

**Status Report**  
*on*  
**E-Governance in Kerala State Higher Education**  
**Council**

## **DIGICOL: Digital Enablement in Higher Education Institutions**

### **Executive Summary**

The Digital Enablement of Higher Education Institutions is an initiative of the KSHEC in response to the call of the Government to Go Digital in teaching/learning activities in higher education. Under this plan, effective implementation of MOODLE, a Opensource Learning Management System (LMS) with excellent features used for blended learning, distance education, flipped classroom and other e-learning projects in schools, universities, workplaces and other sectors is envisaged.

As part of the Let's Go Digital campaign, the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala entrusted the Kerala State Higher Education Council to provide training for the faculty members of state universities and colleges and to provide centralized server space provided by State Data Centre (SDC) or with the Digital University of Kerala (DUK).

The project involves a central management and system administration by KSHEC with the backend infrastructure developed, maintained with technical support by Digital University of Kerala for implementing the software.

### **Outcome**

1. KSHEC has trained 3600+ teachers mostly through online mode especially hands-on-training done by experts. Faculty of institutions are getting equipped to implement LMS in their institutions.
2. Server space and MOODLE-LMS are provided to the trained institutions and is preparing to expand this facility to 50 colleges during the academic year 2021-22 and to extend the facility to 500 institutions in the next phase.
3. This scheme has facilitated the efficacious use of blended learning in our higher education institutions for the present and the future course of action.

## Online Digital Repository of course materials

### Executive Summary

Kerala State Higher Education Council provides a dedicated portal for students to access online study materials on various courses in UG/PG programmes in different subject disciplines of the state universities in its website [www.kshec.kerala.gov.in](http://www.kshec.kerala.gov.in) under the title 'Online Study Materials' this repository has been developed in association with faculty members of government, affiliated colleges and universities in the state. A wide range of study materials for B.Sc./B.A./B.Com./B.B.A. and M.Sc./M.A./M.Com. programmes, are available. Students can easily choose it according to their interest and demand as the website provides user-friendly windows for search, view and downloading. The material is supplied in the form of pdf documents, power point presentation and videos formats. The council does the preliminary screening of the learning material received from the faculty members

A portal facility to host e-contents of courses of UG/PG programmes developed by the faculty members of government, affiliated colleges and universities similar to SWAYAM/NPTEL

### Outcome

- 1.The portal facility hosts 3000+ e-contents on various subjects of Undergraduate and Post Graduate programmes and provides access to teachers and students.
- 2.Large number of students are regular viewers of the e-contents. Active participation from the faculty members of various colleges is ensured.
- 3.Enhancing the quality of e- contents and expanding the resources using advanced technology of digital pedagogy.
- 4.Academic credit to e-content developers /resource persons single window access to e-contents/resources and access to courses of UG/PG levels for faculty and students in colleges.
- 5.Building State Level Knowledge Asset for research leading to the development of knowledge economy

## **KALNET**

### **Kerala Academic Library Network**

#### **Executive Summary**

It provides the shared platform for academic resources. Kerala Academic Libraries Network (KALNET) brings on a common platform the collections of all the libraries of the HEIs of the State which would be accessible to all researchers. The system developed in consultation with Vice Chancellors/ Librarians of state universities. KALNET portal has been created in KSHEC website. Data hosted on State Data Centre. KALNET links Library data from various university libraries. At present 11 universities, 147 libraries and 15 lakh titles of books and journals are brought under a single search interface. The open source-based search interface offers various features like spelling suggestions and auto completion of queries. In the second phase the Higher Education Council of Kerala plans to provide live status of the availability of the library materials.

#### **Outcome**

1. KALNET links Library data from various university libraries
2. It presently has the participation of 14 universities-networking of 140 libraries.
3. Data of more than 15 lakh collection is available on the portal.
4. A single, unified catalogue to search for items across the collections of different academic libraries in Kerala

## State Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC)

### Executive Summary

The primary objective of the SAAC is to assess and assign state level accreditation and grades to all higher education institutions in the state including universities, government and aided colleges, autonomous colleges and self-financing institutions/colleges. The Council conducted several district wise programmes for colleges pertaining to various aspects of SAAC.

It envisages to stimulate and promote the horizontal and sustainable development of all higher education institutions of Kerala by employing transparent and methodical measuring means having global, national, state level, regional and local bearing, with prime focus on quality, excellence, competency, adaptability, inclusiveness and social/ development linkage.

Apart from the seven criteria for assessment proposed by NAAC, three state specific core values of SAAC have been adopted through measurable criteria-framed metrics. They are: (1) Ensuring Social Inclusiveness, (2) Striving for Equity & Excellence, and (3) Fostering Scientific Temper and Secular Outlook.

### Outcome

1. The SAAC portal is developed and maintained by the council, which facilitates all round process right from the beginning of SSR preparation to the grading.
2. All activities like data validation, scrutiny, assessment and final grading are being conducted online except the onsite visit of peer-team members.
3. The centre has accredited two institutions during this period and is receiving applications and self-study reports from various institutions for accreditations

# Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)

## Executive Summary

The council envisages the creation of a Kerala-specific ranking index, which will be termed as Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) for universities and colleges on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework in the state of Kerala. This will enable holistic and comprehensive ranking of the 1500+ higher education institutions in the state. This will be a pioneering step in the country that a state level agency perform the ranking for the academic institutions in the state. The entire process of KIRF would be operated through online mode.

## Outcome

1. This would be completely online mechanism for comparative ranking of higher education institutions in the state.
2. This will be done through the existing portal facility and on the basis of the details obtained through the survey of All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE) and All Kerala Higher Education Survey (AKHES) in addition to the specially formulated ranking metrics with state specific aspects.
3. This would be the first in the country that a state level public agency is engaged in institutional ranking of its institutions of higher learning, which incorporates specific areas of state specific aspects not covered under other ranking frameworks.

# **All Kerala Higher Education Survey**

## **Executive Summary**

KSHEC conducts All Kerala Higher Education Survey (AKHES) which contains useful information on various aspects of Higher Education sector in Kerala. It covers details of teaching and non-teaching staff, programmes conducted under various faculties, student enrolment, scholarships, examination, accreditation and infrastructural facilities in Higher Education Institutions and provides data for evidence-based decision making and planning. The information collected online through the KSHEC portal wherein most of the institutions of higher learning in the state have registered themselves and uploaded information in the Data Capture Format. The research team of the KSHEC also collected data directly on a number of parameters.

## **Outcome**

1. The entire process of data collection is held through online mode. The survey report for the year 2020-21 has been published.
2. Institutions once attempted/prepared the datasets for uploading the required information can update the information through the portal for the consecutive years.
3. First in the state that a comprehensive database of all higher education institutions in the state are collected through online mode.

# Brain Gain: Database of Keralite-Academic diaspora around the Globe

## Executive Summary

KSHEC is building up a database with details of the Keralite academic diaspora envisaged for their greater participation for enhancing the quality of higher education in the state. As part of building up the database, KSHEC maintains a registration portal open to scholars for providing their details through online mode.

The main objectives of the scheme is:

- attract, share, involve, integrate and incorporate Keralite-Academics in advanced fields of science, technology, and social sciences for the quality enhancement in higher education institutions in Kerala
- effectively implement the Erudite-Scholar in Residence cum Brain Gain programme
- bringing the experts as short-term teachers, part-time collaborators, and co-supervisors in researches in the universities
- locate experts in science-tech hybrid fields relevant to the transformation of higher education to knowledge economy and enhancement of the states' intellectual property contributions
- • identify experts in high-tech industries and invite them for generating ideas for the reconstitution of the curricula of the higher education institutions by establish communication directly with the experts who possess the expertise
- provide advisory support to the government by using the above database in relevant matters of expertise

## Outcome

1. The council built a database of 200+ scholars from different field of knowledge areas from among the diasporic communities across the globe.
2. As part of it, these experts are asked to provide an academic plan of their choice so that the council coordinate the possible activities in association with the respective universities in the state.
3. It will further link with the erudite scholars in residence programme, arranging visits of scholars to state universities/colleges, creation and maintenance of database with help of software, sharing the details of scholars to universities and colleges, arranging online lectures/courses by NRK scholars are some of the salient outcomes expected from this scheme.



## **E - Journal Consortium: e-journal access to all the state universities**

### **Executive Summary**

The Governing Body of KSHEC resolved to establish a consortium of e journals in the State to cater to the needs of the academic community in wake of the rising costs of subscription to e journals and the paucity of funds faced by the universities. The KSHEC acts as the nodal agency of the consortium for which the state government as earmarked Rs.10 crores in the state budget for 2021-22.

### **Outcome**

1. This will provide single window access to Universities / colleges and other institutions for the required number of e-journals & academic database for the academic community.
2. Increased research output/productivity of faculty/universities will increase ranking state institutions globally.

## **All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE)**

### **Executive Summary**

KSHEC has been designated as the nodal agency for All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE) by the Ministry of Human Resources Development. The council oversees the collection of data related to all HEIs in the state based on the DCF developed by the MHRD. As per the latest survey of AISHE 2019-20, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Kerala is estimated at 38.8% compared to the All-India Average of 27.1%. The survey covers programme-wise, programme enrolment, gender, social group, minority and Persons with disabilities (PWD) and foreign students distribution.

### **Outcome**

- **Provide database for planning at the state level**
- **Provide data for NAAC/ NBA/ NSP/ NIRF**

## **Higher Education Scholarship Scheme**

### **Executive Summary**

Higher Education Scholarship Scheme, which is being implemented by the Kerala State Higher Education Council, with the financial support of the State Government is one of the most acclaimed and popular initiatives in higher education sector. It is an imaginative scheme formulated in line with the declared objectives of the Higher Education Council to promote equity, access and excellence in higher education. The main objective of the Scheme is to attract and retain talented students in non-professional academic schemes like sciences, humanities, social sciences etc. and about 3000scholarships are given every academic year at the UG level to pursue non-professional courses and about 1200 scholarships are given at the PG level. Physically handicapped students are given 25% additional amount.

### **Outcome**

1. The scheme of scholarship is done online mode in technical collaboration with NIC.
2. Transparency in the award of Scholarships.
3. From submission of Application to final disbursal of money directly to the student bank account.

## **Chancellor's Award**

### **Executive Summary**

The Chancellor's Award was instituted by the Honorable Governor and Chancellor of Universities of Kerala in 2015 to nurture the spirit of healthy competition among the State Universities in Kerala so that they will evolve as vibrant centers of learning.

The selection is based on achievements of Universities in areas such as academics, pedagogy, research and social inclusiveness.

The selection process is entirely done through online mode, where universities upload data. The system generated assessment is made for quantitative metrics and committee members will verify the qualitative metrics through the access control provided to them. The entire set of process is highly transparent and effective for the time bound completion of the selection process.

### **Outcome**

1. The council has completed the selection process of the award for the last three years fully under online mode.
2. The universities participating in the process are provided the general guidelines and format which enables them to prepare the dataset for final uploading.
3. Details of academic / administrative performance of participating universities create database in University education in the state.
4. Promotes healthy inter University competition and annual academic stock taking helpful for National and International accreditation/ ranking.

## **Kairali Research Awards**

### **Executive Summary**

The Government of Kerala have announced Kairali Research Awards to those candidates who excel in a particular subject with an aim to encourage the most eminent research scholars and research pedagogues of the state. This award is given under four categories of scholars viz. Kairali Gaveshaka Puraskaram, Kairali Gaveshana Puraskaram, Kairali Lifetime Achievement and Kairali Global Lifetime Achievement Award. From the first level of uploading applications or applying online mode to the final declaration of the awards are handled through online mode. The subject experts & selection committee are provided with access credentials for document verification of applicants.

### **Outcome**

1. The entire award selection process is done through online mode
2. Promotes quality research in Higher Education in the state.
3. Encouragement to Faculty/ Scholars at the University/ College level for professional excellence.

## **Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

### **Executive Summary**

The Government of Kerala have introduced the prestigious Chief Minister's Nava Kerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships scheme for meeting innovation and development needs of the state through promoting quality research spanning the sectors like social, economic, agriculture, development and industry. The scheme envisages 500 individual Post Doctoral fellowships and each one carries an amount ranging from 50,000/- to 1,00,000/-per month. The whole process is expected to be completed online mode only.

### **Outcome**

1. Helpful for promotion of research in socially relevant emerging areas of Knowledge.
2. Provide inputs for faster economic developments as prominence is given to areas related to  
Rebuild Kerala theme.
3. Enhance the academic ranking and research output of state universities.

## **Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF)**

### **(Summary)**

The Kerala State Higher Education Council Act, 2007 envisages several responsibilities and functions of the Council which among other things include (I) to evolve new concepts and programmes in higher education. (II) to perform such other functions for the realization of the twin objectives of Social Justice and Excellence in higher education. Formation of KIRF is also an important item in the Higher Education Empowerment Implementation Plan approved by the Government of Kerala vide GO (Rt) No. 747/2022/HEDn dated 21.05.2022. The Executive Body of the KSHEC held on 25.03.2022 has resolved to launch the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF) in the Kerala State Higher Education Council.

The KIRF will become the hallmark of the excellence of higher education institutions in the State. The ranking system will reflect the ethos of social justice, scientific temper and secularism that are upheld by the State. A separate KIRF website ([www.kirf.kshec.org](http://www.kirf.kshec.org)) was launched and logo was also released.

The Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) will be the implementing agency of the annual ranking exercise. The State has become the first in the country to establish a State-specific ranking framework for its higher education institutions by way of the initiative.

The ranking framework will classify the participating institutions as universities, colleges, engineering, management, architecture, medical, dental, pharmacy, nursing, law and teacher education institutions. They will also compete against each other to determine overall rankings.

While its ranking parameters will be largely based on those followed in the NIRF, they will also include State-specific criteria and indicators for assessment. In addition to the other parameters, the KIRF will stand apart from the NIRF for assessing the performance of institutions in terms of scientific temper and scientific outlook, adoption of green technology, and accreditation and ranking.

The Hon'ble Higher Education Minister Dr. R. Bindu on 03.05.2023 formally launched the Kerala Institutional Ranking Framework (KIRF), modelled on the lines of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), to assess the quality of higher education institutions in the State.