV – Infrastructure and Learning Resources

4.1 Physical Facilities

- Physical facilities are actually excellent and melt well with the cultural history of the region including the material used and the designing of the buildings. The library building is very unique.
- Each department has independent buildings with a workshop space supported mostly by ICT facilities and independent rooms for the faculties.
- In addition to these facilities there are many spaces which are fully equipped to hold mini and major conferences facilitating academic exchanges
- University has also constructed a classroom complex with 15 smart classrooms, an audio visual media lab, a community radio studio in the department of journalism
- University has five hostels, two for ladies and three boys. One fully equipped health centre and a sports complex with gym facilities.
 - The staff quarters are vacant. Can they be utilized fruitfully by offering weekend residential courses
- There are thirteen Chairs in the University. They are involved in publication and dissemination of knowledge in villages, academic institutions and organizations.

4.2 Library as Learning Resource

- Library has an impressive independent building.
- It has more than 2,40,000 books and 19 journals.
- In addition to the above books and journals, Library has collection of 1433 rare books.
- On securing e-resources University library has kept pace with the latest developments.
- Library has fully automated Integrated Library Management System.
- However, it has to reinvent itself to the needs of the 21st century and work towards the PWDs needs and the people with disabilities like blindness and have collaboration with institutes like SAMARTHANAM which are working for the betterment of otherwise enabled communities.

4.3 IT Infrastructure

- University has a Computer Center.
- University has its own web server, e-mail server and NMS server.
- Computer center has provided 240 Desktop Computers, 65 LCD Projectors and created 10 Hot Spots in library, Guest House, Administrative Block and Computer Center.
- Computer center is using NKN internet connectivity having 1 GBPS band width.
- All the students are given laptops by the University from the funds provided by the State Government.

4.4 Maintenance of Campus Infrastructure

- For maintenance of physical facilities PWD norms of Karnataka government are followed.
- Ten percent of the construction cost of the building is to be kept aside for maintenance but that does not seem to be the case as there is no budget kept for this purpose.
- On the contrary the engineering section admits that they do the need based repairs once in five year sprinting is done and water tanks and pipeline are replaced once in fifteen years.
- In addition to the physical maintenance, books, manuscripts, inscriptions and computers are maintained by the respective departments and they follow their own

methods of maintenance and not AMCs

Criterion V–Student Support and Progression

5.1 Student Support

- University has constituted Placement Cell, Grievance Redressal Cell and Student Welfare measures. But the maintenance of the records and meeting were not periodically conducted.
- Separate welfare cells are constituted for the welfare of SC/ST students and OBC students. These cells in addition to getting free ships and scholarships from state and central governments, organises coaching classes to prepare students for competitive exams.

5.2 Student Progression

- Between 2019-25, many students who got the job, however employment details were not provided. Most of them who have been in employment have got their job on their own and not because of the university help or because of their placement cell which is non existent.
- Most of them are appointed as lecturers either in colleges or pre-university colleges.
- Between 2019-24 a total of 848 students have completed post graduation M.Phil and a total of 89 PhD students were enrolled during last five years.
- For the same period 56 students cleared NET exam and 40 students cleared SLET exam and 16 students completed JRF and 3 students cleared Civil service examination.
- Students are encouraged to produce and market their products. The paintings, for example, in Visual Arts Department are marketed.
- The students of Music, Dance and Drama departments present cultural programmes during Hampi Utsav.

5.3 Student Participation and Activities

- University created ample opportunity for student participation both in curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Students' representatives participate in some decision making bodies such as Library committee, IQAC, SC/ST Cells and in OBC cell.

5.4 Alumni Engagement

- University has two forms of Alumni Engagements—Alumni Associations of the Departments and Alumni Association of the University.
- University has registered “Alumni Association of Kannada University, Hampi Vidyaranya” in the year 2024.
- More than 109 old students are members of this association.
- Alumni Association despite its existence has not made any stride in supporting the university and vice-versa

Criterion VI – Governance, Leadership and Management

6.1 Institutional Vision and Leadership

- The Vision of the University is to establish it as a premiere institute to produce all knowledge in Kannada to be achieved by Academic, Administrative and Publication wings supported by all the departments.

6.2 Strategy Development and Deployment

- In the beginning of every academic year meeting of the Board of studies is called to chalk out the academic programs of the year.
- Each faculty need to submit their projects with budget.
- In the annual budget of the state government financial allocations are made by the university, however these things needs a relook as there are a lot of policy and communication gaps.
- More seriously are the transparency and accountability issues.
- Management of Information System may be strengthened. For instance, the flow of information between IQAC and departments may be re-visualised and executed.
- Calendar of events needs to be planned in advance and implemented religiously.
- Training programmes may be conducted to the non-teaching staff to update the skills. They may be planned in small chunks – for instance, training to FDA on how to maintain and organize paperless files.

6.3 Faculty Empowerment Strategies

- Recruitment of faculty is governed by the rules and regulations specified by the University Grants Commission and also by the regulations of the state government.

- Teachers' performance is appraised at two levels. At individual level every teacher has to give a self appraisal report at the end of every academic year.
- Teachers are given financial support to organise seminars, workshops and extension activities and to participate in seminars, workshops, extension activities organised elsewhere.

6.4 Financial Management and Resource Mobilisation

- University has received grants from external sources like Development Grants by the UGC, RUSA grants, State Government funds, Hyderabad Karnataka Development Board, Directorate of Tribal Studies, Endowment Funds in the past.
- These seem to have been dried out in the recent past.
- Internal resource generation needs acute planning and hard work as there is none so far to claim as internal resource for the university to live on.
- There are many industries in Hosapete. Accordingly, funds may be tapped under Corporate Social Responsibility.

6.5 Internal Quality Assurance System

- In order to assure internal quality Internal Quality Assurance Cell is established.
- IQAC collects data on the academic and administrative activities of the Departments and Centers of the University and prepares and submits AQAR report to the NAAC.
- IQAC also collects feedback from the students, teachers and old students and processes them and prepares reports and organises Governing Council meetings to take remedial measures on the feedback.
- There is a lot the IQAC has to do to promote the interest of the university in matters of innovation, resource mobilisation, quality assurance and documentation
 - IQAC has ensured to enhance the quality of academic and administrative planning and execution.

Criterion VII – Institutional Values and Best Practices

7.1 Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

- The whole campus is green.
- There are more than 60 thousand plants and trees, there is separate area for

medicinal plants, and University has a nursery to develop seedlings.

- Check dams and small ponds and large tanks are constructed in the campus with the intention of collecting and preserving the water from these rainy rainfall.
- Proper arrangements are made to manage solid and liquid wastes.
- Computer center collects e-waste from the Departments.
- Once in a year tender is called in the local news paper and the e-waste is auctioned.
- Institution has developed facilities such as ramps for the differently abled persons but that's insufficient and needs to do more as per the PWG guidelines.
- Keeping in view of the backwardness of the region all the Departments while conceiving research projects, extension activities and other programs take care to contribute in their own way to solve this problem.

7.2 Best Practices

- Among several practices shown as best practice, Research Funding for teachers and Shilpavana, an open gallery of sculptures are the two best practices.

7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness

- University doesn't have a regional and disciplinary jurisdiction unlike other universities.
- Its research programs go beyond the disciplinary boundaries to create new grounds in knowledge production.
- The primary objective of the University is to conduct interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research on various aspects of Kannada and Karnataka.
- The University also encourages comparative studies with other regions and languages.

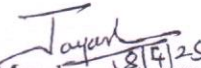
Overall Recommendations

- The university needs to rethink about its Act and functioning given the transformative changes in the field of education and look beyond the 21st century needs of the students
- A university cannot in these times of knowledge driven society function in isolation or as a mono-lingual University hence, it has to explore the new paths of knowledge

acquisition and creation by associating with and beyond its given mandate through the possibilities of collaborating with technical and professional universities and help enrich Kannada as a treasure trove of knowledge

- There is a need for pedagogical distraction and research monotony in the university as there is a demand for andragogy based teaching and learning, critical thinking, hands on experience and problem solving among the students. The teachers will have to reinvent and train themselves to suit to this changing scenario
- University has been in the forefront of extension activities especially through its publications. This strength must be made as their face to conquer the space in other languages to get funding and recognition at the global level. In this direction there is a need to encourage translation beyond the university involving academicians across states by commissioning translations with university initiative and funding the same through CSR grants
- There is a need to introduce writing workshops at regular intervals to have budding writers guided and trained to take up works that promote Kannada culture and its heritage
- There is also a need for the university to form a team of scholars in different fields and send them as delegates to universities abroad to bring in renewed energy and new scholarship to promote comparative culture and heritage studies
- The university in order to arrest the student drop out must involve entrepreneurial institutions like the Infosys/Azim Premji foundation and collaborate to offer the courses they do both online and in house and train some of its teachers and students as coordinators to impart soft skills and life skills
- The university must organise camps in different parts of Karnataka and joined educational expos to throw light on the works of the university and to encourage the students from different points to join the university and speak about its unique qualities - in other words a good marketing is but essential for its survival and sustainable.

- It is a unique university with its focus on research. The criteria of assessment needs to be evolved in consultation with the University so that justice to the vision, mission and programmes of the university may be ensured.

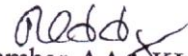

Member AAA KU

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Prof. of Sociology and
Acting Vice Chancellor

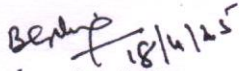
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