

**Criterion VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices**

7.3.1 Portray the performance of the Institution in one area distinctive to its priority and thrust

### **Vermicomposting**

**Vermicomposting** is one of the group activities for the second- and third-year undergraduate students of Department of Zoology. Vermicompost (vermi-compost) is the product of the decomposition process using various species of worms, usually red wigglers, white worms, and other earthworms, to create a mixture of decomposing vegetable or food waste, bedding materials, and vermicast. The major benefits of vermicomposting are it improves soil aeration, enriches soil with micro-organisms, improves water holding capacity, enhances germination, plant growth, root growth and crop yield and also helps to reduce waste flow to landfills. The initiative of vermicomposting in the campus provided experiential learning opportunity to students and it creates low-skill jobs at local level. The main advantage of vermicomposting is that it requires low capital investment, uses relatively simple technologies and it is very useful method for less-developed agricultural regions. The efforts towards vermicomposting started in the year 2017 with the arrangement of a training programme in Vermicomposting - '**Waste converted into wealth**' which was organised by the Department of Zoology as a social extension programme on 17th of August 2017. The Kudumbasree unit members under 59th division of Cochin Corporation (Thevara) participated in the training programme and Mr. Biju, manager, Social Services, Ponnurunni was the trainer for the programme.

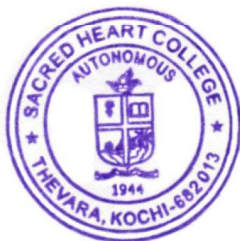
The zoology department also conducted several training sessions to students and decided to start a vermicomposting unit in the campus. The worms and pots were bought from Welfare Society, Ponnurunni, Ernakulam and four vermicomposting pots were installed in the lawn in front of the Sociology department of the college. The type of worms used were *Eisenia foetida* and the students used the dry leaves (litter) in the college campus for the process. The whole process takes about three months before complete harvest. The compost and Vermiwash is sold among the students and teachers of the college. This is considered to be a monetary benefit for the department activities and inculcate social values among the students.



**Criterion VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices**







Dr. Johnson X Palackappillil  
Principal  
Sacred Heart College (Autonomous)  
Thevara, Kochi-682 013