

Strength

Challenges

Weakness

Opportunities

SWOC Analysis



Internal Quality Assurance Cell
Maharaja's College, Ernakulam
(A Government Autonomous College)

Overview

The Internal quality Assurance Cell, Maharaja's College has invested a lot of time and effort to conduct a SWOC Analysis - a detailed analysis of its internal strengths and weaknesses as well as an external opportunities and challenges. The SWOC analysis invites the attention of the institution for positively reshaping the planning processes in the college. As a first step of the analysis, key reports and other data of the institution was identified and reviewed. Such reports and data include Student Satisfaction Surveys, feedback from other stakeholders, reports of the College Plan, etc. As a result of the review of these documents, the College's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges began to surface. The analysis revealed the current state of affairs, while highlighting areas in which Maharaja's College is strong as well as those that require further quality improvement.

1 Strength

A strength is an institutional advantage which positively contributes to the college in attaining its objectives.

1.1 Heritage

Maharajas College is a co-educational institution with natural ambience for learning with a history of 145 years. The cultural significance of the institution is emphatically felt in the social life of the state and has made the college a brand name.

1.2 Governance

A government institution where faculty is recruited through the Kerala Public Service Commission and the student admission strictly follows merit and reservation policy of Government.

1.3 Autonomy

The only government college in Kerala with autonomous status from 2015-16. This has provided freedom in designing syllabus, examinations and publication of results on time.

1.4 Faculty

Out of the highly qualified 183 faculty, more than hundred teachers hold PhD, 51 are research supervisors and all of them have qualified the National Eligibility Test.

1.5 Departments

The college has 18 departments offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The pass percentage of the post-graduate programmes is above 90%.

1.6 Research

Seventeen departments of the college offer programmes leading to PhD.

1.7 Transparency

The administration of the college is highly transparent and UG/PG admission invariably follows government rules and every decision making is under the purview of RTI Act.

1.8 Examinations and Evaluation

Evaluation system in the college keeps high standards of integrity and the examination procedure is followed by double valuation of all answer scripts and timely result declaration.

1.9 Library

The library of the college is one of the largest in Kerala, having around 1.5 lakh books, journals and magazines. Each department has libraries and access to world class online databases.

1.10 Infrastructure

The college possesses a Fully Integrated PC Controlled Digital Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). The Zoology Museum established in 1874 is one among the 50 international natural history museums listed in the databank of K G Saur Verlag Gmbh & Co., Germany.

1.11 Stadium

The achievements of the college in sports are supported by the full-fledged flood lit Stadium with synthetic track.

1.12 Alumni

The college has an illustrious and high profile alumni occupying top positions in society, politics, culture and administration.

1.13 Inclusiveness and Diversity

Students and staff come from all communities and areas that are socially, economically or culturally backward, even from Lakshadweep. This helps the institution to identify diverse ideas and opinions and the college is the first college in the State to implement transgender students' admission.

2 Weakness

A weakness is a factor requiring improvement internally. These factors result in making the institution unable to take advantage of an opportunity.

2.1 Lack of Advanced Programmes for Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Research

Though the college imparts high quality learning in all major branches of knowledge, the college is lacking in advanced programmes that facilitate inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary learning and research at the highest level such as postgraduate programmes in Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Media Studies, Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Archaeology, Artificial Intelligence, Bio Technology, Molecular Biology, Performing Arts, Mass Communication, Journalism etc.

2.2 Lack of Adequate Supporting Staff

Compared to the number of departments and students, the number of supporting staff is inadequate. This affects the smooth execution of academic activities. Like the staff pattern of a university, every department requires ministerial staff who would take the responsibility of clerical work for the smooth functioning of the teaching -learning and related administrative process.

2.3 Lack of Advanced Facilities for the Differently Abled and Transgender Students

Although the college caters to the special needs of the differently abled, occasionally, the college finds it difficult to install advanced infrastructural and smart facilities of international standards owing to the shortage of funds. Similarly, college is yet to institute several infrastructure facilities for the transgender students such as residential quarters due to space and financial limitations.

2.4 Not a Residential Campus

Not being a residential campus is one of the weaknesses of the college. This is due to the limitations imposed by the physical and financial resources. Considering the enormous academic resources available in the college, it would have been an advantage for the residential students to use these facilities without the constraints of time.

2.5 Administrative Autonomy

The drive for quality improvement of the college is hindered by the lack of full administrative autonomy with respect to the limitations on financial powers delegated to the Principal. Financial limitations restrict the college from designing a new programme to providing global exposure to students like student exchange programmes.

2.6 Not Carbon Neutral

A Green Audit was conducted and total carbon footprints in the college were estimated. Although the college installed solar power plants, replaced T5 lamps to LCD tubes, uses biomass for cooking campus is not carbon neutral. More energy efficiency projects are needed for making the college carbon negative.

3 Opportunities

An opportunity is an external situation that, if acted upon, may have a positive impact on the institution.

3.1 Geographical Advantage

Being in the heart of the city Maharaja's College is blessed with several unique strengths. The college is well connected by road, rail, metro rail and boat. The easy accessibility attracts students with academic aptitude. The metropolitan city provides students opportunities for working while they learn. The strategic location has contributed to the inclusiveness and diversity of the college. Eminent personalities find it easy to visit the college and interact with the students frequently.

3.2 Government Owned and Publically Funded

Maharaja's College is the only publically funded research and postgraduate college in the district. The Government support has made the institution stronger and more credible. All stakeholders including students feel safe and secure being part of a government institution.

3.3 Proximity to Industrial, Trade and Research Centres

Proximity to Industrial, trade and research centres opens up great opportunities for the college. Industrial areas, facilities like Info Park, international airport and the major port at Kochi offers academic as well as research opportunities. Cochin University, Kerala University for Fisheries Studies, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, National Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory, other deemed universities and some of the leading research institutions are in the vicinity. This also extends the college the opportunity for undertaking research in collaboration with these centres.

3.4 Employment Opportunities

Being in the heart of the metropolitan city the students get adequate opportunities to earn while studying through part time employment. Students get chances to do translation, content writing and similar openings through the college.

3.5 New Education Policy

The New Education Policy opens up an opportunity for the college to become a State University in the immediate future and thereafter evolve to be a Research University. The college which has been declared as a Centre of Excellence has the potential and resources to be elevated as a University.

3.6 Access to Academic Facilities

The location of the institution is a great advantage to access many libraries and book showrooms of international publishers within a radius of 2 km. As the college is adjacent to open spaces with international exposure, the students get chances to attend international book exhibitions and science fairs.

4 Challenges

A challenge is an external factor or situation that, if not rectified, may make the institution vulnerable.

4.1 Availability of Land

Availability of land for future development of the college is the most important challenge faced by the college. Maharaja's College, students and faculty, is a cross section of the Kerala society having representation from all districts of the State. Although located in the heart of the city, a majority of students are from rural areas and other parts of the state. The College has students from Lakshadweep also. So making this college a residential institution is the need of the hour. As the college is situated in the heart of the city no piece of land can be made available for the use of the college. The stadium of the college itself is separated from the main campus.

4.2 Unable to Design and Implement New Programmes

Due to the non-availability of financial assistance for starting new programmes, the institution is unable to reap the full benefits of the academic autonomy granted to it. Though the college designed and submitted a new programme (Blended BSc. Programme in association with IISER Pune and University of Melbourne) to the government, the government did not sanction the same and so the real goal of academic autonomy could not be realized.

4.3 Lack of Adequate Government Funding

Lack of adequate government funding is adversely affecting the attempts to continuously raise research quality to national and international levels. If enough funds are not provided it will create problems regarding the provision of quality research along with access to all. Earlier, funds for research was allotted in a need based manner. But now there is inflexibility in sanctioning funds.

4.4 Staff Pattern

Even after being granted autonomy, the staff pattern of the college remains the same as before. Though there is a favourable teacher-student ratio, the current staff strength is not adequate for the smooth conduct of the additional functions of an autonomous college.

4.5 Placement

The students of the college who complete programmes on fundamental or basic branches of knowledge find it difficult to get a placement matching their qualification as markets are not generating knowledge intensive jobs.

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Faculty
Departments
Research
Transparency
Examinations and Evaluation
Library
Infrastructure
Stadium
Alumni
Inclusiveness and diversity

Weakness

Lack of advanced programmes for inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary research
Lack of adequate supporting staff
Lack of advanced facilities for the differently abled and transgender students
Not a residential campus
Lack of full administrative autonomy
Not Carbon Neutral

Opportunities

Geographical advantage
Government owned and publically funded
Proximity to industrial, trade and research centres
Employment opportunities
New Education Policy
Access to academic facilities

Challenges

Availability of land
Unable to design and implement new programmes
Lack of adequate Government funding
Staff pattern
Placement