

My Vision for My University

I had a dream for a Sanskrit University in Karnataka State while studying in gurukala in early 80s. After 25 years, my dream became true as the Karnataka Sanskrit University was established by the state government in 2010 by the prayers and efforts of Sanskrit lovers. I was fortunate to get an opportunity to serve my dream institution in 2011, when I was appointed as the first Director of the Directorate of State Sanskrit education under the aegis of the University. Since then I have been working in this university with a great vision for a great future of the university.

Bridge between ancient knowledge and modern science:

This university is established in the IT capital of the nation - Bengaluru, with an objective of linking ancient traditional knowledge systems and modern technologies and science apart from the objective to promote and propagate the traditional Sanskrit learning. Modern age demands for better solutions for the challenges of modern life from the ancient scriptures. It is our duty to exhibit the relevance of our ancient knowledge repository in the modern age with concrete examples. For the last fifteen years I have been working in the field of Natural Language Processing and Sanskrit Computational Linguistics, an emerging area of Interdisciplinary research in association with Computer Scientists and IT Professional. This experience equips me with a proper vision and ability to transform this University as an Institution of Interdisciplinary Studies and Research.

Infrastructure: State of Art Amenities to Suit to the Academic Environment

There are fifteen Sanskrit Universities in the country almost one in each state. Except three, centrally funded universities in Delhi and Tiruapti, all other state Universities are suffering from the lack of good infrastructure. Major bottleneck is to getting the land and creating infrastructure like building, hostel, seminar halls, library etc. Since Bangalore is a city with corporate world, there is a tremendous scope for mobilising funds for the University. I will find the ways to persuade the big corporate leaders to support us to build good infrastructure, which will be a long time asset for the varsity.

In 2008, when I took the responsibility of the Director of Sanskrit Academy, Osmania University, Hyderabad, the institution was totally in dilapidated condition. Within a year the institution was re-built with the financial assistance of State and central governments and other sources. Here, in the 100 acre land sanctioned by the Government, low-cost, simple architect, environment friendly and local traditional outlook buildings can be constructed. This will be a modern Gurukula university like Shantiniketan or Gurukul Kanghri.

World Class Research Centre with a Computer Lab and E-library:

The world is changing very fast with the technological advancement. Sanskrit research has to be modernised by providing well equipped computer lab and a e-library. We have already started working towards that by initiating with the creation of a digital library in the university. In future, we can develop a full fledged e-library with the support of IT Professionals.

Manuscript Repository

Karnataka State has been a seat of Samskrit learning for the centuries. The literature created in the State is still available in the form of Manuscripts. The University could develop manuscript repository by collecting manuscripts from different parts of the State, which will be useful for research in the University.

A Centre for Cultural Tourism

The main campus of the University is just 40 kms away from the city center. The campus is on the highway towards Hasan well connected with the train and road transport. If the University campus is constructed in the model of Shantiniketan, this will be a central attraction for the tourists and academicians across the world. A cultural monument and museum can be developed.

12B recognition and NAAC Assessment

Currently the university is recognised under 2F of UGC act. Unless we get recognised under 12B which enables university to get financial aid from UGC, the University

cannot grow in national level. Within a short span of time, we need to achieve minimum criteria for getting 12B recognition. NAAC assessment is another requirement of the university. We need to concentrate on research and publications and other prominent areas. Since, I have lead many research teams and brought out nearly 30 Internationally reputed publications, it is quite possible to build similar research teams in the University.

Center for Excellence

This university is potential to get recognised as centre for excellence in all aspects. We can soon get global attention with our research and education. Since Bengaluru is a good centre for higher learning with all required facilities, students from different parts of the world can be attracted. We shall have agreements with foreign universities for faculty and students exchange programs. We can develop this as Centre for Excellence in the field of Sanskrit research and learning. I have already developed a good relation with many Internationally renowned departments, institutions and Universities.

This is what I dream for my university, which will come true within a decade.

Shrinivasa Varakhedi