

Academic Audit Report
(conducted on 26-06-2022 & 27-06-2022)

Academic Session: 2021-22

Gangadhar Meher University, Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur, Odisha, India

1. Agenda

The ten point agenda of the review is as follows:

- i. Introduction of the audit team and university representatives and explanation of the purpose, scope, and methodology of the audit.
- ii. Assessment of the relevance and responsiveness of programs to industry and societal needs and evaluation of how academic programs support the university's mission.
- iii. Examination of the range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs.
- iv. Review of faculty credentials, research, and professional development and analysis of faculty workload, including teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities.
- v. Review of student admission criteria, and selection processes and review of mechanisms for gathering student feedback and fostering student involvement.
- vi. Examination of research publications, grants, and collaborations and review of facilities, resources, and support for research activities.
- vii. Assessment of library collections, digital resources, and support services.
- viii. Review of facilities like laboratories, classrooms, etc, and their adequacy for teaching and research. Evaluation of technology use in teaching, learning, and administration.
- ix. Examination of collaborations with industry, government, and other academic institutions and review of alumni engagement and contributions to the university.
- x. Assessment of the university's role and impact in the community.

The team visited each of the schools and interacted with the faculties regarding the academic activities of the audit year. The heads of the schools have made PPT presentations on the activities that are undertaken in the year.

2. Audit Observations

The team has traced the following observations.

- i. The majority of the faculty members possess advanced degrees and extensive experience in their respective fields, which contributes positively to the overall teaching quality.
- ii. Several departments have adopted student-centered teaching methodologies, such as problem-based learning and case studies, which have enhanced student engagement and understanding.
- iii. There is evidence of continuous professional development initiatives for faculty, including workshops on innovative teaching techniques and the integration of technology in the classroom.
- iv. The university boasts a high graduation rate, indicating effective support structures and successful academic outcomes for students.
- v. Students generally perform well in core courses, reflecting a solid foundation in essential academic skills.
- vi. The university has a vibrant research culture, with numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals and active participation in national and international conferences.
- vii. The university has successfully secured research grants from various governmental and private organizations, which has supported a range of innovative projects.
- viii. The laboratories are well-equipped with modern instruments and technology, supporting effective hands-on learning and research activities.
- ix. The university has a sufficient number of classrooms to accommodate current student enrollment, with most classrooms being well-maintained and conducive to learning.
- x. The university offers a comprehensive academic advising system, helping students navigate their academic paths effectively.
- xi. The availability of mental health services and counseling support is commendable, contributing to student well-being.

3. Recommendations

- i. There is variability in the teaching methods employed across departments, with some relying heavily on traditional lectures. A more standardized approach, incorporating diverse teaching methods, could be beneficial.

- ii. The University has no LMS in place. Increased training and encouragement for faculty should be provided to utilize LMS features services could enhance the teaching-learning experience.
- iii. Students have reported that feedback on assessments is sometimes delayed or lacks sufficient detail. Enhancing the timeliness and quality of feedback could improve student learning outcomes.
- iv. Opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research are limited. Expanding these opportunities could enrich the academic experience and better prepare students for graduate studies or careers in research.
- v. While individual departments are strong in their research activities, there is limited interdisciplinary collaboration. Encouraging cross-departmental research initiatives could lead to more innovative and impactful outcomes.
- vi. Some classrooms lack modern teaching aids, such as interactive whiteboards or adequate audio-visual equipment. Upgrading classroom technology would enhance the teaching and learning experience.
- vii. While the laboratories are well-equipped, there are concerns regarding the regular maintenance of equipment. Implementing a more robust maintenance schedule could prevent potential disruptions to practical sessions.
- viii. While the university provides career services, students have indicated that more robust career guidance and job placement support would be beneficial, particularly in connecting with industry partners.
- ix. Some students have reported difficulty accessing support services due to limited hours of operation or insufficient staffing. Expanding the availability of these services could enhance student satisfaction.

4. Action Taken Report

| Audit Recommendations | Action taken |
|--|--|
| 1. Conducting of different type of audits like Academic Audit, Gender Audit, Green Audit, etc. | 1. The university has conducted academic performance audit and administrative audit for the session. 2. Feedback from students and parents were collected and further action was taken. |
| 2. Collecting of feedback from the | 3. The University has applied for NIRM and THE ranking. Preparation for NAAC accreditation has |

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|---|---|
| <p>stakeholders like students, parents, etc</p> <p>3. Executing accreditation process (NAAC, NIRF) for the University.</p> <p>4. Vision and Mission statement of each of the Schools.</p> <p>5. A SWOC analysis must be done.</p> <p>6. Online evaluation of answer scripts and creation of pool of examiners.</p> <p>7. Creation of question banks</p> <p>8. Mechanism for Credit Transfer.</p> <p>9. Use of Social Media</p> <p>10. Faculty CV in the website</p> <p>11. Smart TV, CC TV, Wifi etc.</p> | <p>been started.</p> <p>4. Vision and Mission of each of the Schools has been displayed in each of the Schools.</p> <p>5. A SWOC analysis at the departmental level has been done.</p> <p>6. A pool of examiners and question setters was created but no steps have been taken for online evaluation. Question banks were also formed at the departmental level.</p> <p>7. No steps have been taken to develop a mechanism for credit transfer,</p> <p>8. The University has extensively used social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.</p> <p>9. The website of the University has been updated as per the NAAC requirement and the CVs of faculties have been uploaded.</p> <p>10. CC TV has been installed. Wifi services are available in the campus. In addition, Smart TVs are also installed.</p> |
|---|---|

These observations provide a balanced view of the university's strengths and areas for improvement across key academic and support domains. The recommendations could guide the university's efforts in enhancing its academic quality and overall student experience.

Members of the Committee

1. **Prof. Kalidash Mishra,**
Retired Professor in English, Sambalpur University

Kalidash Mishra
27.06.2022

2. **Dr. Kamdeba Sahu,**
Retired Associate Professor, G.M. University, Sambalpur

Kamdeba Sahu
27.6.2022

Academic Performance Audit Report: 2023-24

(conducted on 01-07-2024 & 02-07-2024)

Gangadhar Meher University, Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur, Odisha, India

1. About the Institution

Gangadhar Meher University (GMU), Sambalpur, came into existence on the 30th of May 2015 as a unitary institution of higher learning [The Government of Odisha Order No.11598/HE Dated 30.05.2015]. The newly formed University replaced the erstwhile Gangadhar Meher College (Autonomous). Consequently, the entire teaching and non-teaching staff of G.M. College were deployed to G.M. University and became the stakeholders of the newly formed GMU.

Initially known as Sambalpur College, it was later renamed in 1949 as Gangadhar Meher College after Gangadhar Meher, a renowned Odia poet. The College started on a modest scale with a student strength of only 192. In 1944, degree programs in Arts and Commerce were introduced, while B.Sc. programs were added in the year 1957. The College reached a milestone in 1964 when Post-graduate departments were opened and M.Phil. programs in various disciplines were offered by the institution from 1983 onwards. Pre-Doctoral coursework was also introduced in 2012 in four subjects to meet higher education and research demand. From the year 2018, GMU started offering Ph.D. programs in many subjects.

The institution was identified as the College with Potential for Excellence (CPE) by UGC in the session 2004-05. The institution added another feather in its cap when it was accredited by the NAAC with an 'A' grade in the session 2015-16.

2. Academic Audit: Modus of Operandi

The audit team visited each of the schools and reviewed the performance in the following four parameters.

(1) Student-related Performance (2) Research and Publications (3) Availability of Academic Facilities (4) Outreach and other General Activities

Each of the schools has made a presentation on the above parameters and interacted with the faculties.

3. General Observations

3.1 Students-related Performance

- The average graduation rate at the university is satisfactory which is the proportion of students who successfully finish their degree programs within the allotted period. This indicator shows how well students are engaged overall and how well the university provides academic assistance services.
- Notably number of students received honours or distinctions for their scholastic achievement. This involves receiving scholarships and honours, as well as good marks on national or worldwide standardised tests.
- The university boasts a placement cell with many graduates securing employment in reputed organizations or getting admission to postgraduate programs in several prestigious institutions of higher learning. This reflects the relevance of the curriculum and the role of the university in the career progression of the students.
- The University has a student feedback system. Further, feedback from parents and employers is also collected, analysed and proper actions are taken.
- Many of the students have participated in several competitions that are organised by different institutions across the country.

3.2 Research and Publications

- With the research papers, and book chapters published in high-impact journals, in the last year, the university boasts a strong research culture. The number of papers and book chapters published is satisfactory.

Table 1: Publications in 2023-24

| Research Output | Numbers |
|-----------------|---------|
| Research Papers | 198 |
| Book Chapters | 107 |

Source: GMU

- The research project fund acquired by the faculties in the audit year is as follows: It replicates a strong research mindset and attitude of the teachers.

Table 2: Research Project Fund Acquired in 2023-24

| Research Project Fund | Particulars |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| No of Research Projects | 67 |
| Amount | 110.03 Lakhs |

Source: GMU

- The university actively conducts collaborative research and its papers were co-authored by scholars from other domestic and foreign universities. These partnerships give the research a higher degree of merit with a more comprehensive viewpoint.
- The average citation per paper is satisfactory indicating the impact and relevance of the research conducted by the university's faculty. This metric also reflects the quality of the research output. The H-index and citation analysis is as follows:

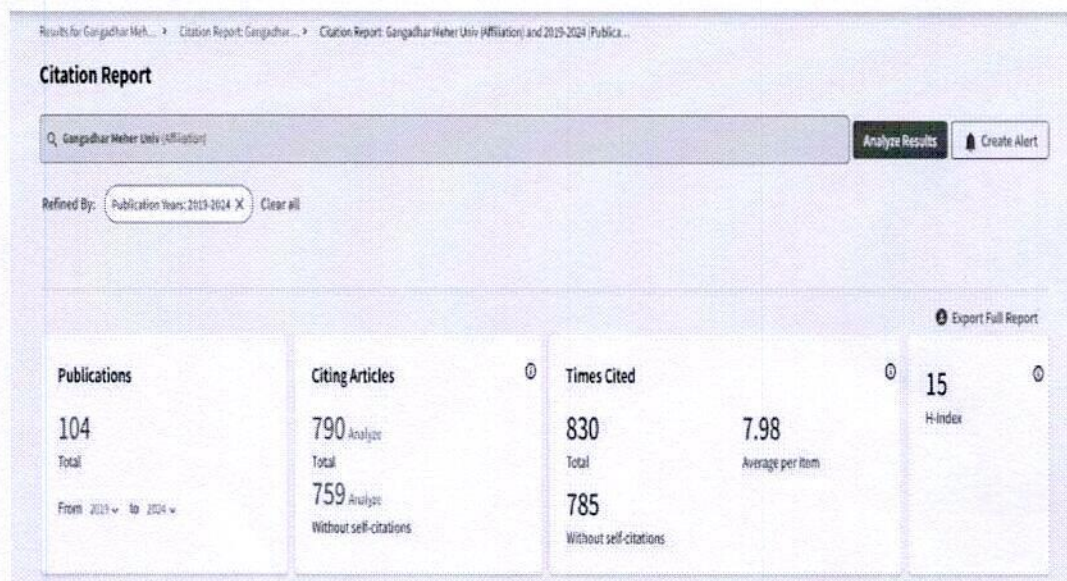
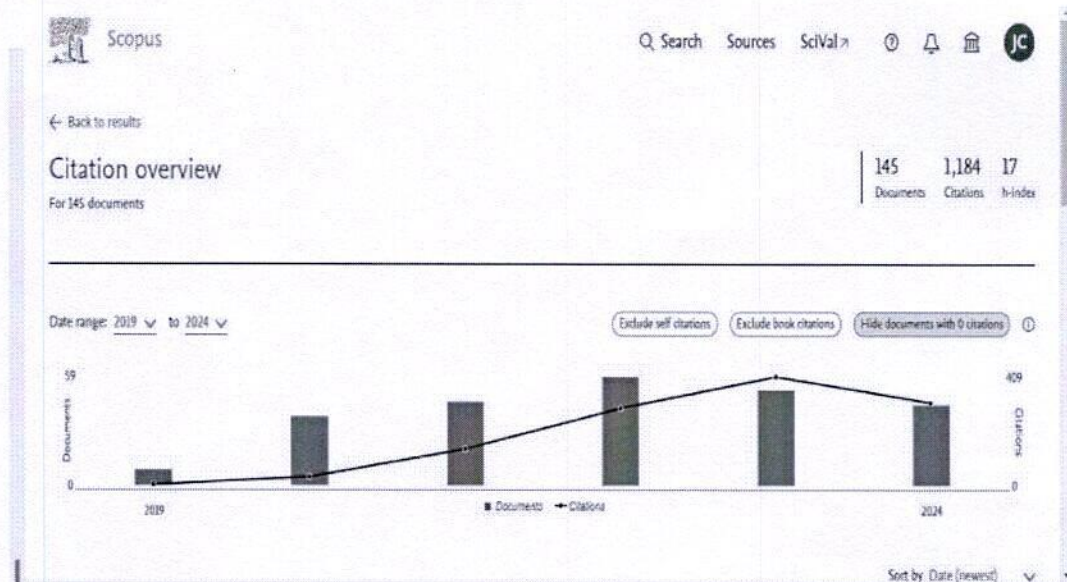


Figure 1: Citation and H-index

Source: Scopus Database

3.3 Availability of Academic Facilities

- **Library Resources:** The library has an extensive collection of books and reference materials and is equipped with more than 125766 number of books. The library provides access to stakeholders comprising students, faculty members and other employees both virtually and physically via digital platforms. Through the Odisha University Consortium, which is run by the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC), the library has subscriptions to EBSCO and ScienceDirect, giving access to a vast array of e-resources. Additionally, the consortium provides library patrons with an open remote access tool that allows them to access online resources at any time and from any location. Approximately 16448 e-books, 237368 e-journals, and 28477 non-journal contents, 1484 news articles and roughly 34897 e-books, 5090 e-journals, and 363 e-textbooks in EBSCO and Science Direct respectively. In addition to this library also makes available six million articles.
- **Laboratories:** The university is equipped with state-of-the-art laboratories for the concerned disciplines. These labs are subject to regular upkeep and maintenance to enable the learners stay updated and to ensure they meet the latest industry standards and support cutting-edge research.
- **Classrooms:** Classrooms are equipped with modern teaching aids, including smart boards, projectors, and high-speed internet, which enhance the learning experience. The university has also integrated online learning platforms to support blended learning.
- **Student Support Services:** The university offers comprehensive academic support services, including tutoring, counselling, and career guidance. These services are designed to assist students in achieving their academic and career goals.
- **Accommodation and Facilities:** The university provides well-maintained students' hostels with facilities such as study rooms, common areas, and recreational amenities. The campus is also equipped with sports facilities, gyms, a health center, and dining services that contribute to a holistic student experience.

3.4 Outreach and other General Activities

Key aspects of the audit include assessing the variety and scope of the extension programs, such as community service projects, skill development workshops, and awareness campaigns. The audit examines the participation levels of students, faculty, and staff, evaluating how these activities contribute to their personal and professional development.

The impact of these initiatives on the target communities is also scrutinized, measuring the effectiveness in addressing local needs, promoting sustainable development, and enhancing

the quality of life. The audit considers the resources allocated for these activities, including funding, personnel, and infrastructure, ensuring they are adequately supported.

Additionally, the audit reviews the partnerships and collaborations with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), government bodies, and other stakeholders that amplify the reach and effectiveness of the extension activities. The outcomes of this audit provide insights into the institution's commitment to social responsibility and its role in contributing to societal welfare. The audit found the following key extension programmes of the University.

Table 3: Some Extension Programmes

| Sl No | Name of the Programme | Name of the Organising School | Date of the Event |
|-------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Awareness of Safe Drinking Water | School of Chemistry | 13/12/2023 |
| 2. | Save Environment and Save Society | School of Philosophy | 01/12/2022 |
| 3. | Ancient Odia Language, Literature and Culture | School of Odia | 15/12/2023 |
| 4. | Awareness on Sanskrit Literature | School of Sanskrit | 04/11/2023 |
| 5. | Data Visualization and Interpretation | School of Statistics | 08/12/2023 |
| 6. | Celebrating Holi with Underprivileged Children of Sahoo Colony | School of English | 25/03/2024 |
| 7. | Digital Entrepreneurship | School of IST | 10/12/2023 |
| 8. | Awareness Programme on Women Empowerment at Thapapali | School of Political Science | 25/11/2023 |
| 9. | Digital kid Empowerment Initiative | School of Computer Science | 10/12/2023 |

Source: GMU

4. Recommendations

- The audit highlights the need for additional funding to support cutting-edge research. It is recommended that the university seeks to diversify its funding sources by applying for more national and international grants. Establishing partnerships with industry and government agencies can also provide alternative funding streams.
- The university should prioritize research in areas that have high societal impact and align with global challenges. Encouraging interdisciplinary research can lead to more innovative solutions and enhance the university's reputation in emerging fields.
- Providing comprehensive support services, such as grant writing assistance, intellectual property management, and research ethics training, can help faculty and students navigate the complexities of conducting high-quality research.
- Classrooms and lecture halls should be equipped with the latest educational technologies, including smart boards, high-speed internet, and interactive learning platforms.
- Though the science labs are catering the needs of the students, an updated laboratory with latest equipment are highly required. A Central Instrumentation Centre (CIC) should be created.
- The University has one centre of excellence "Odisha Centre for Geriatrics and Gerontology (OCGG)" and one chair "Bhima Bhoi Research Chair". The number of such centres and research chairs may be increased.

5. Action Taken Report

The team examined the academic audit recommendations of the previous academic session and verified the remedial measures that the university took. The audit observations are as follows:

Table 4: Action Taken Report

| Recommendations | Action Taken |
|--|--|
| 1. Improving library footfalls | 1. The library was renovated and the strength in the |
| 2. Increasing the frequency of issue of books | library has been improved significantly. A computer lab was also set up for the students and |
| 3. Increasing the number of textbooks in the library | faculties. A library committee was also formed for the purpose. |
| 4. Use of e-resources | 2. The list of books was sought from the heads of |

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| 5. Development of student grievance redressal system | the school and steps have been taken for the purchase of the same. |
| 6. Display of names of key administrative, academic, chairman of statutory committees, etc | 3. Awareness programs/workshops have been organised to enhance the use of e-resources. |
| 7. Restructuring the student feedback mechanism | 4. A student grievance redressal system was developed and senior faculties are specifically designated for this. |
| 8. Maintaining data on student progression, achievement, off-campus placement, etc. | 5. Student feedback was collected through google forms and analysed. Follow-up action was also taken. |
| 9. Reducing the gap between the last date of examination and date of declaring results. | 6. Specific files were supplied to each of the Schools with instructions to maintain such records. |
| | 7. The names of designated faculties of different statutory committees like RTI, Student Grievance Redressal System, etc are displayed. |
| | 8. The result of the final semesters was published within the stipulated time. |

Source: Compiled

Members of the Committee

1. **Prof. Kalidash Mishra,**

Retired Professor in English, Sambalpur University (Syndicate Member)

Kalidash Mishra
02.07.2024

2. **Dr. Kamdeba Sahu,**

Retired Associate Professor, G.M. University, Sambalpur

Kamdeba Sahu
2.7.24

**Administrative Audit Report
2021-22 to 2023-24
Gangadhar Meher University, Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur**

1. Introduction and Objectives

An administrative audit was conducted from 18.07.24 to 19.07.24 to evaluate the effectiveness of the administrative activities and compliances to various policies and legislations as mandated by the appropriate authority.

2. Audit Observations

2.1. Policy and Procedure Compliance

The University has developed many policies related to research and innovation, start-ups, IT policy etc. which are in line with the guidelines. Also, various committee and cells has been constituted as per UGC guidelines.

2.2. Academic Departments (All Schools of the University):

The following observations were made while visiting various academic departments:

- Inadequate Teaching and Non-Teaching staffs
- Science laboratories of the University need upgradation with procurement of high-end equipment for advance research
- Central instrumentation facilities need upgradation
- Educational activities should be started at earliest possible in the second campus
- More number of smart classrooms should be developed
- Steps should be taken for promotion of innovation and filing of patent

2.3. Administrative sections (Academic, Establishment, Accounts, Purchase and Stores sections):

- Financial audits are being not done regularly by local fund audit
- Account section is making delay in processing of bills/vouchers.
- Purchase section need to process urgent requisitions without making delay
- Log book of all the sections should be maintained regularly

2.4. Examination Section

- Time gap between examination and publication of results should be delayed
- Poor storage facility of old evaluated answer books
- Shortage of staff members in the sections
- Examination section is yet to be fully automated

2.5. Library:

- Inadequate books in the library as per NEP syllabus
- Inadequate e-resources

- Important databases have not been subscribed in the library
- Library is yet to be fully digitalized

Overall Recommendations:

- Steps to be taken for recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staffs
- Steps to be taken for fully digitalization of library
- Steps to be taken for automation of examination system
- Steps should be taken to make second campus functional at earliest
- E-resources in the library should be increased
- Steps to be taken for promotions of Sports activities
- More numbers of CCTVs to be implemented in the Campus for safety and security
- Steps should be taken for preparation of NAAC accreditation without making any further delay

Action taken report of 2019-20 & 2020-21

- Recruitment of non-teaching staffs as sanctioned by HED, Govt. of Odisha has been made
- Books were procured for the library out of RUSA grant
- University have developed mechanism for CCR and PBAS
- Major repair and renovation works have been made during this period
- New academic building with toilet complex have allotted to various schools
- Bio-metric devices installed to monitor attendance of faculties and staffs
- Three well equipped computers labs have been developed in School of Commerce, Education and Management. In addition, a computer centre has also been developed in the central library
- With the donation received from Dr. Narayani Panda through "MO UNIVERSITY" program, a proud alumni, an IT skill centre has been developed for skill development of the students.
- E-office has been implemented and steps have been taken for automation of examination section

Audit Committee Members:

A committee will be appointed by the Registrar, Gangadhar Meher University having tenure for that specific year. The committee will consist of
Internal Members

- Dr. Uma Charan Pati, Dy. Registrar, Convenor
- Dr. Pramod Kumar Samal, Internal Member
- Dr. Raghunath Satapathy, Internal Member
- Dr. Gnyana Ranjan Bal, Internal Member

Uma Charan Pati
Pramod Kumar Samal
Raghunath Satapathy
Gnyana Ranjan Bal

External Member

- Prof. Kalidash Mishra,
Retired Professor in English, Sambalpur University (Syndicate Member)

Kalidash Mishra

**Administrative Audit Report
2019-20 & 2020-21
Gangadhar Meher University, Amruta Vihar, Sambalpur**

1. Introduction and Objectives

The administrative audit was conducted to assess the organisational efficiency, resource mobilisation and utilisation, financial and fund management, process of adhering to relevant legal, regulatory, and accreditation standards. The audit team will also review the governance and accountability of the human resources

2. Audit Schedule

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the administrative audit couldn't be made in the session 2019-20, hence the committee assessed and audited the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative procedure for the session 2019-20 and 2020-21 from date 19.07.2021 to 20.07.2021.

3. Audit Observations

The committee reviewed various policies framed by the University in adherence to UGC guidelines as well as the committee visited various schools of the University and sections to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of administrative procedure. The observations made during visits are summarized as below:

3.1 Policy and Procedure Compliance

Several administrative policies are outdated, with some last revised over five years ago. Additionally, there is inconsistent in adherence to established procedures across departments. Many important policies have not been formulated.

3.2 Academic Departments (All Schools of the University):

There is a lack of comprehensive performance evaluation processes for both faculty and staff. The following observations were made while visiting various academic departments:

- Inadequate Teaching and Non-Teaching staffs in different schools of the University
- Insufficient classrooms for each school
- Lack of proper computer labs in School of Education, Commerce and Management
- Poor infrastructure of science labs and shortage of teaching and research equipment
- Shortage of toilets for boys and girls

3.3 Administrative sections (Academic, Establishment, Accounts, Purchase and Stores sections):

- Service books of the staff members are not updated.
- Pending bills and vouchers in the account section yet to be processed.
- Pending requisitions in the purchase sections yet to be processed.

- Poor maintenance of students database in the academic section.
- Delay in processing of fellowships and scholarships.
- E-Office management system is yet to be implemented.

3.4: Examination Section

- Examinations were severely affected by Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted into delay in examinations and publication of results.
- Poor storage and infrastructural facility for old evaluated answer books.
- Shortage of staff members in the section.

3.5: Library:

- The library building need to be repaired.
- Insufficient number of prescribed books in the library
- Inadequate e-resources
- Important databases have not been subscribed in the library
- No proper reading room facility in the library

4. Overall Recommendations:

- Steps to be taken for recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staffs
- Steps to be taken for procurement of books for library
- E-resources in the library should be increased
- Steps to be taken for promotions of Sports activities
- Format for PBAS and CCR to be developed
- Computer labs to be established
- IT infrastructure should be improved
- CCTVs to be installed in the campus for safety and security.
- Attendance of students and staffs to be monitored
- Steps to be taken for repair/renovation works of science laboratory
- E-office should be implemented
- Steps should be taken for skill development of students
- Steps should be taken to include alumni in the growth story of the University
- Automation of Examination should be implemented
- External administrative audit should be conducted at least once in three years and internal administrative audit should be conducted every year.

The audit ended with appreciations by members of the audit committee to all the faculties and staff members for their enthusiasm and working culture amidst acute shortage of human resources and infrastructure.

Audit Committee Members:

Internal Members

1. Dr. Uma Charan Pati, Dy. Registrar & Convenor
2. Prof. Gyanaranjan Swain, Internal Member
3. Dr. Muralidhar Majhi, Internal Member

External Member

1. Dr. Kamdeba Sahu,
Retired Associate Professor, G.M. University, Sambalpur

Uma Charan Pati

Gyanaranjan Swain

Muralidhar Majhi

Kamdeba Sahu