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XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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ACADEMIC AUDIT REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS 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. D. Jeevan Kumar visited the Department of Economics on 19th December 2018 and interacted with the Head of Department and faculty. Dr. P.E. Cherian, the HoD, made a presentation, which was followed by an interaction, and an examination of the relevant documents.

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About the Department:

The department of Economics was established in 1944 and offered a BA degree programme from then until 1959 when it also began offering the MA programme in Economics. Ph.D. in Economics was offered from 1995 and M.Phil. in 2015. The department has also been offering a UGC Foundation course in Human Rights since 2011. There are 9 Faculty members, of who 4 have Ph.D. degrees. The mission of the department is to provide an environment that

- Facilitates the holistic development of the individual.
- Enables students to play a vital role in the nation-building process and contribute to the progress of humanity.
- Disseminates knowledge even beyond academia.
- Instills in the students a feel for frontier disciplines.
- Cultivates a concern for the environment.

Commendations:

- The curriculum adopted by the department is aligned to the vision and mission of the college.
- The BA Economics curriculum was revised in 2015, the MA Economics curriculum was revised in 2016; and the M.Phil. curriculum was revised in 2015.
- The thrust areas of the department are Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Public Economics, Monetary Economics, Development Economics, Indian Economy and Statistical Tools for Economic Analysis.
- Feedback on curriculum is taken from students, parents and alumni. Feedback of the stakeholders is considered while revising the curriculum.
- Cross-cutting issues relating to gender, environment and sustainability are inculcated by organizing seminars, workshops and discussions.
- During 2017-18, 5 students were awarded Ph.D. degree.
- During 2015-16 and 2016-17, 10 students and 8 students respectively were awarded M.Phil. degrees.
- ICT-enabled class-rooms and ICT-enabled teaching techniques are employed by the faculty.
- Environmental Economics is offered as a Core Course in the BA and MA programmes.



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- Department offers an Open Course titled, 'Foundations of Environmental Economics'.
- The teaching-learning process is student-centred and activity-oriented. Classroom teaching is supplemented by farm visits, industry visits, study tours, invited talks, workshops, discussions and debates.
- Students' opinion on the 'Muddiest Point' (confusing areas in the day's lecture) is collected, discussed and resolved in the class.
- Remedial classes are ostensibly held for slow learners.
- Departmental Council meetings are held monthly.
- A Mentoring System exists. Each faculty member is allotted 25 students. 2 hours per week are allotted in the time table for mentoring.
- Extension activities include organizing remedial classes for rural school children, visits to old age homes, destitute centres and homes for the differently abled. Students are encouraged to volunteer for relief work.
- 40 hours of compulsory social work/community service has been made a component of the BA Economics programme.
- Department has signed an MOU with SVUP School in Nettoor to implement an Extension and Outreach Programme called '*Janaparvam*'.
- As regards clearing the NET/SLET examinations, in the years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18, a total of nine students have been successful.
- Some of the distinguished alumni of the Department are serving as IAS and IRS officers and academics; some others have joined politics.
- Student enrichment programmes in the form of seminars, workshops and special lectures are organized regularly.
- Various methods used to measure student learning outcomes.
- Best Practices followed by the Department include the following: Internship, Programmes on Environmental Consciousness, Care for the Weaker Sections, Community Service, Energy Conservation, Cleanliness awareness, etc.
- Some of the Innovative Practices followed include: Weekly Academic Discussions on current economic issues, events and developments; coaching for UNC-NET examinations;



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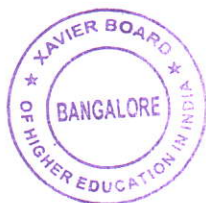
environmental visits; imparting of soft-skill training; placement training; establishment of an Entrepreneurship Cell; etc.

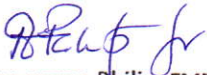
Recommendations:

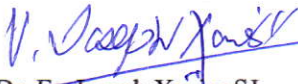
- The average Pass Percentage can be improved.
- Value Added Courses for imparting transferable and life skills may be offered.
- Need for starting add-on certificate and diploma courses in areas like Home Economics, both for college students and outsiders.
- Student diversity needs to be looked into.
- Scope for becoming a Centre for Excellence in Economics.
- *Scope for starting a Research Journal.*
- Need to increase research publications.
- Faculty need to acquire the required qualifications to continue to teach in the college.
- Percentage of classes taken by temporary faculty needs to be lowered.
- Too many students allotted to a faculty member for mentoring. All faculty in the department may be engaged in mentoring students.
- There is no enrolment for the Ph.D. programme during the last three years; this needs to be looked into.
- Only a few Faculty members are actively engaged in Research Projects; only 3 out of 9 Faculty members have publications in books and journals. This needs to be improved.
- Said to be the largest research department in the University, but there is no research room and no Research Coordinator.
- Department should acquire statistical software like SPSS.
- Limited consultancy – need to increase the same.
- Scope exists for introducing exchange programmes for both faculty and students.


Date: 12/02/2019

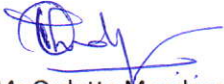
Place: Bangalore




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