State Level Assessment and Accreditation Centre (SAAC)

Peer Team Report on Institutional Accreditation of

Christ College
Irinjalakuda

(Accreditation Cycle-1)

State Level Assessment and Accreditation Centre
Kerala State Higher Education Council
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1.Name & Address of the institution:	Christ College,Christ Nagar, Irinjalakuda, Kerala, 680125
2. Year of Establishment	**1956**
3.Current Academic Activities at the Institution(Numbers):	**3** **U G** **PG** **Ph.D**
4. Departments/Centres:	**25**
5. Programmes/Course offered:	**56 (6 are research centres)**
Permanent Faculty Members:	206
Permanent Support Staff:	64
Students:	**4089**
4. Three major features in the institutional Context (As perceived by thePeer Team):	**1.** Giving seed money to faculty to encourage research is a good practice that isfollowed by the management **2.** SAVISKARA programme organizedspecifically for the differently-abled children. **3.** Production of Audio Books for thevisually challenged.
5.Dates of visit of the Peer Team (A detailed visit schedule may be included asAnnexure):	**22nd and 23rd September 2022**
6.Composition of Peer Team which undertook the on site visit:	**Chairman**: Prof. RanganathaAnnegowda, Former Director, NAAC **Peer team members** 1. Prof Sabu Thomas, Vice Chancellor M G University 2. Prof.MichaelTharakan, Chairman, KCHR 3. Dr. P.G.Sankaran Pro-Vice ChancellorCUSAT
Coordinator	Dr. Priya K. Nair, Research Officer, KSHEC

Section II: CRITERION WISE ANALYSIS

> **Observations (Strengths and/or Weaknesses) on each qualitative matrices of the key Indicator under the respective criterion (This will be a qualitative analysis of descriptive nature aimed at critical analysis presenting strength and weakness of HEI under each criteria)**

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 1

Curricular Aspects

Christ College established was established in 1956, by the Devamatha Province of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (CMI). Following recommendation from the state government, the College was conferred Autonomous status by University Grants Commission in 2015.

The College offers 32 Undergraduate, 18 Postgraduate and 6 doctoral programmes in Humanities, Arts and Science. The College has in six research centres a) Physics b) Chemistry c) Zoology d) History e) Geology & Environmental Science and f) Commerce. Value-added courses like Python programming, A1 Diploma in French, Android programming, and HACCP Level 3 (Approved by HABC-UK) for international careers in the Food Industry are offered by the college. The Internal Credit Transfer System was introduced and students from Indonesian Universities were enrolled for selected courses in the Fundamental English Programme

Christ College is located in a semi-urban area and the courses in B.Voc Food Processing Technology, B.Sc Food Technology and M.Sc Botany were adopted to help the local community of farmers and to enhance productivity.

Christ College offers a certificate programme, Malayalam For Media. Social Work Department has executed projects and field studies in Padiyur Panchayath for Flood Mapping.

Audit Courses are incorporated in the UG curriculum to instill awareness regarding environmental ethics and gender equity. The audit courses are; Environmental Science, Disaster Management, Introduction to Human Rights and Gender Studies. These courses are mandatory and are offered in the online mode.

Two value added certificate courses are offered online to UG students; Gender Equality and Power of Positivity. These courses are mandatory.

The College has signed MoUs with the University of Zululand, South Africa, Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics, Germany, and Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment, London.

Being an autonomous institution the college has freedom to change 20% of the syllabus and this is done after discussion in the Board of Studies Meetings.

<u>Qualitative analysis of Criterion 2</u>

Teaching-Learning and Evaluation

The college rigorously monitors the progress of each student from the entry level onwards. A student who gets admission to the UG programme is assessed using the Screening Test developed by the IQAC. The test comprises three sections;
1.English language2.Core subject3.Psychometric test

The students are classified as slow, medium, and fast learners basedon the test results, and the lists are sent to the Chief Mentors for further processing. The Chief Mentor ranks the students according to the percentage of marks. The College conducts an Induction Programme for freshers in which the HOD/Programme Coordinator and the Chief Mentor interact with each student.

Peer Learning Groups are formed comprising equal number of slow, medium, andadvanced learners. The learners are encouraged to think critically.

As it is an autonomous institution, the IQAC drafts the Academic Calendar in consultation with the office of Controller of Examinations. The dates of internal examinations and end semester examinations for the odd and even semesters are planned taking into consideration the number of teaching days obtained in between. Mandatory internal examinations are planned in the middle of the

semester. The draft of the Academic Calendar is presented in the meeting of Heads of the Departments and finalized with suggestions from the members. After approval from

the College Council, the detailed Academic Calendar is printed in the College handbook and Teachers' Diary and is also published in the

College website.

There are two teachers from other states working in Christ College.

Christ College under the name Christ Open CourseWare (Christ OCW) offers MOOC courses. The students of Christ College do not have to pay fees to enroll for these courses.

At present 67 teachers have Ph.D. but as there are 206 teachers this is only 32.52% of the total number. The number of teachers involved in research must increase.

The Teaching Learning process is quite effective. The assessment and evaluation also has to be done following the pattern of Outcome Based Education

More effort has to be taken to inculcate critical thinking and creativity in the minds of the learners. Question papers and the pattern of evaluation may be modified according to the OBE pattern.

Student survey regarding the programmes and the institution though not quite satisfactory, seemed to be genuine.

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 3

Research, Innovations and Extension

Christ College has a clear research policy and the ethics committee is found to be active. The college has a license agreement with OURIGINAL (URKUND) and is taking stringent measures against plagiarism

At present there are 92 research scholars in the 6 Research departments. In 2021, fifteen scholars were awarded doctoral degrees.

Five teachers are recipients of FLAIR and one teacher was awarded the Fulbright Nehru- Post doctoral Research Fellowship.

The number of publications of teachers has increased from 14 in 2016-17 to 86 in 20120-21. The publications have been published both in journals included in UGC CARE List and those indexed in Web of Science/Scopus database. 72 publications were in the UGC CARE List publications and 79 in WoS/Scopus database.

Majority of the teachers who have publications have author IDs in ORCID, Researcher

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ID, Scopus Author Identifier, INFLIBNET/ VIDWAN ID and Google Scholar ID.

The management is providing seed money for research and encouraging faculty to publish in academic journals. Though the number of publications have increased faculty must make an effort to publish more articles in indexed journals.

The extension activities of Christ College are commendable. *Thavanish* is the social service arm of Christ College which conducts extension services for the marginalized sections of society. Every year *Thavanish* conducts its flagship programme 'Saviskara' - a two-day talent exhibition of differently-abled students from the nearby special schools. All students are encouraged to attend the programme and share time with differently-abled students.

During Covid pandemic the volunteers distributed food, medical aid, Covid shields, disinfectant materials to Irinjalakuda municipality and neigbouring panchayats.

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 4

Infrastructure and Learning Resources

The college campus is situated in 47 acres of elevated land. All the 125 classrooms are equipped with ICT facilities.

32 PG classrooms are equipped with Intelligent Interactive Panels. Live streaming of classes is possible from these rooms. All the classrooms are wifi enabled with internet speed 100 Mbps. 6 classrooms have facilities to record and live stream online classes.

Video conferencing facilities are available in these live classrooms, which are equipped with webcams, speakers, and wifi facility.

There are 34 UG, PG and research laboratories. All laboratories maintain standard safety measures and have effective management protocols. Water Testing Lab (Aqua Lab) is open for the public. 18 computer labs are equipped with full power backup.

The library building is well equipped and is accessible by differently abled people. It is situated at the centre of the College in a two-storied building covering an area of 17000 sq. ft. The Audio-Visual Library provides room for video conferencing, online lecturing and webinars.

An audio lab has been separately set up with the support of RUSA for the recording of audiobooks for visually impaired students. The students of the college are engaged in the production of audio books.

The Auditorium can seat 1500 people and has a good sound system consisting of 6 speakers. There is an additional hall in the auditorium for students to practice drama, skit, mime etc.

St. Chavara Multimedia Seminar Hall has a seating capacity of 200.

The Placement Multimedia Room with a capacity of around 100 chairs in St. Joseph's block is used to screen documentaries and conduct film festivals

There are two amphitheaters.

There are extensive facilities for sports and the college excels in sports competitions.
- 400 m Athletics standard track with gallery seating capacity of 15000
- Two basket ball courts, Volleyball court, handball court, Kho-kho and Kabaddi court, Synthetic Tennis court, Netball court
- Cricket field, football field and hockey field
- Shooting range
- Gymnastic hall, Mini Indoor Hall, Weight training hall
- Indoor jumping pit High jump and pole-vault
- Table Tennis Board Room
- Indoor stadium
- Stadium pavilion

The Laboratories have to be strengthened by installing state of the art equipment.

An agency must be identified to collect the waste generated by the laboratories.

The labs of the college must be accessible to the public and an Open Day can be conducted when the public is invited to see the labs in the college.

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 5

Student Support and Progression

Christ College has an active placement cell and has the infrastructure to train students to participate in interviews.

Guidance is given for competitive examinations. 118 students have cleared NET, 20 cleared GATE and 43 of them cleared JAM.

The number of students progressing to higher education is comparatively low.

Only 136 students were able to get placement and 353 students opted to pursue higher studies.

The alumini association is quite active, they conduct alumini lecture series and 'The All Kerala Volleyball Tournament for the OSA (Old Students Association) trophy is conducted annually in March by the Alumni Association. The alumni has contributed more than fifteen lakhs to institute endowments for students

The college needs to equip students to face tests and to have employability skills. The infrastructure is good but the number of placements and the number of students progressing to higher education should increase.

Services of the alumini can be utilized by appointing them as adjunct faculty.

Qualitative analysis of Criterion 6

Governance, Leadership and Management

The Management of the college is very proactive and ensures the holistic development of the institution. The motto of Christ College *Jeevith Prabha* means Light of Life and the institution tries to follow this vision in all their development plans. The management involves all stakeholders in the decision making process.

Christ College Educational Society is apex body which meets at least twice a year to discuss prominent matters that provide effective leadership in guiding the College. Management Governing Council is a statutory advisory body, which meets once a year for discussion of the strategic areas of the College.

The Autonomous Governing Council meets twice a year to a) discuss the prominent matters related to academic activities and to b) approve/disapprove major decisions from Academic Council.

The Academic Council governs the academic functioning, meets periodically, and looks

into the curriculum design, introduction of new programmes/ courses and analyse the proposals of the BoS of different Departments.

The Board of Studies decides the curriculum and the pedagogic practices and meets twice a year for discussions and decisions on curriculum. The Advisory Body headed by the Principal, includes Vice-Principals, Deans, Controller of Examinations, IQAC Coordinator and Finance Officer

The College Council assesses the routine activities of the College and The Finance Committee manages the budget allocation and expenditure.

Educational assistance in the form of fee concession is given to for deserving children of staff Financial support is given for attending professional development programmes, attaining membership in various professional bodies and to attend f training programs useful for consultancy and counseling. The financial audits records are found to be in order.

The activities of the IQAC are well planned and executed in a highly efficient manner.

It is seen that during the pandemic Christ College was able to switch on to the online mode quite easily as the infrastructure was already in place and the faculty were equipped to manage online teaching due to the efforts of the management and the IQAC.

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 7

   Institutional Values and Best Practices

The College believes in developing and promoting Sustainable Development Models and Eco-friendly startups and projects in an agrarian context are conceived.

The waste management policy of the College is instrumental in reducing the detrimental impact of the institution on the environment. The College has signed an MoU with the leading agency, Integrated Rural Technology Centre, Palakkad for creating awareness and for waste management. The College has also signed a MoU with 'Progressive - E recycling and Trading Company', Thrissur for the scientific disposal of E-waste. The college has a Biogas plant and a Waste Recycling System. Christ College has a rain water harvesting system and the total capacity is 4 lakh liters.

The paper-recycling unit (capacity 50 kg per day) converts the paper waste to paper pulp and then to kraft paper which is used to make paper files. The NSS units of college has

initiated the 'Pen Drive' in which the plastic body of the pens are collected and reused.

The college has a fish cultivation unit, a Butterfly Garden that is home to 39 species of butterflies and their host plants and a Bee Hotel for bees and wasps. There is a garden in the campus with 27 species of trees. The Fruit Garden consisting of 30 indigenous fruit trees are properly identified and scientifically tagged. The Dragonfly Garden is found to be the natural remedy for mosquitoes. Native mango saplings were developed in the institution and distributed to the nearby community. Rainwater harvesting is also done. 'Shanthisthal' has 20 cents of land where the rare, endangered, and threatened plants are planted and maintained. Jnana Udyan is an eco-friendly library.

The College bagged the Government of Kerala award in the year 2020 for Energy Conservation.

The Best Practices of the institution include ICT Integration and e-Learning so as to facilitate digital literacy and digital skills among the student and the 'Earth for All: Environmental Consciousness among Students' is a project that envisages to inculcate a sustainable lifestyle among students and to reduce the carbon footprint of the campus. The campus is very well maintained and tries to be self-sufficient.

Qualitative analysis of criterion 8
Social Inclusiveness

SAVISKARA is a programme of the College organized specifically for the differently-abled children. The differently-abled children are invited to the College for two days and they are presented with an opportunity to showcase their cultural talents. This is organized to:

- Support and encourage the differently-abled students in a concrete manner by providing a specific platform to exhibit their talents
- Develop and instill a sense of social responsibility and promote a culture of empathy in majority privileged class of students

Vidyadhanam is an endowment project to help the economically weaker students to avail scholarships and freeships with an embodied vision; 'No student who gets

admitted in Christ College shall stop his/her academic endeavour due to financial constraints.'

300 books were given to the Wayanad Tribal Colony and a local library was established in that colony.

The college offers 384 endowment scholarships to the meritorious students, for the programme topper, semester topper, course topper, best performer etc, out of which 42 endowment scholarships are reserved for socially and economically backward students, which falls under the category of 'Merit-cum-need'.

Sravyam, an audio library is setup in the main library for visually impaired. The college collaborates with National Institute of Physical Medicine And Rehabilitation (NIPMR), Kallettumkara, Thrissur and conducts regular classes for the physically disabled children, especially belongs to socially and economically backward category.

There is an SC/ST book bank in the main library, in which some books are reserved for such students. The SC/ST students can retain the book for an entire semester and has to return only after their exams are over. There is no fine imposed on such books for any late return. Social Work Department conducted co-curricular activity 'Choottu' (the torch) which shed light on the conditions of the transgender community.

Qualitative Analysis of criterion 9
Equity and Excellence

The analysis of exam results shows that there a breach between the grades achieved by the students of varied categories like General/ OBC/ SC/ ST in the final semester. In order to minimize the gap between the achievement scores of the different categories of students, the institution had taken the following steps,

Vidhyadhanam : A scholarship scheme for financially weaker students based on their performance. College has established policy and procedures to help students to avail scholarships and freeships with an embodied vision: 'No student who gets admitted in Christ College shall stop his/her academic endeavour due to financial difficulties'.

Fee concession for deserving students. The Mentoring policy is to establish a framework and guidelines to provide individual care and support to Christ College students.

College executes a separate SC, ST grievance redressal cell to attend and solve the problems faced by the SC/ST categories of students. It also assists them to apply for different scholarships.

Special counseling sessions are arranged for students who need help.

Qualitative Analysis of Criterion 10

Scientific temper and Secular outlook

Department of Geology and Environmental Science have projects with Department of Land disaster Management (ILDM) and Central Pollution Control Board

Department of Zoology has research projects of SERB and UGC

Department of Chemistry has collaborative reserach with industry- Carborundum Universal Limited.

The Unnath Bharath Abhiyan (UBA) team of the college found that the farmers were getting low income for their products due to the inability to process the products into secondary by-products owing to the climatic conditions. As a solution to this, the UBA team and the Chemistry Department constructed a low cost, durable solar dryer. Solar Dryers were distributed to the villages.

The Entrepreneurship Development club of the college offers a platform for the students to develop and foster entrepreneurship skills. As a joint venture with Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Kerala, the club is involved in activities that promote entrepreneurial skill among students by conducting various hands-on training workshops, seminars, discussions, experience sharing with the leading successful business entrepreneurs and conducting industrial visits.

Homepreneurship club of Dept of Economics, has initiated the Youngpreneur Project to provide financial Assistance to build a profitable home-based business for its students.

First year BSW and MSW students embarked upon an innovative project of preparing flood maps for the flood-stricken areas of Mala Panchayath. The college endeavors to translate scientific laws for students, Promote students to write scientific articles in malayalam

The college is involved in preparing a malayalam glossary for science subjects. The College has developed an oral archive that contains details of the local culture.

OVERALL ANALYSIS based on Institutional strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Challenges (**SWOC**) **(up to 500 words)**

The college has progressed in many ways since its establishment and caters to students from different sections of the society. The criteria have been quite satisfactorily fulfilled. Christ College is an autonomous institution. The institution has made efforts to follow the OBE pattern in the structure of the syllabi, but this is not reflected in the question papers or in the mode of evaluation.

Digitization has been successfully implemented. The institution is able to use ICT effectively in teaching and learning. As an autonomous institution the conduct of examinations is very crucial and Christ College has a fairly efficient Examination centre.

The College has excellent facilities for sports. Cultural activities of the students are also given due encouragement.

The College has a very effective Green protocol. The activities of the IQAC are exemplary and progressive. The team found the faculty members extremely committed and efficient. The efforts of the principal and the IQAC coordinator are commendable.

Christ College must encourage more teachers to become research guides and to establish successful consultancies. The College must make an effort to have start ups within the campus.

The campus is very well maintained and tries to be self sufficient in energy generation.

Section IV: Recommendations for Quality Enhancement of the Institution

- The Teaching Learning process is quite effective. The assessment and evaluation also has to be done following the pattern of Outcome Based Education

- More effort has to be taken to inculcate critical thinking and creativity in the minds of the learners.

- Question papers and the pattern of evaluation may be modified according to the OBE pattern

- Classroom lectures should include Problem Based Learning

- Students must be encouraged to do innovative projects

- The services of Retired faculty must be utilized. They can function as adjunct teachers.

- . Experts from the industry may also be included as adjunct faculty

- To increase the alumini engagement the institution can institute Alumini Awards

- Feedback of the curriculum must be taken from all stakeholders of the institution

- Many of the research departments are doing well but other especially the Humanities departments must also be encouraged to develop into research departments

- Faculty must try to get more research projects and try to get their work patented.

- In the area of consultancy the college must work harder and teachers may be encouraged to take up consultancy work.

- The Laboratories have to be strengthened by installing state of the art equipment.

- The labs of the college must be accessible to the public and an Open Day can be conducted when the public is invited to the labs in the college.

- The Library committee must purchase books in consultation with the different departments. The college can become part of a library network The library must make an effort to carry back issues of journals.

- Creating audio books is a good endeavour of the college

- Christ College which is a leading institution in the area can become a mentoring college for other institutions through the Cluster of Colleges scheme. Sharing of resources among the constituent colleges will ensure that expensive facilities are used in an optimum manner.

- The institution should encourage participatory management by including all stake holders in the decision making process.

- Knowledge creation must be encouraged and there must be more collaboration amongst the departments in their research efforts.

- The college must engage in extension programmes that will ensure the well being of the neighbourhood.

- Learning Analytics must be done keeping in mind the programme outcomes and the course course outcomes and this must be mapped along with the results

- The institution must make an effort to preserve the unique culture of the region.

- Programmes that increase the diversity of the campus must be held on a regular basis. Efforts must be taken to include transgenders in academic programmes.