



MAR ATHANASIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
KOTHAMANGALAM, KERALA, INDIA
87th Position in NIRF College Ranking 2023



Best Practices

Best Practices of the College

1. Fostering empirical learning among the academic fraternity and other stakeholders

Objectives

- To inculcate scientific temper and secular thinking among the students, research scholars, and faculty.
- To promote research culture among the academic fraternity.
- To familiarize the students and teachers with handling sophisticated instruments.
- To publish articles in reputed peer-reviewed journals and participation and presentation in conferences.
- To extend science familiarization programs in the neighboring village student community.

The Context

- The College is dedicated to fostering an empirical learning attitude, secular understanding, and research culture. This promotes academic activities that contribute to knowledge advancement and dissemination, societal development, and industrial collaboration as envisioned in its research policy. This also aims to inculcate quality research that contributes to academic excellence and social impact and to facilitate consultancy services that engage the college with the stakeholders.

The Practice

- The College is interested in popularizing scientific temper among stakeholders by adhering to the Nation's scientific policy.
- The College practices purchasing and maintaining sophisticated instruments and equipment. The college collected lakhs from various scientific organizations such as RUSA, DBT, DST, KSCSTE, Student projects, etc.
- Students and scholars are encouraged to use the facilities to conduct frontline research.
- The College organizes international and national conferences to interact with

eminent academicians of international repute in science and humanities and to inculcate a scientific temper.

- One international conference was organized during 2023-2024.
- Science popularization workshops/exhibitions/quizzes/debates/presentations etc., are conducted for the students of neighboring schools and colleges with the financial support of KSCSTE.
- The College's Science Forum regularly conducts activities on National Science Day, Ozone Day, World Environment Day, etc., to inform the fraternity of the importance of science and logical thinking.
- A research committee, research advisory committee, and ethics committee scrutinize all the stakeholders' research activities.
- The college motivates teachers and students to prepare and submit individual research project proposals.
- All science students are trained in different sophisticated instruments.
- The College also provides seed money to teachers to promote research in every discipline.

Evidence of Success

- The student community undertook several Postgraduate research projects, Undergraduate research projects, and 98 MoU's/linkages during 2018-2023.
- The faculty received rupees 5.08 lakhs for research and also one Faculty Foreign Exchange to Siberia. The teaching faculty and students, utilizing the facilities available in the institution without spending a large amount, published 62 CARE/Scopus research papers and 22 books/book chapters.
- Students are encouraged to undergo certificate courses in modern analytical techniques.

Problems encountered and resources required

Heavy financial burdens recur on the maintenance and calibration of sophisticated instruments and the cost of chemicals and reagents.

The burden of academics discourages faculty and students from extending research to the neighboring community.

2. Lifestyle consciousness in everyday life for environmental protection

Objectives

- To nurture and promote the spirit of environmental consciousness.
- To inculcate a sense of responsibility for environmental conservation.
- To attain a green, sustainable, and supportive environment.
- To inculcate healthy food habits and lifestyle.

The Context

- The College is committed to fostering environmental sustainability and promoting a culture of environmental responsibility among all stakeholders, as per its green policy. This policy outlines the principles, guidelines, and initiatives to create and maintain an eco-friendly campus in alignment with the Nation's environmental regulations and global sustainability goals.

Practice

- The College creates and maintains an illustrious landscape inside the Great Quadrangle with many endangered and medicinal plants.
- A medicinal plant garden, Miyawaki forest, tree park, and rare and endangered plant (RET) garden are also nurtured on campus to educate students about the importance of afforestation and conservation of biodiversity.
- Students prepared a handbook on medicinal plants, 'Jeevajalakam.' along with a tagging of the medicinal plants.
- The College signed MoUs with Clean Kerala Company of the Govt. of Kerala and Kerala Enviro Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. to dispose of plastic, toxic, and hazardous wastes.
- The College initiated an organic vegetable farming project with financial support in collaboration with the Kerala Agriculture Department.
- Biogas and wastewater treatment plants were installed on the campus with financial assistance from management.
- The College signed an MoU with Gensolar Energy Private Limited to install a 120 KW grid-tied rooftop solar power plant. It also installed sensor taps, sensor lights, LED lights, and tubes.
- The College promotes using nature-friendly materials instead of non-renewable plastic carry materials.
- Celebrating international and national days of environmental significance.