



YashwantraoChavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik – 422 222

7.3.1: Areas of distinctiveness in the university

1. Technology enabled Learner Support

1. Digital repository of SLM of all courses available on university website;
2. YashVani: Interactive Radio Counseling (IRC) sessions through Web Radio;
3. QR Code Based Question papers and answer sheets;
4. Web-enabled Academic Support;

• Technology enabled administrative support:

1. Learner friendly and easy to use online admission and re-registration system;
2. Facility of downloading documents like hall tickets, mark sheets, etc;
3. Online submission of examination form;
4. Student Corner on university website for accessing information;
5. Online Portal for redressing grievances.
6. Extensive use of Social Media in communication.

2. Penetration into Rural, Remote and Tribal Areas

The University has established a network of LSCs in rural areas, geographically remote and tribal locations such as Palghar, Nandurbar, Bhandara, Gadchiroli and Gondia districts and coastal areas in Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts in Maharashtra.

The following measures are in place:

- Establishment of 1338 LSCs (out of total 1711 learner support centers) in rural areas for the focused attention on the educational development of the rural population of Maharashtra.
- Establishment of 145 LSCs in coastal areas for the focused attention on the educational development of the 5 coastal districts of Maharashtra.
- Establishment of 127 LSCs in tribal areas for the focused attention on the educational development of the 5 tribal districts of Maharashtra.
- Establishment of 59 LSCs in rural and remote areas for the focused attention on the educational development of the farmers and farming communities in Maharashtra.
- Setting up Examination Centers: in remote, tribal and disadvantaged areas to facilitate learners.

3. Modern Infrastructure Facilities

The major infrastructure and facilities for use are outlined below:

- **Computing and Network Infrastructure and facilities:** latest Computing and Network infrastructure (hardware and software) for hosting and access of various Online Systems and Services; Dedicated servers and data management system; Adequate Internet Bandwidth for access to Digital Resources; dedicated Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to ensure round-the-clock availability of Internet; and facilities like Wired and Wireless Internet Connectivity; Unlimited E-mailing, Availability of Digital SLMs through e-books and digital repository;
- **Audio-Video Center (AVC):** has state-of-art video and audio studios, non-linear editing suites for production of multimedia components of the course ware; hardware and facilities for interactive transmissions through Radio Web-based Interactive Counseling and Teleconferencing etc.
- Latest End-user IT Infrastructure such as Computers, Printers and other Peripheral devices connected with Intranet and Internet for all teachers / academics / administrative staff;
- Dedicated building of Library and Resource Center (LARC) with state of art connectivity and stacking of more than 54,000 books.
- Modern modular ergonomic furniture to create conducive work environment and enhance productivity of working staff members;
- Green and clean environment-friendly campus with adequate amenities for people with special needs (PwD learners).

4. Landscaping the Campus

The University Campus is spread over 147 acres of fertile land near Gangapur dam near Nashik city. Greening the campus was accepted as an urgent need of the University and was given high priority. Today, YCMOU campus is bundled with orchards, horticulture plantations, Nursery, natural forests, evergreen trees and shrubs, with the highest level of biodiversity, and exotic plant species on the campus. This has been made possible because of the untiring efforts of a dedicated Farm Science Center (Krishi Vigyan Kendra-KVK) of the university. The major features of landscaping on the campus are:

- **Horticulture Orchards and Plantation Crops:** The KVK develops and maintains 70 Acres fruits orchards, plantation crops, Horticulture Nursery and poly houses for flower production and 35 acres Agro-forest plantation on the campus. The KVK also maintain 40 acre institutional landscape of the university with gardens and avenue plantation on the Campus. These are decorated with beautiful patterns of annual, perennial, ornamental and seasonal plants.
- **Green University Campus:** The University has extensive green cover throughout the campus with diverse creepers, climbers, shrubs and trees providing beautiful and cool surroundings. It has perennial and seasonal plants spread over 147 acres. It is maintained using green techniques, organic manures /botanical pesticides and rain harvested water.

There are 17 types of fruit trees/ plantsplanted on 70 acres of land, The fruit trees/plants includes Coconut, Mango, Cashewnut, Guava, Sapota, Grapes, Tamarind, Litchi, Custard Apple, Avocado, Jamun, Aonla, Coffee, Drumstick etc. with total number of trees are 8550 in number.

There are 29 types of forest trees, avenue trees and ornamental trees planted on 35 acres of agro-forestry on the campus. The forest trees includes Eucalyptus, Bamboo, Sisoo, Neem, Raintree, Kadamb, Sandle wood, Kashid, Pimpal, Mahua, ArjunSdada, Silver oak, Jacaranda etc.with total number of trees

are 65598 in number. There are 970 Coconut and jackfruit trees on the farm bunds. Thus total bio-diversity plantation on the university campus is 75118 Trees and plants.

5. National / International Recognition

YCMOU has continuously striven to adhere to its Vision and Mission, establishing national and international credentials. YCMOU has been awarded national and international recognition for its contributions to the ODL system. The major achievements of the university are as follows:

- Award of Institutional Excellence in Open and Distance Education by Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in 2002;
- Award of Institutional Excellence in Open and Distance Education by Commonwealth of Learning (COL) in 2019;
- Awarded 4th rank in Swachh Campus Ranking-2019 amongst the cleanest Higher Educational Institutions in the country (under the University (Non-Residential) category by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.



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