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XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ACADEMIC AUDIT REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THEVARA, KOCHI

The Academic Audit of SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THEVARA, KOCHI was conducted from 19th to 21st December, 2018. The team comprised:

- **Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip**, FMM, Secretary General, Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, (XBHEI), Bangalore and former Principal, Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai,
- **Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ**, former Principal, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai and former President, XBHEI,
- **Dr. D. Jeevan Kumar**, former Prof. of Political Science, University of Bangalore and currently Hon. Professor at Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, Karnataka
- **Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza**, Member, XBHEI and former Head, Dept. of Bioinformatics, Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai, and Co-ordinator, Xavier Board-Administrative & Academic Audit (XB-AA Audit).

Prior to the visit, the department completed and submitted the Audit Manual developed and deployed by Xavier Board of Higher Education in India.

Dr. Ms. Ordetta Mendoza, visited the Department of Botany on 19th December 2018 and interacted with the Head of Department and faculty. Dr. Giby Kuriakose, the HoD in charge made a presentation, which was followed by an interaction and an examination of the relevant documents.

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Secretary General, XBHEI

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Co-ordinator, XB-AA Audit



About the Department:

The Department of Botany has been offering the Undergraduate Programme since 1957 and the Post graduate programme since 1984. It has been designated as a Research department and offers Ph.D. since 1988. Currently the Head of Department was not available for any interaction. There are 8 faculty members of who only 3 are adequately qualified as per the UGC eligibility criteria.

Commendations:

- The curriculum of the department is in alignment with the vision and mission of the college.
- Periodic revision of syllabi at both the UG and PG levels was done in 2015 and 2016 respectively.
- All the faculty in the department are involved in revision of syllabi
- 3 students awarded Ph.D. degrees.
- The programmes offer 6 short-term training courses for both UG and PG courses.
- 'Hands-on training project's for students in several areas including Bio-fertilizers and Biological control, Bio-pesticides and Bio-insecticides, Cultivation of Medicinal plants, Floriculture and Cut flower marketing, Flower arrangement and Vegetable carving, Landscaping and Garden designing, Mushroom cultivation, and Natural dyes and Mural painting to mention a few.
- Alignment of courses of the M.Sc. programme with the NET syllabus to help students take up NET exams.
- Internship for PG students is given credit weightage.
- Lesson /course plan is prepared by all the faculty members.
- Good IT infrastructure and ICT form part of the teaching pedagogy.
- Advanced learners and slow learners are identified and given various inputs to sustain their learning levels. Remedial classes are taken to improve learning outcomes.
- Good student teacher ratio - 21:1
- Mentoring is done by the faculty for all students for about 4-6 hrs. per semester.
- Giving incentives to students who pass NET while still in college and for high quality / standard research publications.
- Good infrastructure in the laboratories
- Adequate support staff are available
- Involvement of the department in
 - 'Restoration of Orchids' in Vythiri Govt. HSS, Waynad Dst. Kerala and 'Training-Restoration of fallen orchids in semi-natural habitats,



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- Mushroom Cultivation and Fruit Processing,
- Vegetable Sapling and Orchid sapling Production & Marketing
- Plant Authentication Centre
- Digitization of Herbarium and inclusion of more specimens in the collection.
- Collaboration of the department with *Sugandhavaadi*.
- Spice Zone in the Museum with Collections of All spices with Fact File.
- MoU with Wild life Warden, Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Kanyakumari Wildlife Division, Department of Forests, Tamil Nadu to carryout research experiments and inventories to find out a solution to eradicate an invasive plant species.
- Encouraging students gain an eco-friendliness through Nature Club and Nature camps


Recommendations:

- Faculty qualifications to be scaled up as per UGC criteria
- Feedback on curriculum to be taken from students, parents and alumni/ae and feedback to be considered while revising the curriculum.
- Student diversity as well as average pass percentage to be improved.
- Research output to be given importance and number of publications to be improved.
- To ensure that student intake during admissions do not drop.
- Value added courses for imparting transferable and life skills may be offered at UG level
- Evaluation methods can include more components.
- Add latest books in the library and standard journals need to be subscribed to.
- More courses to have experiential learning.
- Department must organize more seminars and conferences for students
- Faculty to take part in more conferences and seminars.
- Grants and funding for the department needs to be scaled up.
- Department can introduce peer review process to enhance teacher quality.
- Herbal garden desperately needs attention and care! Spice garden to be better maintained.
- Consultancy services to be initiated and developed.
- Alumni/ae engagement to be improved.
- Department to improve on its extension activities and highlight its distinctiveness.

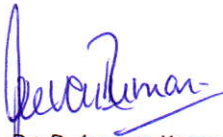
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Place: Bangalore.




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