

MENTOR'S REPORT FORM-2

Name of Mentor: Prof. B.K. Raghu Prasad

Dates of Mentoring Visit: 25/11/2015 to 27/11/2015

Name of the Institution with Location: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere

S.N.	List of Interviews	Key Discussion Summary Points
1	Undergraduate Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Placement: The students expressed their concern that in spite of having good faculty, the number of students placed through campus interviews is too small. The students demanded that a full-time T&P Officer should be appointed to look after this important activity and a full-fledged T&P office with adequate staff should be put in place.• The students felt that soft skill training, guidance on preparation for GRE/TOEFL should be provided.• The students in some departments expressed their dissatisfaction regarding non-availability of computers. The computers in the hostels are also out of order. Thus, availability of computer facility is a top-priority issue.• The students are not happy with the present Internet facility. Wi-Fi facility is poor and it needs to be enhanced.• The students from Electronics and Mechanical Engineering Departments pointed out shortage of space for important laboratories such as Embedded Systems Design, Biomedical Engineering, Computer Networking, IC Engines, Hydraulic Turbines, etc.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCD projectors are insufficient. At least 5 LCD projectors per department should be made available. • Lot of maintenance is required in the existing hostels. Existing hostel facility is too inadequate necessitating construction of additional hostels for boys as well as girls. • Health Care Centre should be established on the campus. • Alumni meet should be organized on a regular basis.
2	Postgraduate Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like UG students, the MTech/PhD students also expressed their dissatisfaction regarding non-availability of computers and internet. They said that, for each PG program, at least 10 PCs should be provided exclusively. • Non-availability of international journals is another issue. The students said that on-line journals such as IEEE and Sciencedirect.com should be made available on-line. • Procurement procedures are too lengthy and time-consuming. They should be made more user-friendly. • There is no placement facility for MTech students. They demanded that this facility should be provided to them.
3	Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty members in some departments reported that their departments are suffering from shortage of faculty and because of this teaching is getting adversely affected. • The faculty members pointed out that the present MTech programs are on self-financing basis and there are no sanctioned faculty positions for these programs. Getting contractual/visiting faculty for MTech programs at this remote location is also found to be difficult. As a result, existing faculty members have to take MTech teaching load as an additional load over and above their UG teaching load. This is affecting quality and is causing great problems. For instance, the number of publications has gone down.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further, the faculty members said that no new MTech programme has been started in the last 3 years due to shortage of faculty and no grant-in-aid for MTech. • Faculty members told that CEPs are being regularly organized on the campus of IIT Bombay and they are taking advantage of the same. • Faculty members told that they are conducting remedial classes for academically weak students on a regular basis. • The idea of inviting eminent professors from abroad was put forth. The faculty members appreciated this idea because interaction of these professors with students will have great impact on them. • Faculty members informed that POSCO Ltd. has started giving 10 fellowships to the students from this year. Some more such fellowships should be sought in near future. • The faculty members said that they are not usually permitted to travel by air when they go far some conferences or CEPs at far off places. This results in loss of academic time. They felt that depending on the situation, faculty members should be given facility to travel by air. This will enable them to save their time from the academic schedule.
4	Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the non-teaching staff, particularly lab assistants, are interested in improving their qualifications. They demanded that the university should provide them opportunities to do so. • Some staff members expressed that training programmes on PC maintenance, EXCEL and English proficiency should be organized.
5	Senior Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The senior faculty pointed out that faculty shortage is a great problem for some of the departments, such as Electronics/Electrical. • It was pointed out that the present MTech programs are on self-financing basis and there are no sanctioned faculty positions for these programs. Getting

		<p>contractual/visiting faculty for MTech programs at this remote location is also found to be difficult. As a result, existing faculty members have to take MTech teaching load as an additional load over and above their UG teaching load. This is affecting quality and is causing great problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the discussion it was decided that each department should organize one International Conference this year. • It was felt that the university should organize study tours abroad for senior faculty. Senior faculty members should visit reputed universities abroad and sign MoUs with such university for faculty training, faculty exchange, collaborative projects, etc.
6	Members of the Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the discussion with the BoG members, I could see that the BoG members are quite positive and forward-looking and the institutional governance is fairly good. • BoG consists of several senior academicians from different institutions. However, Vice-Chancellor has no 'say' in forming BoG as it is totally decided by the Chancellor (Governor), Govt. of Maharashtra.
7	Industry Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The industry representatives appreciated that the students of this university are doing quite well in the industry and bringing good name to the university. • The industry representatives suggested that University-Industry meets should be organized every year. • They also suggested that faculty members should visit industry on a regular basis and update themselves with latest developments in industry. • They felt that the University has an opportunity to help industry in process improvement and in developing eco-friendly processes. • The university should conduct frequent students' visits to industry so as to expose them to modern technologies, latest practices and real-life in industry.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts from industry should be invited as visiting faculty/adjunct faculty. • The university should organize training programs, viz. finishing schools, for the benefit of students to give them guidance on interview techniques, group discussion, soft skills, aptitude tests, diagnostic tests, etc.
8	Head of the Institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the discussion, the Vice-Chancellor told that shortage of faculty is a matter of serious concern. Shortage is due to 3 reasons: (1) 40% of the sanctioned posts are vacant, (2) No additional posts have been created corresponding to the recent increase in intake of BTech programmes, (3) No posts have been created for MTech programmes since they are to be run on self-financing basis. He said that he is continuously following up with the State Govt. to address this vital issue. • It was pointed out to the Vice-Chancellor that existing Placement Cell needs to be revamped. A full-time Training & Placement Officer should be appointed. • The Vice-Chancellor agreed that efforts should be made to bring more number of companies to the university campus for placement. • He informed that University-Industry meets are being organized by each department in the near future. • He also informed that the website of the university will be improved and the university will do proper marketing and publicity of its achievements and credentials. • He agreed that there is a dire need to enhance infrastructure (PCs, internet, books and journals). He told that steps have already been initiated to address this issue. • He agreed that laboratory facility in various departments needs to be improved. Maintenance and upkeep of laboratory equipment need to be paid proper attention. • The Vice-Chancellor said that he will explore possibility of organizing study tours

		<p>abroad for senior faculty to universities like MIT, Stanford, etc. Senior faculty may visit reputed universities abroad and sign MoUs with such universities for faculty training, faculty exchange, collaborative projects, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was pointed out to the Vice-Chancellor that some more Pedagogical training of faculty needs to be organized.• The Vice-Chancellor informed that the State Govt. has recently taken a decision to convert this university into an ‘affiliating’ type of university. As a result, the university will have to play a role of a mentor for all the institutes imparting technical education in the state. This is going to be a great challenge for the university. But at the same time, it will also be a good opportunity for the university to grow and excel.
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