

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Performance Audit was conducted on the 'Functioning of the University of Kerala' with a view to assess the planning and execution of its academic activities, creation and development of human resources and infrastructure facilities and financial management of the University. The major findings of the Performance Audit are given below.

Planning, Academic Activities and Financial Management

The University did not have an approved Master Plan against which progress was monitored regularly, resulting in deficiencies in timely implementation of infrastructure projects, software, revision of syllabus etc.

(Paragraph 2.1)

College Development Council, a body envisaged by University Grants Commission (UGC) to ensure integrated development of affiliated colleges had only one member. Interactions with colleges as prescribed by the UGC guidelines were not carried out.

(Paragraph 2.2)

None of the 17 University Institutes of Technology (UIT) due for NAAC accreditation had started the accreditation process. In the absence of accreditation, stakeholders did not have assurance about the quality of education imparted.

52 Boards of Study did not have adequate representation of teachers/experts.

Out of 142 courses, syllabus of 28 courses were not revised during the last three years. Delay in revision of syllabus of five courses ranged between eight and 13 years and in respect of 23 other courses between one and five years.

Withdrawal of recognition of Distance Education Programme for the years 2015-16 and 2016-17 resulted from the conduct of 10 unapproved courses during 2013-15 and non-submission of affidavit by the University.

(Paragraph 2.3)

The University failed to carry out inspection of affiliated colleges from time to time. Further, no reports on affiliated colleges were being submitted to Government of Kerala (GoK) as required under Kerala University Act, 1974.

(Paragraph 2.4)

Failure of the University to take up the infrastructure development works resulted in receipt of only ₹8.70 crore against the UGC allocation of ₹15.76 crore as General Development Assistance during the XIIth Five Year Plan period (2012-17).

(Paragraph 2.5)

Against an expenditure of ₹14.14 crore for payment of pay revision arrears, only ₹4.57 crore was received from GoK. The balance amount of ₹9.57 crore was utilised from the non-plan fund of the University.

(Paragraph 2.7)

Rent arrears of ₹19.09 crore (excluding GST) from December 2014 yet to be received towards land leased in 2010 for construction of 35th National Games Stadium.

(Paragraph 2.8)

Annual Administration fee of ₹11.63 crore is pending collection from Self-financing and unaided colleges affiliated to the University.

(Paragraph 2.9)

Kerala University Colleges of Teacher Education (KUCTE) and the University College of Engineering operated by the University in self-financing mode operated continuously on a loss during 2016-20.

(Paragraph 2.10)

Demand Collection Balance statement and reconciliation statements not relied upon for monitoring revenue collection and ensuring genuineness of bank/treasury transactions.

(Paragraph 2.11)

Deficit of ₹7.23 crore in the University Provident Fund account maintained with the Treasury was continuing despite passage of over a decade.

(Paragraph 2.14)

Though, 12 years have elapsed after publication of Volume VIII of Malayalam Lexicon (2009), the next volume is yet to materialise, apart from an error-ridden Volume IX published in 2016. Sale of Volume IX was stopped by order of Vice-Chancellor in April 2017.

(Paragraph 2.15)

Human Resources

Nine academic departments were functioning without even one sanctioned Professor post. Department of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology was functioning since its establishment in 2016 without any sanctioned post of faculty.

(Paragraph 3.1.1)

Contrary to the UGC Regulation of limiting the appointment of teachers on contract basis to a maximum of 10 *per cent*, more than 23 *per cent* of the total faculty strength in the University departments were appointed on contract basis.

Further, all 335 teaching faculty in 34 UITs, 10 KUCTEs, seven UIMs and the University College of Engineering were appointed on contract basis.

Out of 174 teachers in 34 UITs, 108 teachers were appointed without NET/SET/Ph.D qualification in violation of norms prescribed by UGC.

(Paragraph 3.1.2)

Examination

Delay in conduct of End Semester Evaluation of 2016 and 2017 examinations for the UG programme in affiliated colleges when compared with the examination calendar was above 200 days in one case and between 100 and 200 days in two cases.

Delay in publication of results was above 300 days in two instances. Delay was between 200 to 300 days and between 100 and 200 days in four instances each.

(Paragraph 4.1)

System of accounting of blank answer books was deficient, with the verification of answer books completed only in six out of 297 examination centres.

(Paragraph 4.4)

Deficiencies relating to tabulation software were only partially rectified even after Expert Committee recommendations. Security audit was yet to be conducted.

(Paragraph 4.6)

Time taken for revaluation of answer scripts exceeded 120 days in over 21,800 cases as against the prescribed time of within 60 days from the last date of receipt of applications. The process took more than 240 days in over 7,700 instances.

(Paragraph 4.7)

Infrastructure

Test-check of nine UITs and two UIMs revealed inadequacies in infrastructure including shortage of restrooms, seminar halls, canteen halls besides shortage of land.

(Paragraph 5.1.1)

‘Smart Card System in Kerala University Library’ project sanctioned in August 2013 envisaged to save time, cost and labour and facilitate easy inventory control and stock verification, reducing of crowding etc., remained incomplete even after eight years.

(Paragraph 5.1.2)

While one University Health Centre in Thiruvananthapuram which could provide emergency medical treatment was non-functional, the other was functioning in a dilapidated building.

(Paragraph 5.2)

Infrastructure for differently abled including ramps, lifts and separate toilets were inadequately provided for, in University departments and other institutions of the University.

Though civil works and electrical works for setting up of 'Resource Centre for Visually Challenged Users' in University Library were completed, installation of lift had not commenced, and computers were yet to be purchased.

(Paragraph 5.3)

Out of 59 software/websites, only one website had been security audited and another was in progress. Cash counter software, Online Payment Portal etc., had not been security audited.

(Paragraph 5.4.4)

Five major infrastructure works involving ₹9.70 crore initiated during 2011-17 remained incomplete.

(Paragraph 5.5.2)