



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE
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IQAC REPORT 2015-16

Introduction

This academic year, a new milestone was achieved in the history of Jesuit education. The Management appointed a new Principal, a lay person Dr Baptist Agnelo Menezes, upon the retirement of Dr (Fr) Frazer Mascarenha S.J., Dr Menezes took charge of office from 1st June 2015.

As the college welcomed its first lay Principal, new plans and strategies were to be induced in to the system. Amongst the plans for the year was to consider a reduction in the number of CIA examinations our students would take and to allow the students to benefit from a mandatory research component. This also meant an emphasis on greater research for the faculty. A committee would be instituted to prepare for the review of autonomy.

The Graduation ceremonies were held on 11th June 2016 (Commerce and Self-financing courses), 12th June 2016 (Science) and on 13th June 2016 (Arts).

The IQAC held three meetings: 24th August 2015, 29th September 2015 and 28th April 2016. During these meetings, efforts were undertaken to sustain the vision of the college, which stands for academic excellence and endeavors to create an environment which generates the love of learning, a habit of critical thinking and an ability for accurate expression.

The IQAC worked in collaboration with the entire faculty and several events, opportunities and activities were conducted throughout the year, some of them student-centered, some aimed at faculty - both teaching and non-teaching and a few were extended to staff and students of other colleges. A brief account of these activities is mentioned in the report. In the last meeting of the IQAC, the AQAR reports of 2013-14 and 2014-15 were discussed before submitting the same.

1 Faculty

In keeping up with the tradition of offering the faculty opportunities to develop professionally and personally, seminars and workshops were organized throughout the academic year. These were:

1.1 For the 'young teachers':

- A seminar on "Ethos and Teaching- Learning Experience in Xavier's" was conducted on 10th August; 2015. This introduced our newly appointed teachers to the ethos of being part



of the Xavier's family and was presented by Fr Arun DeSouza, S.J. This helped our teachers understand what challenges a Xavier's faculty member needs to be prepared for to sustain the mission and vision that Xavier's education believes in.

- On 9th September, 2015, Dr Elaine Charles, an eminent educationist, gave an interactive talk on "5 Habits of Highly Successful Teachers". This talk was highly appreciated for its simplicity, clarity as well as content which helped our teachers gain insight into the dynamics that is present in a classroom of young adults.
- On 9th December, 2015, Fr. Gordon Daniells S.J., a faculty of Xavier's Institute of Communications, conducted a three-hour workshop with our young faculty on "Effective Communication", which was truly engaging.
- On 27th January, 2016, a young teacher's seminar on "Educational Pedagogies: Experiments in Inquiry Based Learning" was conducted by Mr Marazban Kotwal.

1.2 For the entire faculty, the following seminars and talks were conducted:

- 1st October, 2015-a seminar on "Quality Enhancement".
- 13th January, 2016-a seminar on "Autonomy in Review". Certain key areas of our college like ECC, SIP, Evaluations, CIA and Pedagogies, Special Courses, Examinations, Teaching-Learning methodology was discussed in detail and suggestions were invited. At the same time a review of the last six years of autonomy of each department was invited. This exercise was called "Bus Stops"
- 20th and 22nd January, 2016-a twin Lecture series: 'Be Well, Lead Well' by Dr. Luce De Buitleur Andrews, Director of The Academy Western Sydney University, Australia and 'Mental Health' by Dr. Ajlina Karamehic-Muratovic, Department of Sociology and Anthropology Saint Louis University, USA.
- 17th Mar. 2016-a Seminar on 'Critical Thinking and Enquiry-based Education Pedagogy' by Prof. Mohanan K. P., IISER, Pune.
- On 23rd January, 2016, at the National level, a seminar was organized by the Department of Life Science and Biochemistry in collaboration with the Departments of Chemistry & NS Research Laboratory, Psychology and Zoology on 'Behaviour and the Brain: A Cognitive Perspective'.

1.3 To maintain research involvement, this academic year saw twelve of our faculty members awarded one major and six minor projects sponsored by UGC, two by University of Mumbai and one by the Dorab Tata Trust. In addition to this, several of our faculty have attended, presented and even served as resource persons in international (23+21+1), national (39+20+10) as well as state level (15+6+7) conferences and seminars.

In accordance with the need for professional development, faculty also attended refresher courses (3), UGC-faculty improvement programmes (4), orientation programmes (4), staff training conducted by the University of Mumbai and other Institutions (38). Research papers were presented



in international journals (28) and one in an international E-journal, national journals (20). In addition, there were 11 conference proceedings each in international and national conference proceedings and three at the state level.

There are 11 recognized PhD guides across most of the Science departments and 15 students are registered for pursuit of their Doctorate.

One book with ISBN number has been published, and four faculty members have edited chapters in different books.

1.4 Dr. (Ms.) Vivien Amonkar was invited to deliver the following talks:

2 sessions: 'Curriculum Design and Development' and 'Innovative Evaluation Methods' 'Faculty Development Programme' organized by the IQAC, VVM's Shree Damodar College of Commerce and Economics, Margao, Goa, 7th October, 2015

"Autonomy" Teacher's Academic Forum' Jai Hind College, 21st January, 2016

'Review of how St. Xavier's College Achieved the Autonomous Status' 2015-2016 Fulbright - Nehru International Education Administrators Seminar organized by St. Xavier's College - Autonomous, 12th March 2016

'Best Practices in Curricular Aspects', NAAC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Best Practices in College and Academic Administration' Dapoli Urban Bank Senior Science College, Dapoli 22nd - 23rd April 2016.

1.5 Innovative methods were adopted by the faculty, which included experiential learning like field visits, industry visits, project and research-based learning, market surveys, group discussions, workshops, case studies, Flip classroom, e-learning, experiential learning, peer learning and inquiry-based learning faculty.

1.6 The Departments of Botany and Geology were involved in consultancy services. In this academic year, 57 plant samples were authenticated by the Blatter herbarium, an extension of the Department of Botany, and the Department of Geology were consulted for rock petrography, geotechnical analysis, and gemology.

2 Students

Our students have had opportunities to strive towards academic excellence as well as acquire soft skills and values for personal growth.



2.1 The Honours Programme, a certification programme across three years of graduate studies is an attempt to offer students 'beyond the classroom' academic enhancement in the form of guest lectures, workshops, seminars, project work and other innovative activities, attracted a large number of students.

2.2 Most departments hosted and organized events of the inter- and intra-collegiate nature where the students could hone their management, organizational and leadership skills.

2.3 A few of our 'Student Support Services' that have engaged our students are:

- The campus counselling centre with professional staff offering personal as well as career counselling services.
- The language lab facility, which has enabled students to strengthen their writing style while dealing with various other linguistic abilities.
- The Women's Development Cell (WDC) held an orientation on the role of the WDC on the campus followed by talks on sexual harassment on 6th August 2015 and 2nd September 2015 respectively. The other activities of WDC included a self-defence Workshop for female students on 12th September, 2015 and on 14th September 2015, a talk on 'Foods and Fallacies of Dieting' was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Life Science and Biochemistry. On December 2015, a Sanitary Napkin vending machine was installed in the females' washroom, an initiative of the Student Council and the WDC.
- A mentoring system where students were assigned teachers to guide, assist and attend to them when a need was expressed was put into place and has proved to be beneficial.
- The number of students benefitting from internships - an optional 60-hour involvement after the fourth semester - increased. This year, 80 students from the Arts Faculty, 53 from the Science Faculty, 63 students from the Mass Media and 34 students from the Management Students had gained from this experience.
- The Placement Cell organized job fairs, whereby 63 organizations visited the campus for placement and 135 of the final year students had been offered placements.
- The Social Involvement Programme (S.I.P.), a compulsory credit for the first-year students across streams to complete 45 hours at any Non-Governmental Organization and 5 hours of in-house activities helped to sensitize students towards the needs of underprivileged members of society.
- The XRCVC (Xavier's Research Institute for the Visually Challenged) has catered to the needs of visually impaired students by providing them with screen readers, feeding their notes into the computer and various other facilities.
- To encourage collaborative programmes with International Universities, eight MOUs were signed in this academic year.

3 General Areas

- The college has 25 programmes functioning according to the six semester pattern, where there is the core/elective option. This excluded the Applied Component, which is Choice



Based Credit system that allows a student majoring in any subject to select his / her choice, without necessarily taking the Applied Component offered by his/her Department of majoring subject. The Cross-Faculty Course, to be completed in the fourth semester, offers students an interdisciplinary exposure where they are required to complete a course from other faculties. Scientific Communication Skills empowers the Science students in the third and fourth semesters to hone skills required for research writing.

- The Department of Mathematics was selected by DBT for Star College Programme and the College was conferred 'Star Status', whereby grants would be made available for the departments of Botany, Chemistry, Life Science & Biochemistry, Microbiology, Physics and Zoology.
- Feedback from the alumni and parents (other stakeholders) is informal. The annual parent-teacher meeting of all the three years of under graduation was held on 16th January 2016, where the Principal addressed the parents, followed by a question-answer session, after which faculty met the parents with their wards.
- The Knowledge Centre conducted Staff Training Workshops on 1st July, 4th July & 12th August, 2015 for the senior college teaching staff amongst several activities.
- To sustain an eco-friendly campus, three set of solar panels have been installed, and the segregation of dry and wet garbage on campus is followed. A conservation lab was inaugurated in the Heras Institute.

4 Conclusion

- Though there is a lot of satisfaction in some areas aspects, some of the areas of concern are as follows:
- Research culture still needs to be given a serious thought.
- Examination system continued with the same modalities and these should be reviewed.
- Faculty had engaged in a lot of introspection and reflection and identified a lot of areas of concern as well as satisfaction and were made to present it as reports. This was to be analysed and appropriate measures were to be taken. Key aspects of the campus- some academic and others co-curricular and extracurricular - were also reviewed for the positives and negatives by faculty and suggestions / recommendations were to be identified. These two activities of the faculty were an outcome of the seminar "Autonomy in Review".
- A committee of the three ex-Vice Principals was to implement a mock review of autonomy, and the details of their inspection of departments would be shared and would prepare the college for the review, which is expected to happen in the next academic year.
- The theme for the next academic year would be Conservation of Campus Resources.

