APPENDIX-I
INFORMATION OF M.K. GANDHI “GUJRAT VIDYAPITH”, AHMEDABAD

The Gujrat Vidyapith was founded by Mahatma Gandhi on 18th October, 1920 in the wake of the Non Cooperation Movement though for achieving freedom, it developed application of Gandhian thoughts and ideas in all aspects of education. The Vidyapith was first named as Rashtria Vidyapith (National Institute of University Education) but renamed later as Gujara Vidyapith.

The Vidyapith continued to be blessed by top freedom fighters, Gandhian educationists and leaders of the nation after Independence. Mahatma Gandhi remained its life long Chancellor. After Independence, the Gujarat Vidyapith reconstructed its higher education programmes. The succeeding chancellors, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri Morarji Desai and the present Chancellor Prof. Ramlal Parikh ensured the implementation of the integrated programmes for complete toleration of all established religions in all institutions connected with the Vidyapith and spiritual development of the pupil in consonance with truth and violence.

The main stress was on devotion for liberation and knowledge. Mahatma Gandhi addressing the first batch of students of the Vidyapith on November 15, 1920 said, “...I have done many great things for which I am proud. There are something for which I repent. Most of them were tasks of great responsibility. But let me say without exaggeration that I have not done anything which can be compared with today’s work”.

The precincts of Gujarat Vidyapith remained humming with educational activities for the last nearly eight decades and continued to evolve several new ideas and experiments in research, training and extension in various fields of education.
The Vidhyapith was recognized as a ‘Deemed University’ since 1963 funded by the University Grants Commission for higher education programme.

In Gandhiji’s own words: “It endeavours to make truth and non-violence not matter for mere individual practice but for practice by Groups and Communities and Nations...I shall live and die in trying to realize it”.

The Gujarat Vidyapith imparts higher education with an integrated system of education teaching from the Nursery and Basic Schools to Higher Secondary from Bachelors to Master, M. Phil. and Doctorate level degree in various disciplines. It has around 1600 enrolment. It is a co-educational institution. Its academic year starts from June to April (1st term June to October, 2nd term November to April). Every year admission forms to get admission for all social science courses including MCA and DCA is available in April-May and for Teachers Training Courses in March and April. Annual examination for Social Sciences and Postgraduate Courses is May and for Teaching Training Course is April.

The main objectives of Gujarat Vidyapith was to prepare workers of character, ability, culture and dedication for the conduct of movements connected with the regeneration of country in accordance with the ideals given by Mahatma Gandhi.

- Adherence to truth and non-violence
- Participation in productive work with a sense of dignity of labour,
- Acceptance of equality of religions
- Priority for the need of villages dwellers in all curricula and
- Use of mother-tongue as a medium of instructions.

Accordingly, the education system of Gujarat Vidhyapith include regular participation in community work, residential life, social service, community prayers, simple and self reliant living, study tours and field studies, Hand spinning and training in Craft Work
The program of education has been linked with the national needs of rural uplift with a view to promote education conductive to the grass-root levels of the society.

The chief concern of the Gujarat Vidyapith is to conduct experiments in various fields of education with a view to develop the application of Gandhian thought and way in all aspects of education.

**The Unique Features** of the Gujarat Vidyapith are ‘Physical exercise and training in manual work as compulsory in all the institutions connected with the Vidyapith.

To establish acceptance of equality of religions practice of complete tolerance of all religions in all institutions connected with the Vidyapith is practiced. Knowledge of religion is imparted in consonance with truth and non-violence.

In laying down the priorities of education, the needs of the village-dwellers is principal consideration as the growth of the nation depends not on its cities but its villages, the bulk of the funds of the Vidyapith and large number of teachers are primarily employed in the propagation of national education (Rashtraopshak) in villages.

The mother tongue has principal place and medium of instruction for all education in the Vidyapith. The teaching of Hindi-Hindustani (language commonly spoken by the masses of the north, both Hindu and Musalman, written in the Devnagari or Persian script) is compulsory in the curriculum.

Vocational training has same importance as intellectual education and only such occupation which are conducive to the nation are taught in Gujarat Vidyapith.

A series of Memorial Lectures are organized on ‘Science And Non-Violence’ every year in which eminent and distinguished scholars from different parts of the world participate.
The Gujarat Vidyapith observes a number of international days every year such as the International Women’s Day, Peace and Disarmament Day, World Environment Day, Hiroshima Day and World Human Rights Days.

The teachers and trustees of the Vidyapith restrict themselves to those means only which are not inconsistent with truth and non-violence and shall consciously strive to carry them out. They regard untouchability as a blot on Hinduism, and shall strive to the best of their ability for its removal, and shall not exclude a body or a girl for reason of his or her untouchability nor shall give him or her discriminatory treatment having once accorded admission to him or her. They regard hand-spinning as an essential part of the national regeneration movement and shall therefore spin regularly, except for unavoidable reasons and shall habitually wear khadi.

Over the period several research and study centres have come up in the sprawling campus of the Vidyapith. They include Mahadev Desai College of Rural Services for boys and girls, College of Social Sciences, Centre of Science for Rural Development, Tribal Research and Training Institute, Jamanlal Bajaj Institute of Study in Ahimsa and an open shelf library with about one lakh books, a Hindi Academy, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Adult Education Resource Centre, Centre for Performing Arts, a Museum- “Gandhi Memorial Ashram” has also come up in the historic building where Gandhiji first set up his Ashram at Kochrab village in 1915, now a part of Ahmedabad city. The Navjivan Trust takes care of publications and reproductions of Gandhiji’s and Gandhi related literature from the Vidyapith campus.