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## XAVIER BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

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### ACADEMIC AUDIT REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

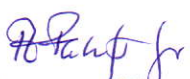
#### SACRED HEART COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), THEVARA, KOCHI

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

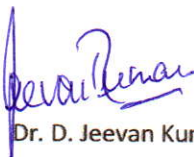
- **Dr. Sr. Annamma Philip**, FMM, Secretary General, Xavier Board of Higher Education in India, (XBHEI), Bangalore and former Principal, Stella Maris College (Autonomous), Chennai,
- **Dr. Fr. Joseph Xavier SJ**, former Principal, Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai and former President, XBHEI,
- **Dr. 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 Zoology on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018 and interacted with the Head of Department and faculty. Dr. M.K. Raju, the HoD made a

  
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presentation to all the team members followed by an interaction. An examination of the relevant documents, laboratories and facilities of the department was carried out by Dr. Ordetta Mendoza.

### **About the Department:**

The department of Zoology established in 1952 offered an Undergraduate programme until 1959 when it also began offering the Post Graduate Programme in Zoology. From 1994 the department has been offering research leading to Ph.D. The department has made several strides as evident from the establishment of three specialized laboratories in the area of Arachnology, Neurobiology and Marine Biotechnology as well as being awarded funding under the DST-FIST Scheme, Govt. of India. The department has also contributed several articles in peer reviewed journals.

### **Commendations:**

- The curriculum of the department is in keeping with the vision and mission of the college and has relevance to the local and national needs.
- The department has incorporated various courses and activities that integrate cross cutting issues relevant to gender, environment and sustainability, human values and professional ethics into the curriculum
- The department has been offering many value – added courses and 2 add –on courses.
- Introduction of newer courses such as Bioinformatics and Biostatics into the UG and PG programmes.
- The demand for the UG programme is good with an average demand ratio of 20:1 for UG programme and 15:1 for the PG programme.
- Senior faculty members are adequately qualified and hold Ph.D. degrees.
- All faculty prepare a teaching plan and learner-centric methods (experiential, participative and problem solving methods) such as assignments, project work, seminars, field trips, and study tours are employed by the faculty to enhance the teaching-learning.
- All courses carry a practical component.



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- Most of the faculty use PPT / Videos as part of the teaching-learning process.
- Internal tests are conducted using MOODLE
- Teacher: student ratio is 1:20 for the UG programme and 1:3 for the PG level.
- Students are mentored for approximately 4 hrs. in a semester with the mentor to mentee ratio being 1:25 at the UG level and 1:10 at the PG level.
- Special mention must be made regarding infrastructure of the department especially the general Museum as well as the Arachnology museum.
- Advanced learners are assigned projects based on aptitude and attitude, group activity, team teaching and peer teaching while slow learners engaged in peer learning, remedial coaching and group activity to enhance team learning.
- Students of the department take courses from other related departments while the department offers courses to students of other departments.
- Students get ample opportunities to get involved in outreach activities through programmes organized by the institution.
- Sixteen students have passed the NET /SLET /GATE in the last three years.
- Good library resources and infrastructure facilities.
- Several MoU's signed with national and international Universities and institutes.
- Students encouraged to take part in programmes at the national and international level.
- The best practice of the department: (i) Compulsory field exposure through Nature Camps, field visits, study tour etc. (ii) Group activity – cuniculture, pisciculture, quail culture, apiculture and vermicomposting


### Recommendations:

- The department has to elucidate Programme outcomes, programme specific outcomes and course outcomes. The same to be uploaded on the college website. Currently what is uploaded needs to be rewritten /corrected.
- Attainment of course outcomes to be evaluated and communicated to stakeholders.

  
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