



VIVEKANAND EDUCATION SOCIETY'S
College of Arts, Science and Commerce
(Autonomous)

Re-accredited by NAAC "A" Grade in 3rd cycle CGPA 3.26,
Valid till December 2026

Best college Award – Urban Area University of Mumbai

Recipient of PM – USHA Grant (2024)

Autonomy External Peer
Review Report (2022-2023)

**VIVEKANAND EDUCATION SOCIETY'S COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE
AND COMMERCE**
(Autonomous)

Progress Report for the Academic Year 2022-23

Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce laid its foundation in the year 1979 and is permanently affiliated to the University of Mumbai. The college also holds minority status for the Sindhi linguistic minority. The college is also recognized by the U.G.C under 2(f) & 12(b). From 1999 onwards, the college gradually introduced a number of self-financing UG and PG programmes to meet the demands for new/ evolving courses. Currently we offer 22 UG courses, 07 PG courses and 04 Ph.D programmes.

The college was also bestowed with the 'Best College Award' (Urban Area) by the University of Mumbai for the academic year of 2012-2013 and received a grant from the DST under the FIST scheme as well as the Star College grant from the DBT in the year 2015-2016. VESASC has been re-accredited by NAAC (3rd cycle) with an A grade (CGPA 3.26) in August, 2017. We successfully added yet another feather to our hat by being conferred with autonomous status by the UGC and the University of Mumbai starting from the Academic Year 2021-2022. On receipt of Autonomy the validity of NAAC accreditation was extended upto December 2026. **The PM Usha grant was humbly bestowed upon the College by the PM-USHA (Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan) Scheme.** A total of 623 colleges had applied and 43 were selected for the grant. Our College is the only College selected from the Mumbai Suburban district in the academic year 2023-24 for this prestigious grant.

1. Academic and research activities undertaken:

College has received autonomous status on 7th September 2021 and implemented changes in the academic structure from the academic year 2022-23. On receiving autonomy from UGC, the college constituted the various statutory committees and directed the departments to **set up their respective BOS as per guidelines.** The syllabi and curriculum of all departments were revised to cater to the upcoming trends in their respective disciplines. Towards meeting the responsibility of providing a holistic, progressive and relevant curriculum as per the recommendations of the UGC, we have imbibed flexibility in the curriculum structure and evaluation methodology. The aim of the college is to make the students acquire different skills through various collaborations with research institutions, Ed-techs, consultancy firms and organizations offering skill-based training.

Some highlights of academic and related activities:

- Towards bolstering our **preparedness for smooth implementation of NEP 2020**, Dr. B.N Jagtap presented an insightful seminar on "Understanding Implementation of NEP 2020" on 8.2.23. An awareness Talk on NEP 2020 by Prof. CA Dr. Pradeep Kamethekar was held on 15.3.2023. Many faculty attended conferences and seminars on NEP 2020. IQAC Meetings, Academic Coordinators interactions and BOS Meetings further helped

in the transition NEP 2020 was thus successfully implemented from the next academic year.

- **4 new programmes were introduced in 2022-23:**
 - B.Sc. (Data Science & Data Analytics)
 - Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA)
 - B.Com. (Finance)
 - B. Com. (E-Commerce)
- Two of our Microbiology students (Mr. Siddarth and Ms. Megha) have received admission in London Imperial College for their PG degree.
- One student from department of Physics, Mr. Pranav Sharma got a scholarship and a free accommodation in Italy for a PG course.
- **Webinar to acquaint students with various career options after completion of 12th:** An Admissions Webinar (June 18,2022) & Rotaract Exhibition(27th-28th January 2023) were organised. There were a good number of registrations. These events helped in reaching out to a number of meritorious potential students and facilitated their admission process and helped attract the youth for the next academic year. They also disseminated career information and enlighten them about prospective courses offered by our institution
- **To foster holistic developments,** VESASC undertakes various initiatives that focus on moral values as well as employability skills in students. Our **Value Lab** Organizes several talks, poster presentations to sensitize the student about social issues. It also constantly emphasizes the importance of being honest, sincere, and hardworking. Apart from these values, to equip the students with key skills, our Institution runs a flagship program known as “**Additional Credit Program**”: a program run in three modules viz. interdisciplinary learning, development of research based aptitude and social sensitization. The student gets the freedom to choose the learning area, completely different from his or her core subject, gets to work on a research project driven by his or her passion and gets the opportunity to work with NGOs, accentuating the importance of social responsibility.
- The Microbiology department sent its best students to participate in a **National Level competition called Microbiolympiad**, where several students won prizes. \
- **Co-Curricular Credits (CC)** would be earned by the student from various academic and related activities such as completing courses from Swayam, NPTEL and other online platforms, participation in research based activities, workshops, seminars, NSS, LLE, Cultural activities, and Sports.
- V.E.S.A.S.C continued with its **mentoring system called Student Connect** which aims at providing students with individual guidance and support. Every teacher in the college is appointed as a mentor for a group of students to whom they give academic guidance, career counseling as well as emotional support.

- **Teacher Enrichment Workshop (TEW)** - A bridge course for Junior College Biology Teachers by the Microbiology department was organized on 21st, 22nd & 23rd July 2022, attended by 10 teachers.
- **Remedial coaching** was carried out for slow learners, while advanced learners were encouraged to undertake small research projects. Teachers used Student-centric methods such as experiential learning, participative learning, collaborative learning and problem solving methodologies for enhancing learning experiences of students.
- The institution has **MoU** with the Uni Italian Institution for collaborative ventures and it is looking forward towards internationalization of education and joint degrees between Indian and other foreign institutions. **MoU are also signed** with other organisations for conducting training/ workshops/ internships include Rebel Corp, Satyam institute of tax account, Global Gyan. The tie up with Global Gyan Academy is to enable and empower organizations and professionals to become leaders of the future. This will give our students the advantage of learning 21 st century Skill Sets as a part of Skills and Ability Enhancement Programs. Our institute is aware of the challenges that the young graduates have to face industry and the corporate world. To work in this direction, the MoU with Satyam Institute of Tax Accountant aids in training Commerce students in the programmes like Excel and Tally and giving them an opportunity to carry out the world of work. Such skill development programs will enhance the employability of our students and face the competition in the job market. Students are also encouraged to enrol and successfully complete courses through online platforms such as Swayam, Coursera etc. to enrich their learning experience. This addresses the different learning needs of students and the difference in the pace of learning.
- **Placement:** Multiple reputed companies such as Aspire, Study League IT, Deloitte, LTI Mindtree, Sutherland, TechnoPurple, Wipro, NeoSOFT, Kotak Life, Go Source, CB Chajed & Co., eClerx, etc. visited the campus and shortlisted selected third year students. 137 final year students were placed in 2022-23.
- **Result Analysis:** The average pass percentage for the UG courses in 2022-23 was 80.94% and that of postgraduate courses was 89.31%.

Some highlights of Research activities:

VESASC provides a conducive environment for both teachers and students to explore research opportunities. Notably, an increasing number of staff members are registering as research guides and mentoring research students each year, thereby fostering a growing research appetite amongst students and teachers. To promote research, the college has a Research Promotion and Incentive Policy, which was updated in 2022. Under this policy, students and staff members receive regular support, including infrastructure and financial incentive, to facilitate research and publication.

The following highlights showcase the college's research endeavors and publications:

- ★ 14 research papers published in scopus .
 - ★ 16 research papers published in Web of science & UGC CARE journals.
 - ★ 6 papers published in national/ international conference proceedings
 - ★ 15 Books / chapters were published
 - ★ 18 research papers were presented in National and International conferences (1 best research paper)
- The college also has a **research ethics policy** and an ethics committee that meets annually to review the work of all doctoral candidates of the college
 - College has **3 research PhD centers**.
 - **17 students** are currently pursuing **PhD** at VES research center.
 - The Research Circle organized a **National Webinar on “Role of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in “Academics and Research”** on 23rd August, 2022. The webinar was conducted in three sessions Dr. Santosh C Hulagabali (University Librarian & Director, Publication Division, Central University of Haryana), Dr. Satishchandra Kumar (Head & Associate Professor, Dept. of Applied Psychology & Counseling Centre, University of Mumbai), and Dr. Shubhada Nagarkar (Associate Professor at the department of Library and Information Science, Savitribai Phule Pune University, SPPU). 202 participants (168 from within Maharashtra and 34 outside Maharashtra) benefitted from the Webinar.
 - A talk on **“Research Conceptualization”** by guest speaker Dr. Ninad Patwardhan was conducted for MA (Psychology) students
 - A **15 Hours Workshop on “Research Methodology”** from 18th October 2022 to 21st October 2022 in five sessions. The guest speakers included: Dr. Shubhangi Kulkarni (Coordinator of Vocational Courses and M.com at MMP Shah Women’s College), Dr. Shital Mandhare (Assistant Professor at MMP Shah Women’s College), Dr. Sunita Salunke (Vidyalankar College, VSIT, Guest Faculty), and Dr. Sahifa Mazgaonkar (Assistant Professor at M.L Dahanukar College, Mumbai). 120+ participants benefitted from the Workshop.
 - **Research Projects Undertaken:**
 - Dr. Sarla Rathi completed a 3 year UGC-DAE project titled "Fusion and break-up cross section measurement of weakly bound nuclei on medium mass targets near barrier, sub-barrier and deep sub-barrier region from 1st June 2019 to 14th Nov. 2022. The total amount received is Rs. 6,70,320/-
 - Dr. Santosh Bhaskaran completed a project titled “Upgradation of clinostat for study of altered gravity environment on the algae *Chlorella vulgris*” sanctioned by the University of Mumbai APD/ICD/2019-20/762 (578) from March 2020-August 2023. Total amount is Rs. 60,000.

- Dr. Santhini S Nair completed a project titled "Evaluation of anti-cancer activity from L- Asparaginase from fungal marine isolates" sanctioned by the Mumbai University APD/ICD/2019-20/762 (606) from March 2020-June 2023. Total Amount is Rs. 50,000.
- **The College's Innovation Cell** was set up in 2022. It Provides a platform for students to develop their entrepreneurial skills and present them at various forums for support and financial aid. Last year one student group presented their idea to a team of experts and were greatly appreciated.
- The college also organises **various guest lectures & and workshops** to orient the students towards entrepreneurship

Examination:

- VESASC having become an autonomous institute has constituted an Examination Committee based on UGC Guidelines and the ordinances and statutes provided under University of Mumbai Examination Guidelines.
 - **Chief Controller of Examinations:** Principal Dr. Anita Kanwar
 - **Controller of Examinations:** Prof. (Dr) Santhini S. Nair
 - **Convener of Examinations:** Prof. (Dr.) Pooja V.Jagasia
 - **And other committee members** from TS and NTS, including the Result processing committee.
- An FDP program on "**Requisites of a good question paper**" was organized by the IQAC for the benefit of all teachers on 18th January 2023 by Dr. Talreja from Bombay Teachers Training College.
- **Examination Procedures:** Throughout the academic year 2022-23, the college seamlessly executed offline examinations in accordance with the Academic Council's guidelines and approvals. The exam timetable and instructions were proactively communicated via the official college website, class coordinators, and prominently displayed on the college Notice Board for students' convenience. In the realm of online evaluation, certain departments opted for internal examinations, students were provided with institutional mail ID exclusively generated for the purpose of appearing for online examination.
- **Processes/ Procedures integrating IT:** Question papers are prepared according to BOS and Academic council approval. The subject teachers prepare question papers according to the guidelines decided. The question papers were uploaded only after prior checking by HOD/ Coordinators. The respective teachers were expected to upload a file/folder of their question papers in the specific folder created from Controller of Examination Mail Id. Utmost confidentiality was maintained for this purpose.
- **The Continuous Internal Assessment** System allocated 25% Internal weightage for UG and 40% for PG, encompassing various evaluation methods such as tests, assignments, presentations, and group discussions and 75 % and 60% weightage for semester end

examinations for UG and PG respectively. Proctored software platforms like "Mastersoft" facilitated online assessments, with departments adopting diverse tools for evaluation.

2. Administrative activities including meetings of Statutory Bodies:

- **Administrative initiatives** were undertaken to enhance the overall functioning and quality of academic and administrative processes.
- **Appointment of Academic Coordinators:** To promote decentralized decision-making and participative governance, Academic Coordinators were appointed. This initiative played a crucial role in verifying the syllabus with respect to credit allocation, monitoring the functioning of academic cells and committees, and ensuring the effective implementation of the curriculum. It also strengthened coordination in academic processes and improved overall administrative quality.
- **Academic Audits:** Regular academic audits were conducted to assess and ensure the effectiveness of the institution's processes. These audits helped identify areas of improvement and ensure the smooth functioning of academic and administrative activities.
- **Constitution of Statutory Bodies:** To strengthen the governance structure, for autonomy the institution constituted key statutory bodies, including the Board of Studies (BOS), Academic Council, Finance Committee, and Governing Bodies. Regular meetings of these bodies were conducted to effective implementation of autonomy
- **Statutory Committee Meetings - All Subject BOS** first meeting was conducted in the month of September 2022 and second meeting was held in the month of Feb- March 2023

	Academic Council	Finance Committee	Governing Body
Meeting I	06.10.22	18.10.22	19.10.22
Meeting II	16.03.23	15.03.23	18.03.23
Website Link for MoM	https://ves.ac.in/vesasc/minutes-of-meeting-of-academic-council/	https://ves.ac.in/vesasc/minutes-of-meeting-of-finance-committee-2/	https://ves.ac.in/vesasc/minutes-of-meeting-of-governing-body/

- **Induction Programme for New Teachers:** In response to the introduction of new courses and staff requirements, 22 new teachers were appointed. An induction programme was conducted on 24.8.22 and 26.8.22 for these teachers, with 22 participants, to familiarize them with the institution's processes, teaching methodologies, and culture. The programme aimed to orient them effectively to their roles, ensuring better preparedness for teaching and smooth college operations.
- **Faculty Development Programmes:** A Faculty Development Programme was organized to update teaching staff and research students on the intricacies of setting quality question papers. College also organised FDP programmes (seminars and talks) for preparing the college for the smooth implementation of NEP 2020.
- **Infrastructure Augmentation:** With the introduction of new courses, the infrastructure was also augmented with six additional classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art facilities to accommodate the growing academic needs and provide an enhanced learning environment for students.
- **ERP Software Mastersoft:** The implementation of the ERP software Mastersoft was a significant administrative initiative aimed at streamlining and automating various administrative processes, improving efficiency, and ensuring better management of academic and administrative data.
- **Integration of VES Libraries with ILMS KOHA:** To improve library services, VES libraries were integrated with the Integrated Library Management System (ILMS) KOHA. This integration enhances the management of library resources, making them more accessible and efficient for students and faculty.
- **Implementation of Remote Access Platform Myloft:** To support remote learning and provide access to academic resources from anywhere, the remote access platform Myloft was implemented. This platform allows students and staff to access a wide range of resources, ensuring uninterrupted learning and research opportunities.

3. Extension activities undertaken:

- The college conducts extension activities under **NSS, LLLE, WDC and Outreach Cell**. The activities were conducted to cover various **social domains** such as **healthcare, environmental awareness, waste management, gender sensitization, disaster management** and social awareness.
- Two departmental events, **SAW** by Department of Media and Mass Communication and **SEVA** by Department of Management Studies, also involve the conduct of events addressing social issues.
- College have **tie-ups with NGOs** e.g. **Red Cross, Rochiram Thadani School** for hearing impaired and Rotary club which help in organizing the various extension activities

- The program '**The Sunday School**', an initiative of the Outreach Cell was designed to aid school drop-outs get a chance at clearing their HSC examinations. Classes were conducted on Sundays where our students become teachers and taught different subjects of HSC. The program was a great success and got widespread appreciation at state as well as national level.
- **Blood donation camps, disease awareness** and management campaigns were organized to sensitize the students about the unavailability of medical resources in society.
- **Tree plantation and waste management** activities were organised which made the students aware of the global environmental problems.
- **Food, book distribution** and various other donation events sensitize the students to the maladies of the underprivileged. Cultivation of a giving, caring and nurturing attitude is the goal of all the extension activities organised by the institute.
- Talks were organized towards various extension activities. E.g. A talk and interactive session of Mr. Sahil Jha, who embarked on a cycling campaign across India, was organized to spread awareness about the **Save Soil Movement** at the young age of 17 years. A Session on '**Amazing Antarctica**' by Polar Woman **Dr. Madhubala Joshi Chinchalkar** was organized. The objective was to sensitize students about the importance of Antarctica for various scientific experimentations, its climatic conditions, flora and fauna. Also, to sensitize students about our responsibility to protect the same for sustainable growth.
- In the academic year 2022-23, **Science Mela was organized on 27th and 28th January 2023** on the theme "Science in Everyday Life". School and junior college students were invited to visit the college and see the various exhibits (more than 100). More than 30 schools and 700+ students, teachers and the general public visiting the Science Mela were taken on guided tours across all labs by our volunteers. In addition to the exhibits, this year, two competitions namely a model making competition and a science quiz were organized for the visiting school and Junior college students. The prize winners of these competitions were felicitated and were awarded internships and discounted fees at the time of admission in our college. Our esteemed Alumni Dr. Subhojit Sen, Ramalingaswami Fellow, Faculty, UM-DAE CEBS, Mumbai delivered a keynote address during the Science Mela.
- **Three awards/ recognitions** were won, one at the university level by the LLE unit (1st Prize in powada singing and 3rd in creative writing at UDAAN Festival) and two at the state level by the NSS unit (ASTRAL - 2023 Adoption of Schools: Triggering Rural Association for Literacy by Minister of School Education and Marathi Bhasha, Maharashtra State and for Blood donation camp is organised in the college campus for L.T.M.G. Hospital Sion on 22nd July 2022)
- Almost 1397 students of the college participated in 113 separate events of extension activities.

- In the University Youth Festival, the students took part in 34 different events, and they managed to emerge **victorious in 10 events at the zonal level and 7 events at the final level**. Cultural leaders Sneha Saha from SYBT and Govindaraj from SYCS contributed a lot! Finally Sneha Saha won 3rd position in Jackpot round for girls which a remarkable achievement!
- **153 awards/medals** were won for outstanding performance in **sports** and/or cultural activities at inter-university / state /national / international events.

In sports, accolades received include:

- International:** 05 Gold medals, 01 silver, 01 Bronze
- National Level:** 10 Gold medals, 04 silver, 01 Bronze
- State Level:** 06 Gold medals, 02 silver, 01 Bronze
- Inter Zonal:** 03 Gold medals, 01 silver, 02 Bronze
- Zonal:** 09 Gold medals, 03 silver, 04 Bronze

Through these initiatives, our college instills values of social responsibility, environmental stewardship, gender equality, and emotional well-being.. By fostering a culture of empathy, inclusivity, and sustainability, we prepare our students to make a meaningful impact in the world.

4. Financial report:

Year	Section	Resources generated through fees and other sources	Grant received from UGC and other funding agencies during the year	Expenditure during the year
2022-23	Aided	15702901	104953879	123312979
	SFC	58574237	0	53714409
	Autonomous	15385547	0	8553918
	Total:	89,862,185	104953879	186,178,306

**SUGGESTIONS / COMMENTS ON THE AUTONOMY PROGRESS REPORT
FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24**

The External Peer Team Members:

Principal Prof. Dr. Moushami Dutta (Nagindas Khandwala College)

Principal Prof. Dr. Pradnya Prabhu (K J Somaiya College of Science & Commerce)

and Vice-Principal Prof. Dr. Vinita Pimpale (R. A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics)

made the following suggestions to Vivekanand Education Society's College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous) after scrutinizing the Progress Report for the Academic Year 2023-24:

1. The External Peer Team Members congratulated the college on being bestowed with the prestigious PM USHA grant on 15th March 2024 and successful implementation of NEP-2020 at the UG FY and PG-Part-I level.
2. The members appreciated formation of the Equivalence Committee for the credit transfer under NEP 2020 and the conduct of State level workshop for the creation of ABC ID.
3. The college should encourage more interdisciplinary research projects, and leverage alumni expertise for guest lectures, placements, and research collaboration.
4. Increase the number of collaborations for student exchange programmes to facilitate global exposure and learning.
5. Also increase the number of MoUs with other academic institutions for faculty exchange programmes for better exposure and development.
6. Upgrade laboratories, computer labs, and the library with modern, state-of-the-art equipment and digital resources. Also develop a recording room for lecture capturing and E-content creation.
7. Outline a long-term strategic/ institutional development plan for 15-20 years, which is crucial for retaining and consolidating the autonomous status.

VIVEKANAND EDUCATION SOCIETY'S COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE & COMMERCE

Autonomy Progress Report for the Academic Year 2022-23

Place: Chembur, Mumbai

Date: 27/03/2024

Signature of Principal with seal:

[Handwritten Signature]

PRINCIPAL

V.E.S. College of Arts Sci. & Commerce
Sindhi Society, Chembur, Mumbai-71.



External Peer Team Members

Name and Designation	Signature and Date	Suggestions
Principal Dr. Moushami Dutta Nagindas Khandwala College	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> 27/3/24	
Principal Prof. Dr. Vinita Pimpale R.A. Podar College of Commerce and Economics	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	
Principal Prof. Dr. Pradnya Prabhu K J Somaiya College of Science & Commerce	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i> 27/3/24	