SWOC ANALYSIS

1. STRENGTH:
   a. The College is based on a unique philosophy of education which combines the material with the spiritual and offers students to develop themselves as fully integrated individuals.
   b. The College is fully residential in nature as it tries to work under the traditional Gurukula system.
   c. The College can boast of near perfect academic discipline. There has been no disruption in the Academic Calendar due to disturbances that institutions of higher learning generally experience in India.
   d. The College has a dedicated faculty, highly efficient support staff, and a team of monastic members who are available on the campus round the clock and take care of all aspects of the campus, the academic and the personal. It may be mentioned in this connection that the monastic members of the College do not accept any monetary benefit that are available from the Government.
   e. The number of publications by the faculty members in the last four years has been commendable.
   f. The performance of the students of the College in the national level competitive and entrance examinations like IIT-JAM, JEST, NET, SET, GATE etc. has been excellent.
   g. The students of the College try to live up to the vow of a Vidyarthi and dedicate themselves fully to the acquisition of knowledge and character building exercise. This explains the existence of a healthy campus life with no incidence of ragging or any activity that is detrimental to their academic pursuits.
   h. The infrastructural support offered by the College to students can compare with the best in this part of the country. The teacher-student ratio, which is perhaps unparalleled in the country, makes it possible for teachers to successfully address individual need of the students.
   i. The College is considered a reputed institution of higher learning and this makes it possible to get a great deal of support and co-operation from other institutions of higher learning as well as industrial houses, formally and informally.
   j. The College has an active alumni association which works in close co-operation with the College administration. It offers scholarship to the existing as well as passed out students. It also offers medical help to the existing students and needy people belonging to the neighbourhood.
   k. The NSS and NCC wings of the College have been very active and have participated with great enthusiasm in activities like blood donation, first aid training, health awareness survey etc.
   l. The College receives active co-operation from the parent university (Calcutta University). They have been of great help in running the College by offering their expertise in establishing the administrative and academic set-up in the post- autonomy period.
   m. The College runs a number of programmes to reach out to the larger community. The Vivekananda Sammelan, organised every year selecting in one of the districts of West Bengal, is one such programme which has been greatly appreciated.

2. WEAKNESSES
   a. A lack of space which prevents the college from either constructing new buildings or expanding horizontally and vertically the existing buildings, is a major impediment in starting new courses and creating adequate space for research activities. There is also a
paucity of land in the immediate surroundings which can be acquired for the development of the college.

b. The socio-economic background of many of the students (some of them are first and second generation learners) admitted in the College is responsible for poor language competence (both in their mother tongue as well as English). This leads to an unsatisfactory level of comprehension and communication, particularly in the first two semesters.

c. Within the existing structure the College finds it difficult to respond to the varied needs of its students coming from different socio-economic and cultural background.
   a. Students coming from the underprivileged section of society (almost 40% of the total strength) generally lack in nutrition that is necessary for proper growth and physical fitness. They also lack the desired level of hygiene consciousness.
   b. Many students coming from the urban background belong to either nuclear or broken families. Some of them find it difficult to cope with the demands of a community life based on caring and sharing. Sometimes this leads to psychological imbalance.

d. The College has not been able to enter into either faculty exchange or student exchange programmes due to structural and governmental policy limitations. The inability to implement the credit transfer systems (CTS) has also hindered the student exchange programme.

e. The semester system poses a number of problems which the College has not been able to come to terms with.

3. Opportunities:
   a. The level of academic excellence which the College has acquired makes it possible for our students to get entry into institutes of global repute. The College has to devise mechanisms for translating this potential into a reality.
   b. The new learning of the age requires greater proficiency in soft skills among students. The College has the necessary technical and infrastructural resources to take this to a higher level.
   c. The vision of the College makes it imperative to engage in socially relevant programmes such as organising voluntary blood donation camps, AIDS awareness programmes, and disaster management skills. The College with its resources and networking can ensure students’ greater participation in these activities.
   d. The College possesses the academic and financial resources to publish peer reviewed research journals. The College is poised to take the initiative in this regard.
   e. As an autonomous College, the institution is entitled to offer new Diploma and Certificate courses. The College could not make use of this as the administration was busy putting in place the system required to run an autonomous institution. However a beginning has been made in this direction and more should follow.

4. Challenges:
   a. How to create more space within the campus is one of the major challenges that the college has to deal with a sense of urgency.
   b. As the West Bengal College Service Commission has already started the process of recruiting new teachers, the college has to play a proactive role to fill up the teaching vacancies. This is a daunting task as the reservation policy and the absence of suitable candidates belonging to the reserved categories are sure to put many obstacles in the process. The other challenge involves getting permission from the Government to fill up the vacant posts of the administrative support staff.
   c. Retaining the unique character of the College in an increasingly consumerist society poses a great challenge to the ideals the institution upholds.