

7.1.8 Describe the Institutional efforts /initiatives in providing an inclusive environment i.e. tolerance and harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socioeconomic and other diversities.

Institutional Initiatives

2014 - 2015

Sacred Heart College has always been at the forefront of sensitising students to the cultural, regional, linguistic communal and socioeconomic diversities of the state and the nation. Being a CMI College, which takes its vision and mission from its founder St. Elias Kuriakose Chavara, who fought for an inclusive society in the 19th century Kerala, which was caste ridden and inhuman, Sacred Heart College believes in an inclusive and harmonious society. The College always encourages the students to organise and participate in different programmes organised by college, inter-college, university and other Government or non-government organization to make them sensitize towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal and socio economic diversities. Some of the major programmes organised by the college in this connection are listed below.

Name of the Programme: Holy Books Reading

Category of the programme: Communal/religious diversity and harmony

To ensure religious harmony among students, the college organizes Holy Books Reading every year as part of **Hrudayarambham**, the inaugural ceremony of first year students. **The Bible, Quran, and Bhagavat Gita**, the three Holy books from Christians, Muslims, and Hindus are read by students from second and third years.



Name of the Programme: Thanalmaram

Category of the programme: Socioeconomic diversity

In the academic year 2014-15, the Spiritual animation team of the college initiated a programme named “THANALMARAM” for the **poor and the destitute**. The programme was started with a few people who visited the college for **breakfast** and a meager amount of Rs.10. This initiative was started in the month of July with the aim of lending a hand to the lonely. Besides the financial assistance, the programme aims at providing an **emotional support** to these people. They were also provided opportunities to celebrate various festivals. Thanalmaram is conducted on all Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 9:20 am in front of the college. The programme was also later extended to the city by handing over dress and food to the needy, taking them for outdoor trips such as Lulu mall visit, Metro journey etc.





Name of the Programme: Sensitizing of different communities

Category of the programme: Socioeconomic and cultural diversity

The college organizes various programmes to ensure harmony among students by making awareness about different minorities in the society. A UGC Sponsored National Seminar 'Dalit Feminist Autobiography: Gendered Subalternity Discovering Her' Self' was organised by the Department of English on 28 and 29 October 2014. The seminar focused on Dalit female articulations like autobiographies, diaries and other textual forms that attempt to construct Dalit female identity. The resource persons were Ms. Meena Kandaswami, famous writer and social activist, Mr. Sunny Kappikad, Dalit Intellectual, Dr. V Jayarajan, Chairman, Folkland, Mr. Rupesh Kumar and Dr. Binu K D.



Name of the Programme: National Integration Camp of NCC

Category of the programme: Regional, linguistic and cultural diversity

NCC in the college plays a vital role in promoting inclusive environment towards cultural, regional and socioeconomic diversities among students. College has three wings of NCC units. NCC-Army (21 Kerala Battalion NCC), NCC- Navy (7 Kerala Navel Unit NCC) , NCC- Airforce(3 Kerala Air Squadron NCC). The students have wider opportunity to explore their talents and skills through these three organizations. NCC provides various local,national, and international camps for their cadets to explore these **diversities**. The Activities are **presentation on history, geography, economy, good practices, cultural heritage, festivals, customs & traditions** of the states. Learning the language of other states and Interacting in those languages is one of the highlights of national integration camps. In addition, learning resources about cuisine and food habits, tourism sites and cultural programmes of the states are shared extensively.





Name of the Programme: Celebration of Kerala Cultural festival *Onam*.

Category of the programme: Communal and cultural diversity

Onam is the annual harvest festival of the State. Though its origins are often attributed to Hindu Mythology, *Onam* is celebrated as the cultural festival for all communities in Kerala. Students and staffs of the college celebrate *Onam* every year with enthusiasm. Departments and college union organise different games, performances and food feast called 'Sadhya' to celebrate *Onam* which ensures unity among students from various communities.





Name of the Programme: Celebration of Christmas

Category of the programme: Communal and cultural diversity

Christmas is observed as a religious and cultural celebration in the College like the millions of people in the world. The college celebrates this season as an opportunity to inculcate values like loving everyone, caring the needy, and sharing with family and society. Different departments of the college and the College Union organise different programmes for staffs and students like Carol singing competition, Crib competition, and Cake cutting.





Name of the Programme: Cultural Integration programme

Category of the programme: Regional and cultural diversity

On the occasion of World Tourism Day Celebrations, a cultural integration programme was organised by the Department of Commerce (Travel and Tourism) on 26th September 2014. The programme included exhibition on ethnic wear and cuisine and tourism related presentations, which created awareness among students about the regional and communal diversities of the country. The students wore different traditional cloths from various states and exhibited food varieties of India





Name of the Programme: Daya Food Collection

Category of the programme: Socioeconomic diversity

Daya is a unique programme of the Sociology department of the college to sensitize students to the socioeconomic diversities of the society. The programme is primarily intended to sensitize the students to the socio-economic conditions of the society through food collection and distribution. The children are encouraged to mingle with downtrodden of the society to make them sensitive to condition of the living of ordinary people and develop a sense of sharing, helpfulness and make them think about the programmes to alleviate poverty and empower. To develop tolerance and harmony towards socioeconomic diversities among students, a programmes called 'Daya' is designed and implemented by Department of Sociology. Daya- a charity work of food collection wherein students follow the motto, fast a meal feast a friend. This activity is held on every





Name of the Programme: Heartifest (Annual Cultural event)

Category of the programme: Cultural and regional diversity

The college organises annual cultural meet every year in the beginning of new-year to promote cultural harmony among students and staffs. Students were performing various traditional/classical arts form of different states of the country.







Name of the Programme: Old age Home visit

Category of the programme: Socioeconomic diversity

Harmony with Senior citizen: College provides an inclusive environment for students to experience various life lessons from senior citizen of the country. Under the initiative of various departments and Clubs, students are regularly visiting the nearby Govt. OLD AGE HOME THEVARA to interact with the inmates. Students will get an exposure to realize the problems faced by the elderly people and witnessing their love and affection. The aim of this visit is to sensitize the students about the various socioeconomic aspects of life.



