

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE VAIKOM



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

St. Xavier's College Vaikom accredited with B+ grade by NAAC was established in the year 1981 under the aegis of St. Xavier's Church, Kothavara. At inception it was a junior college affiliated to the Kerala University, but later came under the jurisdiction of Mahatma Gandhi University Kottayam on its formation in 1983. The college has immensely contributed to the cause of higher Learning and development of this region. The college offers seven degree courses viz. BSc. physics, BSc. Chemistry, BSc. Zoology and Aquaculture, BA Economics, BA Political Science and Journalism, BSc. Food Science and Quality Control and B.Com. Post graduate course in commerce was started in 2013 to meet the ever-growing demand for higher education. Apart from these regular streams, the college has started computer center - St. Xavier Institute Information Technology (XIIT) which offers short term courses like DCA and Tally to regular students as well as outside this catering to ever-growing demands in the field

The unprecedented pandemic and the lockdown impacted the Academic year 2020-21 where teaching and learning in physical mode became impossible. Teachers had to take classes through online modes such as Google meet, Google classroom, etc. and provide e resources to students and create online content too. In order to facilitate our faculty to take online classes efficiently and effectively training workshop on Google Classroom and G Suite and other related LMS were organized.

The sudden shift to online classes due to the unprecedented pandemic situation has created serious challenges too many students of St. Xavier's, especially students belonging to the vulnerable sections of the society. As students were facing problems due to lack of devices and network, the college constituted a Committee to facilitate inclusive education. The committee undertook the task of identifying the students and facilitating digital devices to them.

In 2021, various academic and community-focused events highlighted the dynamism and commitment of St. Xavier's College, Vaikom. The Intercollegiate Life Science Quiz Competition, Mycelium 2021, showcased the expertise of undergraduate life science students with teams from various colleges competing for a total prize pool of Rs. 15,000. Dr. V. J. Dominic, a distinguished quiz master, led the event, which began with an online preliminary round and culminated in a final round featuring the top five teams.

A significant initiative on conservation was the online webinar organized by the Department of Zoology in collaboration with the Kerala Forest Department. Advocate Binoy Mankamthanam delivered a lecture on mangrove protection, with Dr. Rajumon T. Mavunkal, Principal of St. Xavier's College, presiding over the meeting. The event also featured speeches by Dr. K. I. Abraham, Dr. G. Prasad, and forest officials, emphasizing the importance of environmental conservation.

In research and academic achievements, students and faculty made notable contributions. A group of ten students, guided by Dr. Sarita Ramachandran, participated in an odonate survey along the Meenachil River in collaboration with the Tropical Institute of Ecological Science, Kottayam. Additionally, the International Polymer Scientists' Meet (IPSM) 2021 marked the centenary of polymer science with a virtual symposium on the challenges and future of the field.

Publications by faculty and students were also highlighted, including articles on formalin's effects on fish and advancements in polymer science. Dr. K. J. Abraham edited a book on fish nutrition and contributed to another on fish biology, while Saju Daniel's research on hydrotalcite and natural rubber nanocomposites received attention at an international e-conference.

Academically, students from various disciplines excelled, with top rankings achieved in their university exams. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the college adapted by transitioning to online classes and conducting webinars and seminars on diverse topics. The institution also established a COVID monitoring cell, provided financial aid to local bodies, and recognized students like Tijo and Faissal for their frontline work during the pandemic.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the National Cadet Corps (NCC) played vital roles in community support and crisis management. NSS volunteers focused on raising awareness through educational campaigns and information dissemination, supported healthcare facilities with volunteering and sanitization, provided financial and material

aid, and offered emotional support. Similarly, NCC cadets engaged in awareness campaigns and educational programs, assisted in medical camps and vaccination drives, participated in sanitization efforts, and distributed essential supplies. Both organizations demonstrated exceptional adaptability and commitment, effectively leveraging their resources to aid communities and mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.



DR. RAJUMON T MAVUNKAL PRINCIPAL

