

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 - 2016



HOLY CROSS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

(Affiliated to M.S. University, Tirunelveli)

Re-Accredited with A Grade (CGPA 3.34) by NAAC

Nagercoil - 629 004, Tamil Nadu, India

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), NAGERCOIL

Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, continues its mission to form well-integrated individuals committed to social transformation, particularly in supporting the poor and marginalized. Grounded in a spirit of service, the institution fosters a culture of character, conscience, compassion, commitment, and competence, equipping students to nurture both nature and humanity. The college has remained committed to empowering both students and staff through various initiatives, seminars, and value-based programmes.

Eco-Friendly Campus and Student Strength:

The college prides itself on its eco-friendly ambiance, providing a conducive environment for the 2,586 students enrolled across 12 undergraduate (UG), 10 postgraduate (PG), 4 M.Phil., and 4 doctoral programs. The campus also offers three UGC-sponsored certificate courses and several others, including training in Computer Hardware, Tailoring & Embroidery, Folklore, Handicrafts, and more. These programs empower students with both academic and vocational skills to face real-world challenges.

Faculty and Staff:

The faculty strength has grown to 138, with 57 supportive staff members. This growth reflects the college's commitment to academic excellence and holistic education, contributing to the institution's 'A' grade status awarded by NAAC. Faculty members work collaboratively, driven by dedication, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

Academic and Spiritual Activities:

The academic year commenced on June 19th for senior students with a prayer service organized by the Campus Animation Team. Classes for first-year undergraduate students began on June 22nd, following an orientation program that included a campus tour, helping them transition smoothly into college life. To enhance communication skills, a three-day program titled "Take Off with Spoken English" was organized for first-year students. Postgraduate and M.Phil. students joined on July 2nd.

The inauguration of various associations, clubs, and committees was held on July 9th, with former principal and president Dr. Sr. Felicia Jothy as the chief guest. The newly appointed student union members for the year include Jasmine (President, III B.Sc. Mathematics), Terenshiya (Vice President, III B.A. History), and Sruthi (Secretary, II B. Com with C.A).

A two-day seminar for teaching and non-teaching staff was organized at the conclusion of the semester break, with meaningful Eucharistic celebrations facilitated by Fr. Patrick Antony Raj and his team from Vazhikaatti, Trichy. Regular spiritual practices including value education classes, Holy Spirit Mass, personality development programs, and para-liturgical services were also conducted. Significant religious

events like Ash Wednesday, Mother Founder's Day, and Christmas were celebrated with fervor. The Quality Circle of the College, with the motto "Quality for Empowerment," fostered leadership skills and positive values through workshops on topics such as discipline, time management, cleanliness, and career guidance.

In recognition of its academic achievements, Holy Cross College has been actively involved in faculty development and student empowerment. Seminars such as "Be an Effective Human Being" by Fr. Devadoss, "Be a Quality Teacher" by Fr. Immanuel Raj, and "Be the Change and See the Change" by Dr. Josheela provided avenues for self-improvement for staff members. Moreover, faculty members, Dr. Jessy Isabella and Dr. Lourdhusamy, discussed the "Benefits of Autonomy" with insights from St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

Campus Animation and Spiritual Formation:

The Campus Animation Team plays an integral role in nurturing the spiritual and personal development of students. Throughout the academic year, value education classes, Holy Spirit masses, retreats, and motivational programs are held regularly. Special para-liturgical services mark important religious and cultural events like Mother Founder's Day, Ash Wednesday, and Christmas. The spiritual environment contributes to the holistic development of students, ensuring they graduate with both academic and moral virtues. Nine students, along with two staff members, participated in "Grace 2016" organized by Jesus Youth in Trichy. These programs help inculcate values such as discipline, punctuality, teamwork, and responsibility, fostering an empowered student community.

Quality Assurance and Curriculum Enhancement:

The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) continues its dedicated efforts to maintain and enhance academic standards. It organized workshops and seminars throughout the year, including a two-day workshop on value-based education for faculty and non-teaching staff, and a national seminar on "Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century." IQAC also publishes a biannual newsletter to keep the college community informed of its activities and quality initiatives.

The Curriculum Steering Committee, led by Dr. Stella Bai (Dean of Arts) and Dr. Josephine Rani (Dean of Science), plays a pivotal role in updating the syllabus and ensuring the academic council meets regularly. Faculty members are actively involved in curriculum development to stay current with educational trends.

Faculty Development and Research:

Faculty development remains a priority at Holy Cross College. Orientation programs, seminars, and workshops were organized to enhance teaching effectiveness and leadership skills. Notable sessions included "Be an Effective Human Being" by Fr. Devadoss, "Be a Quality Teacher" by Fr. Immanuel Raj, and "Be the Change and See the Change" by Dr. Josheela. Several faculty members were awarded Ph.D.

degrees this year. In addition, faculty have published research articles in 41 international journals and 53 national journals, with 72 articles in conference proceedings. Numerous staff members have also served as resource persons, members of the inspection committees, and subject experts in the Board of Studies.

The faculty members have undertaken 19 UGC-sponsored Minor Research Projects and contributed significantly to academic conferences, with 34 papers presented at international seminars and 48 at national seminars. The college has hosted 13 endowment lectures, one international seminar, and 16 national-level seminars to enhance the academic rigor of the institution. The college's Research Committee remains active, publishing the multidisciplinary journal *Crossian Resonance* and organizing seminars on recent trends in multidisciplinary research. Thirty-one faculty members are engaged in part-time research, while four are pursuing full-time research. The committee's initiatives aim to foster a culture of inquiry and innovation across all academic disciplines.

Awards and Recognition:

The college has received numerous accolades for its contribution to society. The AIDS Prevention and Control Board of Kanyakumari District awarded a memento and certificate of appreciation for blood donation. The Indian Association for the Blind honoured the college with the IAB Blind Empowerment Champion Award. Additionally, the Humanity Trust bestowed the Manitha Neya Kavalari Award for the institution's socially relevant activities.

Extracurricular Activities:

Students actively participated in intercollegiate quiz competitions, bagging several prizes in various events hosted by institutions like St. Alphonsa Arts and Science College, Kamaraj Kalaikazhagam, and Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. In sports, students excelled in football, basketball, and ball badminton, with eight University Blues representing the college. Notably, Kumari of II M.A. History won a Silver Medal in Shot-put and a cash prize of ₹75,000 in the Chief Minister's Trophy.

Library Resources and Development:

The General Library remains a vital part of academic life, housing 46,664 books, 74 journals, and 17 computers connected with digital resources. It promotes a culture of reading, reflection, and intellectual growth. The library operates an open-access system and regularly organizes activities such as book reviews and Readers Forum meetings. The college spent Rs. 3,24,458/- on new books and journals this year. Library Day was celebrated with the theme "Therivom Thelivom," encouraging students and staff to embrace knowledge and learning. Under the leadership of Vice Principal and Librarian Dr. Sr. Mary Johnsy, the library continues to support both research and learning endeavours.

Student Achievements:

Students of the college have consistently excelled in academic and extracurricular activities. The average pass percentage for UG, PG, and M.Phil. courses in the April 2015 examination was an impressive 96.71%. Many departments, including UG Tamil, PG Mathematics, and Business Economics, recorded 100% results. Furthermore, six students have cleared the NET exam, and four have successfully passed the Bank exam. A total of 63 students have received placement orders in CBSE/Matriculation schools, while others have participated in training programs and industry visits.

The college's extracurricular teams have also made a mark, won various intercollegiate quiz competitions and excelled in sports such as football, basketball, and athletics. Kumari, a student from II M.A. History, won a silver medal in shot-put at the Chief Minister's Trophy and received a cash prize of Rs. 75,000.

Community Engagement and Extension Activities:

Holy Cross College is deeply committed to societal engagement. The college's extension activities under the banner of RUN (Reaching the Unreached Neighbourhood) focus on community development. This year, students worked on creating Children's Parliaments in Kanyakumari Parish to solve local problems through democratic governance. The NSS units 76 and 77, led by Dr. Nirmala Lewis and Ms. Premalatha, actively participated in various community service initiatives, including blood donation camps, dengue awareness campaigns, and medical camps.

The RUN (Reaching the Unreached Neighbourhood) program facilitated community development through children's parliament and resource mapping in Kanyakumari parish.

The Eco Club, "Prakriti Mitras," continues to promote environmental awareness through initiatives such as organic farming, waste management, and nature conservation, making the campus a model of sustainability.

The NSS units, in collaboration with the Red Ribbon Club (RRC), have organized blood donation camps, dengue awareness programs, and free medical camps. The college also actively participated in national campaigns, including HIV awareness, road safety, and voters' awareness. Additionally, the AICUF (All India Catholic University Federation) organized a summer camp focusing on rural realities, leadership programs, and cultural training.

The YRC (Youth Red Cross) conducted blood group identification camps and tuberculosis awareness programs. The Rotaract Club, under the leadership of Dr. Mettilad Bai, organized medical camps and social visits, contributing to the all-around formation of students.

Graduations and Recognitions:

On March 19th, Holy Cross College held its 23rd Graduation Day, with 757 graduates receiving their degrees. Dr. S. Cletus Babu, Founder and Chairman of the SCAD group of Institutions, delivered the convocation address, inspiring the graduates to lead lives of service and integrity. In recognition of its commitment to community service, the college received various awards, including the “Blind Empowerment Champion 2016 SILVER ZONE” from the Indian Association for the Blind, and the “Manitha Neya Kavalal” award from Humanity Trust.

Scholarships and Financial Support:

The institution ensures financial assistance for economically disadvantaged students. Various scholarships, amounting to ₹65,90,618, were awarded, including the Government Merit Scholarship, BC/MBC Scholarships, and University Merit Scholarships. The management contributed ₹1,61,000 toward student welfare, and tuition fee waivers amounting to ₹2,50,000 were provided to students from the self-financing stream.

Hostel Activities:

The college hostel, home to 280 students, is managed by wardens Sr. Leema Rose, Sr. Leeli, and Sr. Dominic. Various activities such as personality development programs, para-liturgical services, and festive celebrations were organized, making the hostel a nurturing space for students.

Celebrations and Cultural Events:

Celebrations like Alumnae Day, Mother Founder’s Day, Fine Arts Week, and Independence Day were marked with joy and splendour. Retired staff members were invited for special occasions, and season’s greetings were extended to them. Fine Arts Week brought out the latent talents of students through cultural events, with 1480 students participating in 27 programmes, and 450 winning prizes.

Holy Cross College, Nagercoil, continues to uphold its mission of academic excellence, spiritual formation, and community engagement. As the institution grows and evolves, it remains steadfast in its commitment to nurturing the intellectual, personal, and social growth of its students, empowering them to make meaningful contributions to society. The collaborative efforts of the management, staff, and students have enabled the college to reach new heights, contributing to a brighter and more prosperous future for the institution and society at large.