



# People's college

The MAO College has significantly improved over time with the elimination of student politics, and is producing good result

By Syed Ali Abedi

**G**overnment Muhammadan Anglo Oriental (MAO) College has a notorious reputation. But those who have visited the college have a totally different view.

The college remained committed to providing quality education to its students along with the co-curricular activities since its establishment as the inter-college in 1933 by Anjuman-e-Islamia at Amritsar. The college got a 'degree' status in 1936. Had it not been for the significant role which the college played in the creation of Pakistan, along with other institutions like Islamia colleges Lahore and Peshawar and the Aligarh Muslim University, the Muslims of the subcontinent would have been relegated to the status of third rate citi-

zens.

MAO College was shifted to Lahore after the Partition in 1947, and since then has been gradually launching different disciplines.

In 1976, the college launched the classes of intermediate in commerce and of bachelor in commerce in 1984, which are running successfully.

The college launched the classes of masters in english in 1970-71. However, the classes discontinued after the nationalisation of the college in 1972. It started masters classes in english in 1993. Seeing good results, the administration decided to launch post-graduate classes in other disciplines as well. Classes of masters in psychology started in 1998 and of mathematics and economics in 1999. All the post-graduate classes are running successfully with the efforts of the teachers as they are fulfilling their

jobs honestly. The college offers co-education classes in B.Com and MA disciplines.

The college has a list of distinguished teachers and scholars associated with it. S. Mercado, M.A. Taseer, Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Prof. Dilawar Hussain, Prof. Karamat Hussain, Dr. Akhtar Hussain Raipuri, Dr. Baseer Pal, Prof. Sirajuddin, Dr. Imdad Hussain, Dr. Abdur Rauf, Dr. Ghulam Ali Chaudhry, Dr. Imtiaz Ahmad Cheema, Dr. Khalid Aftab, Prof. Amjad Islam Amjad and Dr. Ataul Haq Qasmi are among such teachers.

Under the able and dynamic administration of Prof. Maqsoodul Hassan Bokhari, unhealthy student politics was eliminated from the college. Also, the introduction of co-education classes was a big bold step. Now there are over 300 girls in various classes in the college. This has greatly

improved the general discipline, and along with that the prestige of the college.

During the 70 years of its history, the college has left a mark of glory in every sphere of life. The alumni of the college have brought laurels to their alma mater and today they can be seen occupying responsible and respectable positions in the country.

The atmosphere of the college is not only conducive to academic pursuits but also fruitful for participation in co-curricular activities with special emphasis on sports. Cricketers like Saqlain Mushtaq, Aatur Rehman and Shahid Nazir are former college students. Similarly, M. Sarwar, Naveed Alam, M. Saqlain and others have represented the Pakistan hockey team.

The main college library has about 85,000 books covering all aspects of life, of which 25,000 have recently been provided to the library by the government. It remains crowded with boys and girls during college hours. New furniture has recently been placed in the library to attract more students.

Seeing the increasing number of students and good academic results of the college, the Punjab government has prepared a three-phase plan for the renovation and upgradation of the college which will cost Rs 20 million. In the first phase, laboratories of botany, zoology and geography have been set up to meet the requirements of the students. As many as 20 new classrooms have also been constructed for the post-graduate classes in the college.

The computer block was inaugurated in April and foundation stone of another post-graduate block in the college was laid in October, 2002 by Governor Punjab Lt. Gen (retd) Khalid Maqbool.

Prof. Hayat, a senior teacher of the English Department,

*Lahore News 13.10.02*



*The college corridor.*

who joined the college in 1970, said he sees a great change in the college. "Prof. Syed Karamat Hussain Jaffery, who was the college principal from 1968 to 1972, did a lot of work to upgrade the college during his principalship." He alleged that the Fisheries department adjacent to the college is built on the college land which is illegal. He said, "I've requested the department officials several times to vacate the land but to no avail."

A professor of the English Language Department, Sabahat Naqvi said, "Last year result of the department was 60 per cent which is better than that of other colleges in the city."

Lecturer Asma Hassan, gold medalist in M.A. Linguistics from the Punjab University and the first female teacher to be appointed at MAO College in 1996 said: "The college students are very good in studies, especially the M.A. English students. Boys and girls interaction well with each other, and the department has been show-

## The Punjab government has prepared a three-phase plan for the renovation and upgradation of the college which will cost Rs 20m.

ing good results since 1996. Over 65 per cent students are getting second division in the examinations." She further added that at present six women are teaching different post-graduate classes in the college.

A former M.A. English Language Department student and a class representative, Zamirul Hassan Alvi said, "Teachers discharged their duties very well during my session and were very regular. They were sincere to their task." He believed the college has been exceptionally fortunate to acquire the services of Prof. Razi Abedi as visiting professor in the department of English Language.

The head of the Psychology

Department, Prof. Badar Ismail said the college is improving day by day with the efforts of the college teaching staff and administration. A girl in the Psychology Department obtained third position in the Punjab University in year 2000. Similarly, two more girl students have obtained first and second positions respectively in the Punjab University first annual examination of Psychology Part-1 examinations in 2001.

Atiqua Aslam, who stood first, said before taking admission, she was told by people that the college was not good for studies and had a bad reputation but she found it otherwise.

Shehar Wasim, the second

position holder, agreed with Atiqua Aslam. "The college staff and administration is very cooperative. The main library of the college and the Psychology Department library have very good books. Not only that, the college library has books which are not there even in the Quaid-e-Azam Library," she said. Both the position holders praised the efforts of the college principal for raising the academic standards of the college.

Sports Director Akhtar Mumtaz Butt said the college is showing good results at the inter-collegiate competitions. He said the college holds the Punjab hockey and cricket championship title for the last ten years. Taufeeq Umar, a college student, has recently been included in the Pakistan cricket team.

College Principal Prof. Maqsoodul Hassan Bokhari said there are several encroachments on the college land which should be removed to provide more education facilities to the students. "The college needs more funds for new academic blocks and hostels for boys and girls. The newly constructed 20 classrooms are not meeting the requirements of the students fully. The college hostel is in a deteriorating condition which needs funds immediately for its repair and renovation. The college staff is discharging its responsibilities honestly to provide quality education to students," he said.

Bokhari was all praise for Governor Khalid Maqbool who has granted generous funds for the college. He has also granted scholarships of Rs 12,000 to Rs 18,000 per year for 40 students.

The college has been running successfully, consistently and creditably, maintaining its reputation as a people's college, catering to the needs of the students from the less privileged classes.