



# ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR 2022- 2023



**MEENAKSHI**

ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY U/S 3 OF UGC ACT, 1956

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### **MEENAKSHI ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

*(Declared as Deemed to be University under sec 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)*

Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research is one of the renowned Institutions in India offering more than 80 innovative programs in the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Allied Health Sciences, Humanities & Science, Occupational Therapy and Yoga Sciences & Therapy. The vision of MAHER is "To build a world-class institution, transforming society through value-based diverse programs and healthcare advancements, leading to the all-round development of human resources, knowledge, innovation, entrepreneurship, and research."

### **INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATIONS, RANKINGS, AND RECOGNITIONS**

During the year 2022-23, the Institute has continued to excel in all three spheres of its activity –teaching, patient care and research. It has taken steps to broaden its activities and to keep up with the latest developments in various fields of medicine and biomedical sciences. This is evidenced by the fact that MAHER, in the second cycle of grading by the NAAC, has been accredited with A+ grade with CGPA score of 3.50. The Institution has been ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the Dental category in the National Institute Ranking Framework 2023. MAHER was accredited with ISO 21001:2018 for complying with the International Standards for the Education Management system. The Institution was accredited by the National Cyber Safety and Security Standards, Government of India in December 2021 and has been declared as a Resource Center of the National Cyber Security Program. MAHER is accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals (NABH) 2023, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), ISO 14001:2015 Environment Management System, and ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System.

Meenakshi Medical College and Hospital was recognized and appreciated by the Tamil Nadu State Government for its contribution and exemplary performance in implementing the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in 2023. MMCHRI has been approved as private ART CENTER by NACO in August 2023. Faculty of Occupation therapy has achieved the World

record from Lincoln Book of records.

## **CURRICULUM DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT**

It is of immense pride that more than 4000 students are currently studying at the Constituent Colleges/Faculties of Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research. Under the outstanding leadership of Deans and Principals, we have more than 400 teaching staff and 1000 non-teaching staff involved in building the world-class education eco-system. In India, only a few prestigious universities offer a D.Sc. degree that is obtained after a satisfactory evaluation of knowledge, research accomplishment, and a doctoral defence and MAHER is one among them.

Considering the demand, the four-year honour degree programmes were introduced in the Faculty of Humanities and Sciences following the NEP 2020 and Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) in the Faculty of Occupational Therapy. To make learning more exciting and flexible, the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS), Value Added Courses (VAC), and Skill Development Training have been implemented in all the Faculties without compromising the statutory norms.

Upgradation of MMCHRI Library costing about Rs.2 crores and renovation of operation theatres at the cost of Rs.1 crore have been done. State-of-the-art infrastructure development has been done for the Cleft Unit at MADCH at the cost of Rs.1.5 crores. A new electrotherapy lab has been augmented in the Faculty of Physiotherapy. An advanced Nursing lab with 8 new mannequins and equipment has been setup in MCON. In addition to the above-mentioned, conference hall upgradation in the AHS faculty has also been done.

Overall, the Institution has created an eco-system that fosters research, consultancy, outreach and extension activities, innovation, entrepreneurship, and generation of intellectual property apart from curricular, extra-curricular, and co-curricular activities.

## **RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSULTANCY**

MAHER believes that research and development is the only way forward and is dedicated in providing a conducive environment to promote quality research. As of 2023, MAHER has over 150 qualified guides.. MAHER has three research laboratories that are equipped with all major equipment to conduct sophisticated research and provide scope for providing consultancy services. In 2022-2023, MAHER granted seed money of Rs. 60.48 lakhs to its faculty members to kick-start their research projects. This encouraged them to attract extramural research funding from various government and non-government organizations amounting to Rs. 1.9 crores. MAHER provides stipends to all their full-time scholars.

MAHER takes great pride that the Indian Council of Medical Research selected 14 student projects under the Short Term Studentship Program in 2023. The MAHER faculty members generated a total of 201 publications in 2022 and 225 in 2023 propelling the Institution's h-index to 40. The current year saw a generous increase in the incentive given under the publication incentive scheme, which ranges between Rs 7500 to 15000 for various categories of publications in 2022-2023. MCON received a grant from The Tamilnadu Nurses & Midwives Council for conducting a workshop on, “A Constellate of Advanced Nursing Skills”

## **INNOVATIONS AND INCUBATION**

MAHER has a well-established Institution Innovation Council (IIC) certified by the Ministry of Education, Government of India in 2021. MAHER's Incubation and Innovation Center is spread over 10,000 sq ft with state-of-the-art infrastructure. The Institution has applied for grant-in-aid under the Atal Innovation Mission, Government of India. The faculty members of MAHER have been actively engaged in the generation of intellectual properties, the cost of which is entirely borne by MAHER as indicated in the Research Promotion Policy. MAHER has provided administrative and financial support for filing patent/copyright amounting to Rs. 19.22 Lakhs. A total of 18 patents and 118 copyrights have been filed in 2023 with the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

MAHER ensures optimal allocation and proper utilization of its financial resources towards maintaining and uplifting its infrastructural facilities. In line with this, MAHER has disbursed an amount of Rs.19.24 crores towards infrastructure development in 2022-2023. MAHER installed all the classrooms with Wi-Fi-enabled LCD projectors. MAHER campus and all its affiliated colleges have installed CCTV security surveillance systems. In the current year, MAHER has upgraded the learning management system (LMS) by procuring the internationally acclaimed CANVAS Learning Management System for the benefit and ease of students. The e-governance system of MAHER was also updated by procuring Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) software to efficiently manage student affairs, the teaching-learning process, finance, and the examination process. The Research wing of MAHER has also received a face-lift and has been provided with state of an art Cell Culture lab with an investment of Rs. 30 Lakhs. The Central Library at MAHER and the constituent colleges were integrated by providing remote access to students and staff.

Further, the library has been fully automated through RFID technology, with an investment of around Rs.2 Lakhs. The e-learning sources available in the library were enhanced by subscribing to various databases worth Rs. 75 Lakhs, including DELNET, PROQUEST, J-Gate, EBSCO Host, and Elsevier Clinical Keys for Clinicians. MAHER also got upgraded by procuring medical instruments costing Rs.2.2 Crores.

## **FACULTY TRAINING AND WELFARE**

All the MAHER faculty members are encouraged to pursue advanced studies and are supported by the Institution adequately. Faculty of Occupational Therapy hosted the “Occupational Justice and Occupation Therapy: Opportunities for Practice, Learning” programme by the Program Director of Occupational Therapy, School of Allied Health Science and Practice, University of Adelaide and the faculty and the students of Faculty of Occupational Therapy participated in the career advancement program conducted by ACT Occupational Therapy Services, Melbourne, Australia in November, 2023. MAHER faculty members have received distinguished national recognitions that include the first woman Indian dentist to receive the highest degree “DSc: Doctorate of Science” which has been appreciated by Dr Atul Goel, Director General of Health Services, Govt of India, New Delhi. MAHER has faculty members listed among the world's top 2% list of scientists enlisted by Stanford University and MAHER faculty, received the Gold Medal for Yogasana from Yogasana Sports Federation of Thailand. One of the Institution’s faculty members had been invited as a resource person by WHO, India. The Common Wealth Institute, United Kingdom, trained 449 faculty members of MAHER on e-content development. All faculty members with a health science background attended the workshop on "Principles of Good Clinical Practice" with MAHER's financial aid. Financial assistance amounting to Rs.3.04 Lakhs was given to the faculty members to attend the conferences, workshops, and other academic events in 2022-23. The Human Resource Development Centre of MAHER organized soft skill and technical skill enhancement programs for the non-teaching staff of MAHER. By collaborating with Nichi-In Centre for Regenerative Medicine, MAHER facilitated 4 of its staff members to obtain fellowship from the University of Toronto, Canada.

All the staff and students of the Institution are enrolled as group insurance policy beneficiaries. They are insured for a sum of Rs 2 lakhs, for which the Institution paid the premium. Staff members, scholars, and students who have brought recognition to the Institution through their achievements in the field of research, consultancy, extension activities, academics, and extra-curricular activities have been honored with commendation awards and

cash incentives amounting to Rs. 1.57 Lakhs as a part of College day celebration.

## **STUDENTS WELFARE CELL**

### **Scholarships :**

MAHER has students enrolled from different parts of the country, which reflects the inclusive and harmonious environment that prevails on the campus. The welfare of the students is given the utmost priority, which has resulted in rolling out various support systems for them. To support students from economically and socially challenged backgrounds, MAHER provides institutional scholarships, fee waivers, and complete tuition fee reimbursements, apart from facilitating various scholarships offered by governmental and non-governmental agencies. MAHER provides scholarships under the categories - Thiru.A.N. Radhakrishnan Tuition Fee Waiver Scheme, MAHER Scholarship, Meenakshi Institutional Fee Waiver, Meenakshi Scholarship, MAHER Sports and MAHER Merit Scholarship through which about 2687 students have been benefitted in the year 2022-23. In addition to this, students get financial assistance by the State and Central Govt Scholarship Schemes such as TN Govt Puthumai Penn Thitam, and also various scholarships available through National Scholarship Portal, Government of India.

### **Skill Development Programs**

MAHER organized skill development programs at national and international levels to provide additional training to develop soft skills amongst their students. During the year 2022-2023, more than 20 skill development programs were offered to the students of constituent colleges of MAHER

### **Student Council**

The notable committees to which students were nominated include the Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Library Committee, Anti-Ragging Monitoring Cell, Internal Complaints Committee and the Students Grievances Redressal Committee and Students Welfare Committee.

On the auspicious occasion of the Founders' Day Celebration Radhakrishnan Annual Intercollegiate Sports & Cultural Events – named RAISE 2023 was conducted for the students of all Constituent Colleges of MAHER from 18.05.2023 to 20.05.2023 in MAHER & MADCH campuses. Students and staff of the constituent colleges of MAHER participated in several cultural and sports events with great zeal and enthusiasm and showcased their skills and talents in the events making RAISE 2023 a grand success.

In addition, under the student council, various student clubs such as Music, Yoga, Media, Dance, Fine arts, Eco, Sports, Outreach, Thamiz mandrum, English Literary etc. have been formed to explore their interests, develop new skills, and connect with their peers. Important national and state-level commemorative days were celebrated as a part of student club activities. During the year 2022-23, 60 numbers of such commemorative days were observed with enthusiastic participation by students of all constituent colleges of MAHER. To name a few, Road Safety Day, Independence Day, Republic Day, World Cancer Day, World Health Day, International Nurse's Day, World Environment Day, International Yoga Day, Independence Day, World Mental Health Day, World AIDS day, etc. were celebrated.

Students have excelled and achieved many awards in various National University games organized by the Association of Indian Universities (in Bangalore and Kerala ) during the academic year 2022- 23.

Some of the important UGC-based programs organized in MAHER were National Reading Day, Vigilance Awareness Week, National Unity Day, World Environment Day, International Women (Nari Shakti Puraskars), Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas ( Birsa Munda Birth Anniversary), Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav, Siddha Day, Veer Baal Diwas Celebration etc.

## **STUDENTS' GRADUATION AND PLACEMENT**

MAHER is committed to producing highly talented graduates and finding suitable placements for them upon graduation. MAHER maintains a high pass percentage that ranges from 80% to 100%. Nearly 80% of students either progress to higher education or get placed comfortably. Most of the programs offered at MAHER are professional, enabling the graduates to start their practice and explore their entrepreneurial skills. MAHER also provides training for various competitive exams that help students crack these exams and pursue their higher education. A notable achievement is that 495 undergraduates and 73 postgraduates have been successfully placed and a total of 568 students have benefitted during the year 2022-2023.

## **INSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

MAHER has four NSS units with 400 volunteers participating in socially responsible activities, including Swachh Bharath, Clean India Campaign, Lake and Beach Cleaning, Tree plantation, etc. In addition, MAHER conducted special free medical camps in collaboration with Kanchipuram Corporation under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan scheme, in which 50 Doctors participated and about 750 people benefitted in and around Kanchipuram. MCON celebrated

International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and Breast feeding Awareness Week was also observed in the first week of August 2023.

MAHER partnered with the Environment Federation of India, an NGO, to conduct a Chennai seashore cleaning activity over five weeks in which more than 300 students participated. Similarly, students cleaned the heritage temples and government parks in and around the Kanchipuram district. The Institution sponsored the construction of toilets in government schools under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan 2023. MAHER NSS volunteers collaborated with Mangala Bharathi Trust and Thulir Kuzhlosai Trust in a palm seeding drive.

The students and scholars of the Faculty of Yoga science and Therapy have taken up the noble cause of empowering rural India by conducting skill training and health promotion activities. The Faculty of Physiotherapy started the ambitious project of providing physiotherapy and pain relief at the doorsteps of 66 villages and hamlets in Tamil Nadu. This initiative received wide recognition and was deeply appreciated by the Government of Tamil Nadu. MAHER has conducted more than 60 out-reach activities through all its constituent colleges in the year 2023.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> Convocation of MAHER, a total number of 1158 candidates, including undergraduates and postgraduates, was awarded degrees and diplomas. 100 of them received medals and certificates for their commendable performance, 45 received Ph.D. degrees, and one received D.Sc. Degree. Dr. Usha Sriram was conferred with Honoris Causa for her outstanding contribution in the field of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology for more than 40 years. In addition to graduates, MAHER is happy to award the Gomathi Radhakrishnan Distinguished Alumni Award to notable alumni of the Institution who have excelled in various fields. Further, MAHER proudly honored the Mega Foundations Director, Mr. Nimal Raghavan with the Jayanthi Radhakrishnan Award for Exemplary Humanitarian Service for his unwavering commitment to water conservation that has resulted in the restoration of 180 water bodies, the establishment of 500+ Miyawaki forests, and the planting of 1.7 million saplings by 2023.

This annual report is a collation of varied activities and achievements of the Institute, in various spheres of its activity, during the year 2022-2023. MAHER expresses its appreciation and gratitude to every stakeholder of the Institution who is involved in making Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education and Research a renowned world-class institute.