



**ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
**PALAYAMKOTTAI - 627 002**  
(Recognized as "College with Potential for Excellence" by UGC &  
Accredited by NAAC at A++ Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4)



**INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL (IQAC)**



**UGC - NAAC - AQAR External Academic and  
Administrative Audit**



**EXTERNAL PEER TEAM REPORT**

The External Academic Audit peer review was conducted in Conference Hall on 11.01.2023. The Heads of the Departments presented the report of the academic activities carried out in the academic years 2017 – 2018, 2018 – 2019, 2019 – 2020, 2020 – 2021, 2021- 2022.

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.1 Name & Address of the Institution: **St. Xavier's College (Autonomous)**  
**Palayamkottai - 627 002**  
**Tamil Nadu**

**1.2. Executive Summary**

- St. Xavier's College was established at Palayamkottai in 1923 by Jesuit Fathers with an aim of preparing generations of students for a happy, healthy and harmonious life. The history of the college is a saga of human excellence, endurance and commitment for more than nine decades.
- The college is situated in a semi-urban area, surrounded by many villages in the southern tip of Tamil Nadu. Most of its students belong to poor and middle-class families and 70% of them are first generation learners. It is a Christian minority institution, which offers higher education to students without discrimination of caste or creed or religion, and the right of every student is protected. The focus is on inclusive education. The college aims to be an agent of social change,

instilling in youth an awareness of the great need of social justice based on brotherhood and dignity of the human person in contemporary society.

- It is a grant-in-aid institution recognized by the UGC Act under sections 2(f) and 12 (B).
- The college was affiliated to the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in 1990.
- St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai is an autonomous, co-educational Arts and Science institution run by the Jesuits and the college has consistently scored high grades in the last four cycles of NAAC assessment and accreditation and in particular it has A++ grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4 in the fourth cycle of accreditation by NAAC.
- The college has been recognized by the UGC as a 'College with Potential for Excellence'.
- The college caters predominantly to socio-economically marginalized sections of society and aims at empowering them.
- The college received Department of Scientific and Industrial Research organization (DSIR) status from the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- The college has a spacious and sprawling campus, spread over an area of 58 acres with an artistically constructed Church of our Lady of Assumption at the centre, ideal classrooms, science laboratories, modern computer lab, a large auditorium, seminar halls, audio-visual room, hi-tech library with internet facilities, language lab, faculty rooms, open air stage, well-laid playgrounds, stadium, hostels and a guest house. Acclaimed as a premier institution for higher learning, the college offers 48 programme options (20 UG programmes, 15 PG programmes 12 research programmes and 1 Diploma programme) to students. Besides these programme options, extra credit courses are offered to enable students to earn more credits.

- The college has established provisions for slow learners and advanced learners. The Differential Streaming System in Part II General English, identified as one of the Best practices by NAAC, has been followed at St. Xavier's College since 1987. Bridge Course is conducted at the beginning of the academic year, during which a Diagnostic Test and an Achievement Test are conducted to identify slow learners and advanced learners.
- Student Training and Action for Neighbourhood Development (STAND), is an outreach programme specially designed by the college to take the fruits of education to villages, facilitating "Lab to Land" activity.
- The process of student feedback on teachers has been made scientific and comprehensive. This is a significant quality enhancement measure implemented by the college.
- One of the strengths of the college is the publication of research papers, books and proceedings of national conferences.
- The college has a perspective plan for institutional development. The academic calendar is prepared at the beginning of the academic year and given to the staff and students on the first working day of the college. The college has ensured academic freedom, especially in curriculum designing and formulation of innovative teaching strategies.
- The college conducts academic audit in a systematic manner. Curriculum is reviewed not only in the meetings of the Board of studies and Academic Council but also by academic peers in other institutions.
- Tutor ward system is one of the best practices of the college.
- The ultimate aim of St. Xavier's College is to achieve a synthesis of intellectual, moral and spiritual development of students. The college ensures the total formation of students through curricular and co-curricular activities, research and

extension, community orientation and neighbourhood service, and personal guidance and counselling. Students are the *summum bonum*.

**The External Academic Audit was conducted on 11.01.2023.**

**External Peer Team members:**

1. Dr. B. Serena Margaret  
IQAC Coordinator & Associate Professor  
Department of English  
St. Mary's College (Autonomous)  
Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu.
2. Dr. S. Sujitha  
Assistant Director, IQAC & Assistant Professor  
Department of Mathematics  
Holy Cross College (Autonomous)  
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu.

Due to some personal inconveniences, Dr. Rose Venis (Convenor), IQAC Director & Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous), Tiruchirapalli was not present for the meeting.

**1.3 Date of visit of the Peer Team: 11.01.2023**

**The following is the presentation schedule for Departments.**

S. No.	DEPARTMENT	Shift	Time
1	Botany	Shift I	09.00 a.m.
2	Zoology	Shift I	09.25 a.m.
3	Folklore	Shift I	09.50 a.m.
4	MBA	XIBA	10.15 a.m.
5	MSW	Shift II	10.40 a.m.
6	Commerce	Shift I & II	11.05 a.m.

7	Physics	Shift I & II	11.30 a.m.
8	Economics	Shift I & II	11.55 a.m.
9	Mathematics	Shift I & II	12.20 p.m.
10	English	Shift I & II	12.45 p.m.
11	Chemistry	Shift I & II	01.10 p.m.
12	Tamil	Shift I & II	02.00 p.m.
13	Computer Science	Shift I&II	02.20 p.m.
14	M.C.A	Shift II	02.40 p.m.
15	Visual Communication	Shift II	03.00 p.m.
16	BBA	Shift II	03.20 p.m.
17.	Corporate Secretaryship	Shift II	03.40 p.m.
18	Exit meeting		04.45 p.m.



### 3. SWOC ANALYSIS

#### 3.1. Institutional Strengths:

- Based on the college's NAAC score over several cycles, MHRD has named it one of the top performing colleges in the nation.

- The college has 7-year accreditation period for NAAC accreditation.
- The College got 67<sup>th</sup> rank among 1802 colleges that participated in INDIA RANKINGS-2021 in the college level category under National Institutional Ranking Frame work (NIRF) exercise undertaken by the ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Government of India.
- The academic year 2021-2022 witnessed the sustenance of the culture of continuous academic enrichment through 4 International conferences and 23 National seminars.
- Teachers have published 197 papers in various journals, out of which 56 are Scopus indexed. In addition to this, 22 faculty members have authored a book or contributed a chapter to a book.
- The college Library has raised its stack up to 133083.
- The college has established 20 MoUs with higher educational institutions across the country for the promotion of curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities during the Academic year 2021-2022.
- Feedback on curricular aspects from final year UG/PG students, Alumni, Parents, Teachers and Employers were collected by IQAC.
- IQAC in collaboration with the department of Physics, Botany and Zoology conducted Energy Audit, Green Audit and Environmental Audit.
- The curriculum of all disciplines is revised and updated periodically.
- Emphasis on moral and ethical education and enhancement of life skills.
- The pass percentage of UG courses is 97% and PG courses is 99% and the overall pass percentage is 98% for the academic year 2021-2022.
- The college office has facilitated 903 students to receive Government Scholarship to the tune of Rs.37,05,608/-.
- In 2020-2021, the management has given Jesuit Education Support (JES) scholarship to the tune of Rs. 1,66,500/-.

- Students of our college benefit from Breakfast and Lunch Scheme provided every day.
- The Career Guidance cell conducted 32 off-campus and on-campus interviews in this academic year 2021-2022. 8 Career guidance programmes and 10 Faculty Development Programmes were organised.
- There is excellent infrastructure for academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular activities.
- Good infrastructure is provided for imparting education and co-curricular activities.
- About 60 percent of students are from first generation learners and most of them belongs to poor and middle-class families.
- Math review conducted in Mathematics department is really appreciable.
- The college promotes a research culture.
- Most of the teachers possess Ph.D. and NET/SET eligibility.
- In Shift I, 95% of the faculty members are PhD holders.
- The college conducts bridge courses in English and other subjects as well for freshers at the beginning of each academic year.
- Two major research projects were received by XRF to the tune of Rs.1,10,00,000/-
- The college is sanctioned with DST-FIST grant to the tune of Rs.44,08,006.
- The college has filed 3 patents for the academic year 2021-2022.
- The college promotes institutional values and socially responsible programmes on a large scale.
- Excellent outreach and community engagements especially through STAND.
- The overall academic performance of the student is appreciable and pass percentage is also good.

- The slow learners are helped through remedial teaching, handouts and materials are provided for easy study and extra coaching and guidance are provided.
- The college is equipped with good infrastructure for undertaking research.
- The campus has a functional Wi-Fi facility freely available to the students and faculty members including hostel inmates.
- The greenery in the campus is ensured with high diversity of trees and plants.

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

- There is lack of diversity among the students, for most of them belong to this region.
- The pass percentage of students in NET/SET/UPSC is poor.
- Folklore Department has not utilized its full potentials and have not highlighted the FRRC resources (ie) Archive, Library, Museum, Art gallery, etc.
- There is very little international academic collaboration and Industrial MoUs.

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

- The college has the potential to improve its NIRF ranking.
- The college can instill in its students concern for the marginalized groups.
- A Centre for skill-development can be created and more add-on courses can be offered.
- The college has the capacity to foster leadership qualities among the first-generation learners through its various academic activities.
- Creation of more competence development programme through extra-curricular activities.
- The Department of Folklore can develop a MOOC module and conduct certificate/diploma programmes.
- More number of students can be encouraged to take up value added courses.
- The following Journals should be published regularly.



1. Xaverian Journal of Marketing
2. South Indian Folklorist.

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

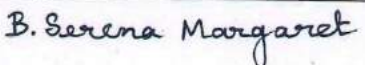
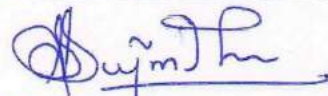
- To maintain academic excellence despite admitting a large number of first-generation learners.
- To ensure the survival of the Department of Folklore, for the student in-take, Placement and Higher Studies is low.
- To promote value-based education in a consumerist society.
- To strengthen the placement record.
- Attracting students from other states and abroad.
- Documentation can be strengthened.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR QUALITY ENHANCEMENT OF THE INSTITUTION**

1. To conduct value added courses based on competitive exams for every department.
2. To conduct science outreach programme for school students.
3. Women Entrepreneur based programmes and Gender equity programmes can be conducted.
4. Advance learners can be insisted to learn online courses.
5. More courses can be added for employability.
6. Encourage more students to enroll for value added courses/skill-based courses.
7. Practical based certificate course can be conducted under value added courses.
8. Motivate students to prepare for competitive examinations.
9. Conduct add on courses to prepare students to face competitive world.
10. Language Lab log-in details can be improved.
11. To offer other language courses in language lab.
12. To offer dance, drama etc. as a value-added course for more than 30 hours.

13. To organise IPR, Research Methodology programme for Research Scholars/Staff members.
14. The management sanction seed money for minor research projects for the faculty members.
15. Library usage by faculty/students to be strengthened.
16. To encourage the faculty members to apply for major research projects.
17. Learning Management software (LMS) to be strengthened.
18. ERP portal for Academic/Administrative modules to be strengthened.
19. Encourage the students to participate in international, state level, Interuniversity level, curricular, extra-curricular and sports activities.
20. To start NCC/Navy/Air wing for both the shift I and shift II students.

**Signature of the Peer Team Members:**

Name	Designation and Address	Signature & seal
Dr. B. Serena Margaret	IQAC Co-ordinator & Associate Professor Department of English St. Mary's College (Autonomous) Tuticorin	 <b>IQAC Co-ordinator St. Mary's College (Autonomous) Thoothukudi</b>
Dr. S. Sujitha	Assistant Director, IQAC & Assistant Professor Department of Mathematics Holy Cross College (Autonomous) Nagercoil.	 <b>Dr. S. SUJITHA. M.Sc., B.Ed., M.Phil., Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics Ho'y Cross College (Autonomous) Nagercoil - 629 004.</b>