

Report of the Academic Audit of Christian College, Chengannur August-September, 2013

Christian College, Chengannur, owned and managed by the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church with the motto of the College as "Our Utmost for the Highest" was established in 1964 and is affiliated to the University of Kerala. The College offers UG and PG programmes in Arts and Science. In 2005 the College was first assessed and accredited by the NAAC with B+ Grade and it was re-accredited by NAAC with A Grade in 2012.

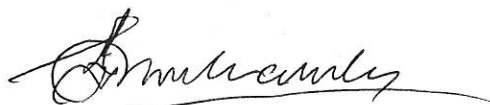
The Management of the College has constituted a Committee with Dr.Rajan Varughese, Director and Principal of Marthoma College of Management and Technology and former Principal of Union Christian College, Aluva and Dr.George Zachariah, former Principal, Christian College, Chengannur as members to conduct its academic audit with reference to its progress during the period 2012-2013 in terms of starting of new academic programmes, teaching-learning methods, research, consultancy, linkages, collaborations, infrastructure, student support activities, introduction of good management practices, innovations in academics and governance, etc. The Committee studied the documents made available and visited the College on 2nd August and 3rd September, 2013 and met the faculty, staff, IQAC and management representatives.

The findings, commendations and recommendations are listed below:

The College continued the good practices initiated during the re-accreditation period and worked towards the quality enhancement objectives. The College Governing Council headed by the Manager His Grace Rt.Rev.Dr.Zacharias Mar Theophilus Suffragan Metropolitan, the College Council headed by the Principal Prof.Mathew Varghese, the Heads of Departments, teaching and non-teaching staff, students and various constituents such as alumni, parents and well wishers of the College were actively involved in their roles and responsibilities to assist and support the growth of the College during 2012-13.

The College specific Certificate and Add-on courses were continued. The UGC has sanctioned two job-oriented short term Diploma courses in (1) Technical Writing (Department of English) and (2) Mushroom Cultivation (Department of Botany) from 2013-14. Kerala University and Government of Kerala have sanctioned two regular aided courses viz. BCom with Computer Application from 2014-15 and M.Sc. Zoology from 2013-14. The affiliating University of Kerala has incorporated computer related topics in the curriculum in most of the courses and ICT enabled teaching learning methods are moderately initiated. A transparent admission process as per norms and rules of the University and State Government is in practice. Some of the departments assess the capability of their new students after admission through tests and group them for remedial and support activities. The College prepares a detailed academic calendar at the beginning of the year and is strictly followed. Teachers have improved their skills in using digital environment such as PPT and audio-visual presentations, internet assisted classes and computer aided learning especially for practicals in Zoology.

The practice of analyzing Student's evaluation of teachers and the Principal sharing the observations of the students with the concerned teachers for quality improvement is continued during 2012-13. During this period Quality enhancement initiatives of faculty are promoted by



The national seminar sanctioned to the Department of English during 2012-13, was successfully organized during September, 2013. An international seminar of the Department of Physics is scheduled for February, 2014. There are a number of seminars and conferences planned during the Jubilee year 2013-14. The Department of Physics combined with the Department of Chemistry continued to get the FIST grant (Inter-departmental co-operative programme). The DST is assisting the Department of Physics for the augmentation of facilities. During the assessment period the College has submitted project proposals to various funding agencies like UGC for the conduct of two international, four national and 3 regional level academic seminars/conferences.

Students have access to web resources in the automated library through INFLIBNET facility. ICT enabled teaching-learning is promoted through digitally enabled seminar hall. Parent-Teachers-Student (PTS) meetings were held twice by all departments to discuss the performance and progress of students.

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Departments have limited book bank facility. The language laboratory is effectively used by the Department of English.

The College has seriously taken up a research on the reasons for the low result percentage at the University examination after undertaking a result analysis. Creative steps are being initiated to improve the results by taking remedial and follow-up measures to improve the pass percentage in all the departments. The dropout rate declined to around 6.9% during 2012-13 due to constant monitoring and support of students by the College through the different departments. The teachers have a view that the trend of students opting for professional courses after Class XII has a great impact on the quality of students joining the College. Induction and training programme for new teachers and non-teaching staff was held with expert resource persons including Prof.Mathew Varghese, Principal, Dr.Jacob George, former Principal and HOD of Physics and Rev.George Mathew. The annual Inter-Collegiate staff tournament – in Badminton was organized. The IQAC has been active and was working towards quality enhancement with the necessary inputs and initiatives.

The College received additional grants to the tune of Rs.25 lakhs from UGC during 2012-13 for various approved projects. All the four PG Departments – English, Physics, Economics and Analytical Chemistry received Development Assistance from UGC for PG programmes. The College has succeeded in getting an exclusive transformer installed for the College by the KSEB. The College has initiated work towards installing solar panels with the support of the funding from Government sources to conserve energy. The College has formed a Jubilee Executive Committee to launch Golden Jubilee projects and to celebrate the occasion during 2013-14. The projects include starting of a number of academic programmes – MSc in Zoology (already sanctioned, the course will be started in 2013-14 itself), MSc in Mathematics, MA in Mass Communication and starting research centres in Chemistry, English and Economics, offering more student-support facilities and extension activities such as exhibition, and number of infrastructure development plans. Initiatives for harnessing the support of alumni for the Golden Jubilee Projects are underway. The Alumni Association and its overseas chapters were invited to take up projects during the forthcoming Golden Jubilee celebrations. Accident insurance, subsidized food, free noon meals to deserving students, and earn while you learn programme, are welfare schemes available in the College.

Commendations:

- Preparation of an Year Plan for the various academic and Co-scholastic activities of the College.
- Systematic analysis of academic results of students in university examinations by all the departments for necessary follow up action.
- The leadership and initiatives of the Manager, Principal, Governing Council, College Council, IQAC, in all the activities of the College.
- Good governance through decentralization, and Committee system of policy implementation. The former Principal serves in the Department of Physics and is assisting the Principal and management.
- Winning the South Zone Inter Collegiate Women's Cricket Tournament.
- First place in 'Mime' ^{8 Margamkali} competition at the Kerala University Youth Festival at the Inter-Collegiate level.



- Completion of protection work of the concrete roofing of the main building and tile work of staircase and tile work of varandh.
- The College becoming a Centre of the Kerala State Government for training of trainers under the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)

Suggestions and Recommendations:

- Introduction of more job-oriented academic programmes such as B.Com, B.B.A., B.C.A., and M.Sc., in interdisciplinary subjects with a vocational bias may be considered as and when the University policies permit such initiatives. While making this recommendation, we are aware of the discontinuance of a UGC sanctioned self-financing job-oriented degree course viz. B.Sc. Industrial Chemistry with the initial financial assistance of the UGC. An instance of rejecting a research project along with the fund sanctioned for the same has also come to our attention. Though these happened years ago, they remind us of the need for greater continuity of policies in the College. Though persons change, the institutions have to go forward.
- The concern of the College faculty and management on the present status of academic result percentage of students in the University examinations may be proactively channelized by arranging systematically planned remedial and tutorial sessions for identified students needing such assistance. Funds available from the UGC and other funding agencies for such measures need to be mobilized and teachers may take special initiatives for remedial teaching to help such students either by their personal input or coordination of such teaching by competent guest teachers during days/time convenient to such students.
- Faculty members may be trained in the ICT areas such as cloud enabled digital environment for the management of learning resources and educational administration such as attendance, evaluation, administration of tests as modules of an ERP solution leading to e-governance of the College.
- Efforts may be taken to upgrade the PG departments to research centers.
- The College may prepare for totally equipping itself for the grant of autonomy by preparing ^αperspective plan and a road map for the same.
- Augment ^ρexisting infrastructure through new construction to provide facilities so as to accommodate new academic programmes as and when the opportunity to start such programme emerges.
- Upgradation of class room facilities and civil and ICT infrastructure and furnishing for better ambience may be taken up in a phased manner.
- Construction of Principal's Quarters, Guest House, and an indoor stadium may be considered for future infrastructure development.
- More attention may be provided for promoting sports and games and cultural activities.

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- The career guidance and placement activities may be further strengthened. Coaching facilities for NET/SET exam, and competitive examinations need to be enhanced.
- Training programmes for Non Teaching Staff in technology applications and office management along with motivation sessions may be offered on a regular basis at least twice a year. The role of the administrative/non-teaching staff is very important in supporting the academic and research pursuits of a college. They have to handle the accounts of huge amounts received from the UGC, other funding agencies and the Government. Hence it is desirable that at least some of them are better qualified possessing a university degree.
- The College may review and revive programmes which were left unattended after initiation. The community extension activities offering soil and water testing, waste management and awareness programmes related pollution and health may be revived.


Prof. George Zachariah


Dr. Rajan Varughese

October 12, 2013