

St. Xavier's College Thumba

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

NAAC re-accredited with A grade of CGPA 3.22

REAP THE SAND
Institutional Distinctiveness



IQAC
St. Xavier's College Thumba
www.stxaviersthumba.org

REAP THE SAND

In consonance with the proclaimed vision, mission and core values the institution is committed to ensure good health, peace and Eco-sensitivity to all its stakeholders. The ultimate vision of the college is to establish a knowledge society with compassion, equity and justice. This is actualized through excellence in higher education, training and building a just society with a preferential option for the marginalized. Part of the vision and mission is realized by providing paid internships to students thereby acknowledging the dignity of labor, providing organic vegetables to the stakeholders and giving the sand a canopy of greenery.

St. Xavier's College is cultivating vegetable in 5 acres of land inside the campus. Students are given paid internships in the vegetable farm. The vegetables are sold online among the stakeholders of the college and to the local community.

Concept:

Education is the overall development of a person hence cannot be contained in books or in classrooms. Higher education institutions are bound to provide all possible opportunities for the overall development of its students. The primary aim of education being the 'bread and butter' aim, students should be made aware of the dignity of labor and are to be provided with opportunities to earn while they learn. On the other hand, agriculture- the first occupation of our nomad ancestors and now the backbone of Indian economy is promoted among the youth.

Context:

St. Xavier's college Thumba, situated in the cost of Arabian sea has its vast 85 acres of campus filled with slippery sand non-fertile for green to lush. It was the the perseverance of the past generation that created a green canopy over the campus as it is seen today. Still there was land uncultivated, which now is vegetated by green vegetables.

Another context of the practice is to provide paid internship to the students in the vegetable farm thereby making them aware of the dignity of labor and let them meet the expense of their education all by themselves.

Objectives:

- To provide paid internships to students
- To support the students to meet their education expense all by themselves
- To inculcate values such as Eco-friendliness, dignity of labor etc.
- To provide safe and healthy vegetables to the local community
- To green the hot and slippery sand and contribute to global warming
- To promote Eco-friendly co-existence

Process:

'Reap the Sand' programme began in the academic year 2021-22. The primary aim was to provide internship to the students. Initially 1 acre of land was used for vegetable cultivation later it was extended to 5 acres. Expert opinion was taken from experts of 'Nadan Agro private ltd'. 15 types of vegetable are cultivated successfully and usually each item is sold online one day prior to the harvest.

Natural methods such as flower trap are used for pest control. Certain types of flower plants are also cultivated for natural pest control. Visitors are usually not allowed to go inside the farm to prevent the spread of bacteria from humans to plants.

Students undergo paid internship have to work in the farm from 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm on all days except Sundays. Supervision of workers, watering the plants and harvest are the work allotted for internees.

Evidence of Success:

1. Cultivation started in 1 acre extended to 5 acres. .
2. All the vegetables are usually sold online, one day prior to harvest.
3. The number of students interested in internship increases month by month.
4. A good majority of students learned modern farming techniques and try these methods at home.
5. College now plan to extend the cultivation to 5 more acres of land.
6. This being a unique activity in a higher education institution, the news has gone viral and different television channels have already reported the programme. A link to the report of Mathrubhoomi TV is attached herewith. <https://youtu.be/ramFP40PQ64>

