



St. Mary's College (Autonomous)
Reaccredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC (Cycle IV)
Thoothukudi



Criterion: VII –Institutional Values and Best Practices
Metric: 7.3.1– Institutional Distinctiveness
Year: 2018-2023



7.3.1. Institutional Distinctiveness

Empowering the First-Generation Learners

St. Mary's College was founded by the Servite Sisters, Congregation of Mother of Sorrows, Servants of Mary in the year 1948. Since its inception, it has embarked on its distinct journey of empowering young women of the coastal region, Thoothukudi. Prioritising education for the first-generation learners is the distinctiveness of the institution. Majority of the students are first generation learners from the marginalised families of the region. St. Mary's envisions to uplift the women from the lower strata of society to an elevated status through their committed efforts and attainment of programme outcomes and graduate attributes. All educational practices are oriented towards fulfilling the vision of the institution "To make young women agents of an egalitarian society through liberative education." The core values of the institution and its motto 'Fide Vivant - Live by Faith' is reflected in its academic programmes and cocurricular activities.

Holistic Educational Practices

The institution adheres to the guidelines of the Statutory Regulatory Bodies and frames the curricula of the academic programmes with its vision for whole person education. It has moulded and enriched the life of the first-generation learners through the curricula with its specific focus on Sustainable Developmental Goals, Indian Knowledge System, the apt pedagogy for the millennial learners, the experiential learning methods, the field and the research projects, the development of e-content, the Students' Induction Programmes, the cocurricular and the extracurricular activities, the Community Development Programme, the ethics classes, the mentor-mentee system and the counselling support. The institution has instilled confidence among the students in such a way that they were able to compete with their peer group nation-wide and emerge as toppers in the MOOCs from the SWAYAM NPTEL

portal. The OBE curricula offer Core Courses, Core Skill-based Courses, Elective Courses, Ability Enhancement Courses, and Skill Enhancement courses that develop and enhance the capabilities of the students. Sports students are given special coaching, and they won University Overall Championship 29 times out of 31. The Career Oriented Certificate courses have increased the potentiality of the learners and help the socially and the economically disadvantaged young women secure placement, self-employment, start entrepreneurial ventures and build a successful career, thereby promoting their socio- economic status. Thanks to efforts of the institution towards women empowerment, Thoothukudi ranks third in the Human Development Index in Tamil Nadu.

Promoting Universal Human Values

St.Mary's College follows the concept of theme-centred academic years, which augment the educational experience of the learners by organising the activities of the respective academic years around the central themes. The practice equips the faculty and the students to adapt to the adherence of Universal Human Values in the curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. The institution followed 2018-2019 as the Year of Harmony, 2019-20 as the Year of Honesty, 2020-2021 as the Year of Hope, 2021-2022 as the Year of Faith, and 2022-2023 as the Year of Gratitude. The activities of the eight centres for excellence are planned and executed on the basis of the respective themes on each of the academic years.

The institution assisted the students in inculcating the ethos and culture of the college community. The celebration of Women's Day created a momentum for the students and assisted them in grasping the essence of equality and inclusivity embedded in the Indian Constitution. Through the orientation sessions on health and hygiene, psychological wellbeing and counselling, the institution nourished the physical and the mental health of the students. Through the orientation sessions on Women Rights and Laws Protecting Women it enhanced the confidence of the students that the legal system of India ensures safety for women. The students were able to grasp the essence of universal human values such as respect, unity amidst religious, linguistic and cultural diversities, justice, gratitude, honesty and integrity. It also gave insights on environmental sustainability and conservation. The students gained knowledge on the correct usage of social media and the ways to protect themselves from cybercrime.

Upholding the Values, the Aesthetic Art Forms and Culture of India

The institution through its conscious efforts enlivens the Indian Values, the Indian Aesthetic Art Forms and Culture and spreads the necessity of cherishing them among the modern youth populace under its care. The activities of the Centre for Cultural Excellence are aimed at channelising the youth towards appreciating Indian Aesthetic Art Forms and take pride in Indian culture. The performance of the College Musical Band, the Choir the Marian Orchestra and the Traditional Folk Art Troupe at the celebrations initiate a cultural fervour among the students. The institution conducts 'Annual Cultural Fests – Fine Arts Competitions' which have more than thirty competitions to tap the artistic talents of the students and to work together as a team to win the competitions. The celebrations of the festivals of India spread the spirit of unity in diversity and appreciating the culture of others. The staging of English and Tamil dramas, the classical and the folk-dance forms of India during the college day celebrations elevate the performance of the students to the level of the professionals. The 'JEM' Programme – 'Journey of the Empowered Marian' which is conducted for the outgoing students is a platform for developing the musical, the dance, the cookery, the yoga and the fashion designing skills. During the celebration of Commemorative Days such as the Independence Day, Republic Day, Teachers' Day, Human Rights Day, Constitution Day, Mother Language Day, the institution promotes the patriotic spirit, respect for the elders, the respect to the Indian constitution, and highlight the linguistic diversity of our country among the students and instils in them a reverence for the Indian values.

Future Prospects

With the knowledge and the values, they acquired from the alma mater, the young women have moulded themselves to be the architects of their own development. The Marians are equipped with the enlightened values of the institution for a future in which they step forward as the better stewards of the world. They capably and knowledgeably progress in their onward march towards success.

Louis Rose
Principal
St. Mary's College (Autonomous)
Theothukudi-628 001.