



# St. Mary's College (Autonomous)

Reaccredited with A+ Grade by NAAC (4<sup>th</sup> Cycle)  
Thoothukudi - 628 001



## Internal Quality Assurance Cell

External Peer Review (Academic Audit)  
Peer Team Report

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell of St. Mary's College (Autonomous) conducted the External Peer Review on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 in the campus. The IQAC Coordinator, the Coordinator of the STAR College Scheme, IIC Coordinator, the coordinator of Community Development Programme, the coordinator of Centres for Excellence (Clubs & Forums) the heads of the departments, the librarian, the physical director and the counsellor presented the report of the academic, the sports and the cocurricular activities carried out in the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21 to the external peer team. The external peer team visited the departments, assessed the documentation, and recommended a few suggestions for the enhanced performance of the institution in the academic arena.

### General Information

**1.1 Name & Address of the Institution:** St. Mary's College (Autonomous)  
104, North Beach Road,  
Thoothukudi - 628 001

### 1.2. Accolades of the institution in the academic years 2019-2020 & 2020-2021

#### Academic Year 2019-2020:

- Department of Botany received a grant of Rs. 15,000 from TNSCST to conduct a National Seminar on "Biodiversity and Bioprospecting" on 31.01.2020.
- Under the UBA Scheme, Rs. 50,000/- (1<sup>st</sup> Installment) was sanctioned on 27.02.2019.
- Rs.80,000 was sanctioned for the Mathematics Seminar on "Emerging Trends in Advanced Mathematics" sponsored by the NBHM held on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and Rs.50,000 for the Seminar on "Advances in Mathematics" held on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 sponsored by SERB.
- The college has been selected under Star College Scheme by DBT, New Delhi. It has sanctioned a fund of Rs. 82 lakhs and released an amount of Rs. 54 lakhs as 1<sup>st</sup>

installment for the period from 16.3.2019 – 15.3.2020. It also has the credit of receiving DST-FIST fund and financial support from UGC for the construction of Indoor stadium, Gymnasium, Equal Opportunity Centre and 100 Bedded Sports Hostel.

- Dr. G. Amala Jothi Grace, Assistant Professor of Chemistry submitted a proposal for the approval of patent on “Synthesis of Value-added Materials by Biogenic Route from Industrial Pollutants” on 30/08/2019 (Patent Journal No. 35/2019).
- There are 36 Research Guides and 66 Ph.D. scholars doing their doctoral research. Doctoral degrees were awarded to 7 research scholars from the research centres. There are 134 formidable research publications by the research scholars of the institution in scopus, reputed UGC CARE Indexed and ISBN indexed journals and 90 research presentations.
- 4 Major Research Projects, 5 Minor Research Projects funded by UGC and 6 students’ projects funded by TNSCST have already been completed. The ongoing TNSCST Major Research Project and ICSSR Minor Research Project and the INSPIRE programme bespeak the vitality of the research acumen inherent amidst the faculty
- 157 I PG students and 34 UG students have successfully completed MOOCs offered by the SWAYAM portal of MHRD. Eight I MA English students who excelled in the MOOC at the National Level were chosen by NPTEL to attend a one-week workshop from 16.3.2020 to 21.3.2020 on ‘Soft Skills’ in IIT Madras campus which was conducted online due to the pandemic.
- 5 students have got through the NET exam and 1 student has succeeded NET as well as JRF.
- 9 faculty have received a total of 11 awards from reputed research institutions.
- Under the Star College Scheme sponsored by the DBT, New Delhi, 1 international conference, 5 Faculty Training Programmes, 15 training programmes, 11 Workshops, 28 Guest Lectures, 1 Science Fest, 1 Bio Expo and 2 Intercollegiate Quiz Competitions were organised. 13 Field projects were undertaken. 12 papers were presented and 32 projects were submitted in the academic year 2019 -2020.

- Awareness of social issues is created through the outreach programme TOUCH. 928 second year UG students and 22 faculty participated in the programme which is an integral part of the curriculum. They visited the adopted villages and conducted 87 programmes for the economic, environmental, health and social uplift of the region.
- The various departments in the institution have organised 10 International Webinars, 4 International Conferences, 14 National Seminars, 34 State level Seminars, 6 Faculty Development programmes, 2 Short Term Courses, 13 Orientation Programmes, 2 EXPOs, 2 Quiz Programmes, and 10 workshops. The Eight Centres for Excellence through 30 clubs and forums have organised 222 programmes

#### **Academic Year 2020-2021:**

- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), the flagship programme of MoE conferred the college with the Perennial Fund Award of Rs.1,75, 000, one among the 78 institutions across the nation.
- UBA awarded the institution as one among the top five institutions in the photo story competition at the national level.
- Approved as a centre by Tamil Nadu State Council for Science & Technology (TNSCST) for ASTRA (Application of Science & Technology for Rural Areas) and a grant of Rs.1,00,000 has been granted.
- Rs. 84,000 has been sanctioned for the ICSSR Minor Research Project
- DBT, Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi sanctioned Rs. 13,99,960 as II instalment for the period from 16.3.2020 – 15.3.2021 under Star College Scheme.
- TNSCST sanctioned Rs.15,000 for 2 projects by the students.
- In the NIRF Ranking 2021, the institution has secured a prominent place in the 101-150 Rank band.
- In ARIIA Ranking 2021, the institution is awarded as one of the performing institutions.
- It received I2OR National Award 2021 for its academic excellence.
- In the Education World India Autonomous Colleges Ranking 2020-21, the institution has secured 30<sup>th</sup> place.

- The college received “Eat Right Campus Award” from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- 7 research scholars were awarded doctoral degrees from the research centres in the academic year 2020-21.
- There are formidable research publications, 27 by the research scholars and 181 by the faculty in reputed Web of Science, Scopus, UGC CARE and ISSN indexed journals, publication of 6 books and 50 chapters (ISBN indexed)
- Under the Star College Scheme sponsored by the DBT, New Delhi, 11 webinars, 5 Faculty Training Programmes, 5 Summer Training Programmes, 2 training programmes, 8 Workshops, 12 Guest Lectures, 4 online certificate courses, Science Fest and Intercollegiate Quiz Competitions were organised. 5 Databases were created, and 1 L & E project was undertaken. 35 papers were presented and 3 proceedings, 1 book, 5 magazines and 26 manuals were published in the academic year 2020-21.
- IIC organised 1 International Conference, 10 webinars, 4 workshops, 13 orientation programmes, 1 panel discussion and competitions.
- 794 II UG students and 21 faculty participated in the outreach programme TOUCH (Towards Upliftment and Community Healing), an integral part of the curriculum.
- During the pandemic, relief materials and essential grocery items were distributed to 600 families in the adopted villages and in the district.
- Through the Entrepreneurial Training programmes conducted in the 5 adopted villages, 908 rural women have emerged as entrepreneurs which resulted in the economic, environmental, health and social uplift of the region.
- The various departments in the institution have organised 7 International Webinars, 4 International Conferences, 30 national webinars, 9 state level webinars, 11 Faculty Development programmes, 4 Short Term Courses, 9 Orientation Programmes and 13 workshops. The Eight Centres for Excellence through 30 clubs and forums have organised 353 programmes.
- 3 Faculty have received a total of 7 awards for their research and academic excellence.

- 154 PG students and 37 UG students have passed the MOOCs conducted by SWAYAM NPTEL.
- 155 programmes have been livestreamed from the College YouTube Channel and 1,24,502 people have watched the programmes.

**1.3. Date of the External Peer Team Visit: 21.10.2021**

**2. Members of the Peer Team:**

**School of Language and Culture:**

Dr. V. Subathra Devi  
Associate Professor & Head  
PG& Research Department of English,  
Thiagarajar College (Autonomous),  
Madurai.

**School of Management and Economics:**

Dr. M. Jayanthi  
Associate Professor & Vice Principal (Students Affairs)  
Department of Commerce,  
PSG College of Arts and Science,  
Coimbatore.

**School of Physical and Computing Sciences:**

Dr. A. Lourdusamy,  
Associate Professor & IQAC Director,  
Department of Mathematics,  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous),  
Palayamkottai.

**School of Biological Sciences:**

Dr. Horne Iona Averal,  
Associate Professor & IQAC Coordinator,  
Department of Zoology,  
Holy Cross College (Autonomous),  
Tiruchirappalli.

### 3. SWOC ANALYSIS

#### 3.1. Institutional Strengths:

- The college is identified as one of the best performing institutions in the country by MoE based on the NAAC score in successive cycles. It attained A+ Grade in the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of reaccreditation by NAAC on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 with 3.29 CGPA.
- The management and the faculty work towards the empowerment of the women students.
- The ample infrastructure facilities spearhead curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- The college has been serving as an elite centre of learning for the students belonging to the marginalised section of the coastal region, among which 80 percent of them are first generation learners.
- The college promotes a research culture among the faculty and the students alike.
- 93 faculty hold the doctoral degree and many of them are pursuing Ph. D as part time. There are 42 research guides, and 66 Ph.D. scholars pursue their doctoral research.
- The academic activities of all disciplines are grouped into five Schools of Excellence to augment research, design pioneering courses, enable efficient teaching, facilitate effective outcome-based learning and to empower the student community to face the global demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- The IQAC endeavours to optimise the integration of modern methods of teaching, learning and evaluation.
- IQAC organises the Students Induction Programme for the I UG & the I PG students as per the UGC guidelines.
- The college conducts Bridge courses in English and other subjects as well for freshers at the beginning of each academic year.
- The college brings out a biannual research journal *Marian Quest*.
- The Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology have got the DBT-STAR status.
- The curriculum of all disciplines is revised and updated periodically.
- Emphasis on value-based education and enhancement of life skills
- The Counselling Forum & the Tutor Ward System ensure the emotional and the psychological well-being of the students.

- Excellent outreach and community engagements through CDP which has been awarded by UBA.
- The Eight Centres for Excellence mould the students in co-curricular and extracurricular activities through the programmes of 30 clubs and forums.
- The NCC wing and the NSS units instil discipline, social awareness, patriotism and social responsibility among the students.
- In Sports, the college has made a landmark achievement by retaining the overall Championship trophy in team games of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University 28 times consecutively.
- The institution has a rich historical prominence and reputation in the region.
- The Research ambience in the campus is furthered by the Library subscribed to a digital library of 6050 (e-journals) and 138862 (e-books) through N-List (UGC-INFLIBNET).
- The Wi-fi enabled campus aids the research scholars to access the electronic resources. Library has initiated all the faculty, researchers and students into the NDL.
- The Institution has a sprawling clean & green campus spread over 16 acres of land.
- The greenery in the campus is ensured with high diversity of trees and plants.
- The college promotes institutional values and socially responsible programmes on a large scale.
- The faculty are well qualified with Ph.D. and NET/SLET.
- The overall academic performance of the student is appreciable, and the graduate outcome is good.
- The students participate in the leadership programmes organised by the Students' Council.
- The advanced learners are encouraged to take up MOOCs and Self-study courses.
- The slow learners are helped through remedial teaching, handouts and study materials are provided to enhance their success in the academics and extra coaching and guidance are provided.
- The multifaceted and dedicated faculty volunteer to shoulder additional responsibilities that support the administration of the college.

### **3.2. Institutional Weaknesses:**

- The pass percentage of students in the competitive examinations is low.

- The institution is yet to make an indelible mark in international collaboration.

### **3.3. Institutional Opportunities:**

- The college has the potential to improve its NIRF ranking.
- The college has the capacity to foster leadership qualities among the first-generation learners through its various academic and cocurricular and extracurricular activities.
- Creation of more competence development programme through the eight centres of excellence.
- The Departments can develop modules for MOOCs in the SWAYAM Portal.

### **3.4. Institutional Challenges:**

- To maintain academic excellence through imparting quality education to a larger number of first-generation learners.
- To improve the placement opportunities for the students.
- To ensure student diversity by encouraging students from other states to study in the institution.

## **Recommendations of the External Peer Team for the Quality Enhancement of the**

### **Institution**

#### **College**

- ✚ Make MOOCs compulsory for all students
- ✚ Seed money could be provided for all fund involved activities like seminars, conferences, workshop, organised by the departments
- ✚ Professional Development Programmes for Newly appointed faculty
- ✚ To Initiate NET/JRF Coaching classes

### **IQAC**

- ✚ Suggested to apply for MOU
- ✚ Professional Development Programme for Non-Teaching Staff
- ✚ Follow Bloom's Taxonomy for question paper setting under OBE
- ✚ Bring student's Progression under IQAC on tie up with Placement Cell
- ✚ Employer's Feedback common format to be given by IQAC



### **Programmes under STAR College Scheme**

- ✚ Encourage students to apply for projects
- ✚ Centralised lab with all equipment which can be used for all the research activities.
- ✚ Suggested to apply for MOU

### **IIC**

- ✚ Real time problems to be identified and solutions to be suggested
- ✚ Categorise students under two groups namely pursuing higher education and Placement, Entrepreneurship and motivate them to explore in the chosen path
- ✚ Apply for funds to DSIR to start Incubation centre. Explore available project schemes and apply for it
- ✚ To create MOUs and linkages

### **Centres for Excellence**

- ✚ Extension activities related to Technology to be conducted
- ✚ The knowledge sharing activities of the specific domains could be organised in the adopted villages in association with the with NGO's.
- ✚ Recent Trends in Technology to be implemented and carried out by the Centre for Digital Excellence

### **Research Forum**

- ✚ Motivation to be given to present more research papers in international conferences
- ✚ Inter-disciplinary Research to be promoted
- ✚ To apply for ISSN/ISBN number for the college research journal *Marian Quest*
- ✚ To apply for ICSSR Projects

### **School of Language and Culture**

- ◆ To apply for the Internship and enhance placement in IT Companies
- ◆ To develop e-Content in Swayam platform

### **School of Management and Economics**

- ◆ MoU with MSME and offer GST Training Courses
- ◆ Skill Training in latest Technological advancement
- ◆ Improvement in NIRF graduate outcome

### **School of Physical and Computing Sciences**

- ◆ Improve research innovations and extensions
- ◆ To establish MoU focusing on employability/Entrepreneurship/Skill Development

### **School of Biological Sciences**

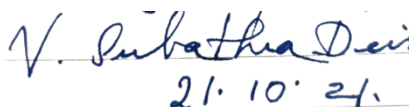

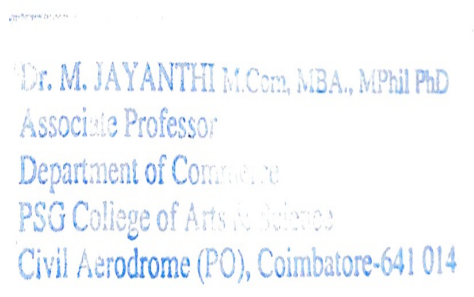
- ◆ Create a Corpus fund to support Research Activity
- ◆ Seeking Collaboration with Institutional Funding Agencies for Projects
- ◆ Coaching Classes for CSIR- NET/ UGC/ Civil Service Examinations
- ◆ Suggestion for Industry based Contemporary Curriculum

### **Department of Library**

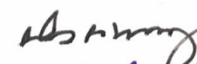
- Online accession of library e books could be done.
- Wide usage of OPAC could be encouraged.

### **Counselling Forum**


- Fixing appointment through online could reduce waiting time.

<b>Name with Designation</b>	<b>Signature with Seal</b>
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