

7.3.1 Area of distinctiveness:

Landscaping the Campus:

Landscaping of the campus has duly been recognized by the University and it is given due importance. As a result, the campus of the institution has an aesthetic appearance. A planned and proper landscape of the institution creates a world of difference in appearance and beauty than an unplanned one. Moreover, greenery in the campus inculcates aesthetic sense in our minds. Landscaping of the University campus can be described under the following points:

1. **Location:** The university campus is spread over 70 acres of geographical area. This itself is one of the most distinctive feature of the university as most of the open universities in India do not have higher land infrastructure. The university area is recorded and approved by the state government. University is situated in the Koni- Birkona Marg, Birkona, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh. Distance of the campus from the Bilaspur city is about 6 kms. The location of the University has added advantage to the learner groups. It is neither away from the town nor too close to the city. It is situated in an area which is under the phase of development. The institution in terms of its land infrastructure and location advantage is a unique feature of distinctiveness.
2. **Planned Architecture and gradual expansion:** Development of infrastructure of the University consists of planned architecture. All the infrastructures are based on adequate space and connectivity, with scope for further expansion. The campus of the university is surrounded by a boundary wall to provide safety to its employees, teachers and learners. Gradual development and planned mechanism of expansion adds to its distinctive features.
3. **University Buildings:** Different buildings have been constructed say Sirpur Administrative Building, Mahamaya Pariksha and Mulyankan Building, Sihava Academic Building and Vivekanand Library. All these are located in such a manner that easy and fast movement from one building to the other can be possible. All the buildings are well connected with clean roads. Parking sheds are built around the administrative block so as to facilitate vehicle parking. Connectivity thus is another distinction as it reduces the lag time for travelling from one place to the other, enhancing the productive working time.

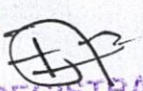
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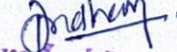

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4. **Hostel and Guest House:** University also has Arpa Guest House which facilitates for accommodation of guests. A hostel of the capacity of 130 (Each 65 for both girls and boys) is located in the campus to facilitate accommodation to learners during their stay for contact/counselling classes. This is regarded as one of the key distinctiveness as it facilitates and encourages learners to participate at the time of their contact and counselling classes with a minimum expenditure. Most of the institutions across India in open mode do not have such facilities.
5. **University's Residential Buildings:** these buildings include Vice chancellors Bungalow, Registrar's Bungalow, Professor's Quarters, Assistant Professors' Quarters, and residence of class three employees and residence for class four employee in the University campus. The location of all the buildings ensures optimum utilization of space and contributes to the infrastructural development of the institution. Employees staying at the work location adds to the strength of institution and adds to distinctiveness as they are available nearby at the time of requirement.
6. **Additional Facility:** The landscaping of the campus also promotes additional facilities in the campus. A branch of Bank of Baroda is situated inside the campus to facilitate transactions for the stakeholders. There is a separate building for Press and a Canteen is located inside the University campus. Electric transformers are located at a separate and distinct place out of the reach of the people in order to ensure safety. Thus this recreational feature provides additional facility to the employees and caters distinctiveness.
7. **Sitting Arrangements:** There are rest-points at various places in the university. It helps the learners visiting the campus for different purposes. There are provisions for drinking water and urinals in all the buildings of the university.
8. **Ponds:** Two ponds are built near the entrance of the university gate which serve the purpose of water conservation and harvesting. It also adds to the aesthetic beauty of the campus.
9. **Forest Cover:** The University has approximately 90% of its land under forest cover. The area under forest cover includes variety of herbs, shrubs and trees which are spread across the length and breadth of the campus. This helps in providing fresh air and protects against

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severe heat and cold. The lush green campus of the university is noted to have lower temperature when compared with the temperature of the city.

10. **Plantation:** Plantation in the University campus is a routine phenomenon where new plants are planted and the old ones are taken care of. This ensures that considerable number of plants grow and survive over a period of time. Approximately 5000 plants have been planted in the university campus over a period of last two years. On one side there are shady trees in the campus where one can rest and on the other, there are potted flowering plants which contribute for enhancement of aesthetic beauty of the campus. More than 500 species of plants are found to cover the university campus.
11. **Solar Panel:** The university has solar panel of 255 KW located in the premises. The use of renewable source of energy is another feature of institutional distinctiveness. Presently 55 KW solar panel is in function, while 200 KW solar panel is in installation phase. The institution derives 30% of the overall energy requirements through the present established setup.
12. **Scope for Expansion:** The entire landscape of the campus is integrated in such a way that it facilitates future planned expansion. It also adds to the aesthetic look of the university which attracts stakeholders and society at large. The campus preserves biodiversity and it is the place for thousands of species of creatures other than human beings to survive and grow. The overall structure provides appropriate learning environment for the learners.

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