Smart St. Xavier's Project
A Comprehensive project to transform Thumba St. Xavier's college into a Centre of Excellence

Preface
"Asatho Ma Sadgamaya"

Embracing fifty years of impressive history and heritage, the St. Xavier's college is now anticipating the completion of another successful half a century. Smart St. Xavier's is a broad project envisioned by the institution, to transform it into a centre of excellence. This Master Plan is a meticulous study and confident proposal for an enlightened future. It incorporates the aims and objectives, its importance, stakeholders and beneficiaries, financial sources and resources mobilization, and methods for successful execution of the project.

Situated at a location predominantly inhabited by marginalized communities and religious minorities, St. Xavier's college has been an ever illuminating beacon of light to the young generation guiding them towards the path of knowledge for more than half a century.

It is the sole government aided college located in the premises of Chirayankeezhu Legislative Assembly. The support and encouragement provided by Chirayinkeezhu M.L.A and the Honorable Deputy Speaker of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Sri. I.V. Sasi in preparing this project was immense. The college management and P.T.A have also joined hands in the journey. This project was also aided by the untiring support and invaluable assistance provided by the teaching and non - teaching faculty, students, alumni, retired faculty and many others.

The boundary of knowledge is changing forever. The revolutionary developments in the fields of science and technology have changed the extent of information and the means to attain it. This knowledge should have depth, it should be delivered in benevolence and compassion, there should be equity, and it requires justice. This is our vision: "A knowledge society with compassion, equity and justice." by all means, higher education should be imparted with excellence and expertise. We offer this Master Plan for these higher purposes.

Thumba,   Dr.(Fr.)V.Y.Dasappan S.J.
13. 06.2018   Principal

VISION

A knowledge society with compassion, equity and justice.

MISSION

We commit ourselves to excellence in higher education, training and building a just society with a preferential option for the marginalized.

OUR CORE VALUES

- *Search for Truth*
- *Excellence (Magis)*
- *Equity*
- *Peace*
- *Eco – Sensitivity*

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Introduction

St. Xavier's college is the sole government aided college located in the premises of Chirayinkeezhu Legislative Assembly. Students from demarcated communities of the coastal regions in Thiruvananthapuram depend on this institution for higher education facilities. In order to provide quality education for marginalized communities from the coastal areas and religious minorities such as Muslims and Christians, and to bring them to the forefronts of the society, St. Xavier's college needs to be promoted as a centre of excellence. Established and maintained by Jesuits missionaries of Kerala province and situated under the Latin Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram, St. Xavier's college functions adhering to the principles of hard work and discipline. This institution, established in 1964, has from its inception, provided to the social and cultural development of the region. By preserving this great heritage, St. Xavier's college has been able to mould generations through excellent collegiate education. The institution is transparent and truthful in administering the admissions of students, teachers and the non - teaching staff.

In the last fifty years, the institution has facilitated in bringing forth many eminent personalities to the forefronts of the society. The extensive list includes former DGPs Jacob Punnoose, Alexander Jacob and Ramesh Chandra Bhanu; former Chief Secretary of Maharastra, P. C. Johny; High Court Judge, Ramachandra Nair; former MLAs M. A. Vahid and Antony Raju, the present Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Adv. V. K. Prasanth; Rural S.P. Ashok Kumar; Most Rev. Bishop Silvester Ponmuthan, the third Bishop of Punalur diocese; former D.P.A Shajahan; cine artist Prem Kumar; legendary poet and songwriter, Sri. Vayalar Sharathchandra Varma; the well known "Kathaprasangham" artist, Vasanthkumar Sambasivan; acclaimed athletes such as Thomas Sebastian,, Harilal; former Indian Volleyball team member C. V. Sunny, Olymbian K.M. Binu, Santhosh Trophy Football team captain Vijesh Ben, team member Ignatious Martin John, Indian team member, Akshay K.C; Kerala Cricket team member, Amal Ramesh and so forth. The visionary statement of the institution is "Asathoma Sathgamaya' taken from *Brehadharanya kopanishathi.*

The institution was able to transform the once barren and bereft land into mesmerizing region of greenery and an abode of knowledge. The green ambience is one of the integral elements that attract people who step into the institution. The institution enthusiastically promotes eco-friendly initiatives through the active functioning of Nature Club, NSS, NCC and other clubs and organizations. Organic vegetable farming is maintained by the students and staff of the Nature club which promotes the awareness and benefits of Organic Farming. The awareness on human rights and judiciary is made known to the students through the activities of human rights club.

The institution is known, not just as a premier college situated in the coastal belt of Thiruvananthapuram, but also for its contributions in the field of sports for more than half a century. The institution is also credited with the presence of a cricket stadium built with International standards and maintained by Kerala Cricket Association. The college also

promotes the interaction between the stakeholders of the institution and society through many outreach activities. One such major activity is the adoption of a financially, culturally, and educationally backward community village situated near the college. Through organizing quality improvement programs, camps and awareness programs for the people in the hamlet, the student - teacher community is able to go beyond their pedagogical boundaries and come face to face with the realities.

Many Career and corporate institutions such as Kinfra, Techno Park, ISRO and Titanium are situated in the proximity of the college. The institution should be able to join hands with these resources in propagating new ideas and providing job opportunities. The stakeholders must be equipped to move in par with the changing world scenarios and the new cultures of higher education. Therefore the institution should be equipped with competitive graduate and post graduate courses in topics of contemporary relevance, and also amenities for research and incubation centres.

Many students, predominantly girls, were able to pursue and complete graduate and post graduate courses because of the opportunities provided by the institution in helping them academically and financially, an accomplishment they wouldn't have been able to achieve otherwise.

It has been the greatest desire of parents, teachers, students and all those who are directly and indirectly associated with the college, to develop St. Xavier's college into a centre of excellence. The direct benefactor of this development would be the students from utterly poor fishing communities, those from background communities in and around Thumba region and the students from Christian – Muslim minority communities. The present scenario necessitates the imparting of quality based higher education to the isolated and marginalized communities.

However, due to statutory limitations and absence of needed approval for new courses, the institution feels helpless to extend its aid for the rest of the students who are not able to get admitted to the institution. Therefore, it is necessary to widen the prospectus of the college through the approval of more graduate and post graduate courses, and thereby opening new opportunities for the children of marginalized and minority communities. It is a part of social responsibility to find a resolution for these needs of the institution and its stakeholders. Therefore, apart from the modernization of existing courses, new disciplines or branches of study should be introduced and the basic structural facilities should be provided at the initial stage.

I.1 Why Smart Saint Xavier's Project

1. Timely Change – Transform the college according to the vast changes happening in the fields of learning, morality and research.

2. Ideation and Industrial Relationships – Create platforms for the generation of ideas, procuring industrial relationships and job acquisition, through quality curricular and co - curricular activities.

3. Bring the Marginalized to the mainstream – Identify, introduce, motivate and accompany the marginalized to pursue higher education options.

4. Revive Regional Quintessence - Impart the features of the regional identity, local knowledge, environmental characteristics, and possibilities of sustainable development into the curriculum of higher education.

5. Maintain International standards and Relationships – Make the college accessible to collaborations with National and International Academic institutions.

6. Guarantee Social Commitment - Ensure provisions for Community Services, Extension Activities, Projects beneficial for the society and Neighborhood Outreach Programs.

7. Centre for Knowledge Expansion – Convert the institution into a Centre for Knowledge Expansion, incorporating progressive ideas such as Regional Expansion, Social Sciences, Social justice and so on.

I.   2. Objectives

1. Skill Development of Students.
2. Facilitate the obtainment of good jobs through qualitative education.
3. Promote social awareness and commitment / Developing social responsibility.
4. Strive for International Standards /Approaching international standards.
5. Utilization of Technology Innovations.
6. Development of expertise in the subjects.
7. Value oriented education
8. Ensuring social justice to marginalized communities through education.

I. 3. Stakeholders

1. SC / ST students
2. Financially Backward Communities
3. Muslim - Christian minority communities
4. Economically and culturally marginalized communities
5. The coastal communities situated around the institution.

II. Plan of Action

II. 1. Developing the basic facilities of the existing courses.

There are eight departments in the institution.

1. Department of Commerce (Graduate and Postgraduate degree)
2. Department of Physics (Graduate and Postgraduate degree)
3. Department of Botany and Biotechnology. (Graduate degree)
4. Department of Malayalam and Mass Communication (Graduate degree)
5. Department of History (Graduate degree)
6. Department of Economics (Graduate degree)
7. Department of Chemistry (Graduate degree)
8. Department of Mathematics (Graduate degree)

Apart from these mainstream departments, there are Language departments for English, Hindi and Latin. English is taught as the Language course and Hindi and Latin are the Additional languages offered by the institution. The Department of Physical Education focuses in developing sports education.

1. **Department of Commerce (Graduate and Postgraduate degree)**
    1. Multimedia classrooms
    2. Department Library and Reading Room
    3. Computer room with Internet, Wi-Fi facilities
    4. Adequate tables, chairs, shelves, white writing board and so on.
    5. on-line and print research journals
    6. Mobile Application for uploading on-line attendance.
    7. Adequate computers and laptops.

2. **Department of Physics (Graduate and Postgraduate degree)**
    1. Multimedia classrooms
    2. Department Library and Reading Room
    3. Computer lab for PG students
    4. Computers with 32 GB RAM capacities for M. Sc Project works.
    5. Lab with modernized facilities
    6. On-line and Print research journals

3. **Department of Botany and Biotechnology (Graduate degree)**
    1. Multimedia classrooms
    2. Lab with modernized facilities
    3. Department Library and Reading Room
    4. on-line and Print research journals

4. **Department of Malayalam and Mass Communication (Graduate degree)**
    1. Multimedia classrooms
    2. Department Library and Reading Room
    3. Media Lab
    4. Language Lab
    5. Adequate computers and Laptops
    6. Radio (facilities for F.M., A.M. stations)
    7. Television
    8. Provisions for on-line and print newspapers, research journals and magazines.
    9. Self Publication section

5. **Department of History (Graduate degree)**
    1. Multimedia classrooms
    2. Department Library and Reading Room
    3. Computer, Laptop, Printer
    4. Systems for e - books and e - journals.
    5. Staff room, Shelves for keeping documents, table, and chairs and so on.

6. Provisions for Self Publications
7. Sub category in the Department for learning and researching on Oral History and the Life and History of Coastal communities

6. Department of Economics (Graduate degree)
1. Multimedia classrooms
2. Department Library and Reading Room
3. Computer, Laptop, Wi-Fi, and Printer
4. Staff Room
5. Adequate shelves for keeping documents.
6. Table, Chair, White Board, Notice Board and so on.
7. on-line and Print research journals

7. Department of Chemistry (Graduate degree)
1. Multimedia classrooms
2. Department Library and Reading Room
3. Lab with high quality and advanced equipments
4. Computer, Internet, Printer, Photocopy Machine
5. Staff room with essential facilities
6. Generator facility
7. Specimen Storeroom
8. Fridge

8. Department of Mathematics (Graduate degree)
1. Multimedia classrooms
2. Department Library and Reading Room
3. Provisions for Print and on-line Journals
4. Computer, Internet, Printer, Photocopy Machine
5. Staff room with essential facilities
6. Table, Chair, White Board, Notice Board and so on.

9. The Renovation and Modernization of the Department of Physical Education
Upgradation of sports ground (indoor and outdoor), fitness equipments for gymnasium and facilities for physical training.

10. Renovation of the existing college Library
1. Binding of old books
2. Computer with 16 GB RAM capacity
3. 20 computers, 2 printers, 1 scanner.
4. Provisions for e-journals and e-book under the system of N-LIST
5. Basic resources and facilities for the preparation of competitive and qualitative exams such as NET, JRF, SET, GATE, Civil Service and so on.
6. Four shelves for office purposes.

7. Five book shelves.

11. The reconstruction of Administrative section
1. Improve and increase office space.
2. Computers for each staff.
3. Double space type writer.
4. Cupboards for each staff.

II. 2. Required Post Graduate Courses for the Existent Departments and its necessary facilities.

1. Commerce
1. Research Centre
2. Research Room
3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
4. Research books and journals.

2. Physics
1. Research Centre
2. Research Room
3. Material Science Research Lab
4. Space Physics and Electronics Research Lab
5. Multimedia Seminar Hall
6. Research books and journals.

3. Botany and Biotechnology
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia Class Rooms

Facilities for starting Research Centre
1. Research Centre
2. Research Room
3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
4. A Research Lab with modern facilities.
5. Research books and journals.

4. Malayalam and Mass Communication
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia Class Rooms
3. The amenities to familiarize with various Malayalam writers from all over the world and their works.

Facilities for starting Research Centre
1. Research Centre
2. Research Room

3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
4. Research books and journals.

5. History
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia Classrooms
3. Books that can be used for Post-Graduate Studies
   ### Facilities for starting Research Centre
   1. Research Centre
   2. Research Room
   3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
   4. Research books and journals.

6. Economics
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia Classrooms
3. Books that can be used for Post-Graduate Studies
   ### Facilities for starting Research Centre
   1. Research Centre
   2. Research Room
   3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
   4. Research books and journals.

7. Chemistry
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia classrooms
3. P.G. Multimedia Seminar Hall
   ### Facilities for starting Research Centre
   1. Research Centre
   2. Two Research rooms
   3. Research lab and modern Equipments
   4. Multimedia Seminar Hall
   5. Research books and journals.

8. Mathematics
1. P.G. Course
2. Two Multimedia Classrooms
   ### Facilities for starting Research Centre
   1. Research Centre
   2. Two Research Rooms

3. Multimedia Seminar Hall
4. Research books and journals.

The Modernization of Physical Department
1. Upgrade existing ground with 8 line Synthetic Track.
2. Vehicle parking facilities near the new auditorium that is being built.
3. The provisions for indoor sports like shuttle, volleyball, basket ball, netball and so on inside the new auditorium.
4. Facilities for V.I.P pavilion while constructing the new auditorium at the adjacent area of the cricket stadium.

II. 3. Introduction and development of new courses and its basic necessities

1. English   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
2. Marine Biology   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
3. Oceanography   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
4. Sustainable Science   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
5. Indigenous Studies   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
6. Latin   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)
7. Travel and Tourism   (Graduate/ Post - Graduate course)

In addition, some specialized learning centers are also needed in the campus.
1. Centre for Progressive Studies.(Centre of Progressive Education)
2. Centre for Collaboration
3. Incubation Centre

● **Central Library**
Central library system with fully digital system.

The basic necessities needed to develop the institution into a centre of excellence are categorized into two sections and mentioned below.

1. **Academic Infrastructure**
    1) Multimedia classrooms
    2) Department library and reading room
    3) Central Library functioning with the help of Information Technology.
    4) E - book, E - Journal, Wi-Fi facilities.
    5) Facilities to obtain high impact International Journals.
    6) Amenities to arrange video conferences for students with eminent academicians.

7) Language / Multimedia Lab functioning via modern technology.
8) Computer lab with Internet facilities.
9) Regularly updated college website.
10) Necessary facilities for Career Guidance cell.
11) Research oriented Journal Publication System.
12) Smart Identity Card.
13) FM Radio facilities connecting the college and its premises.
14) The on-line application for marking student attendance through smart phone.
15) A department coordinating the extension activities and social service clubs.
16) Community college facility to give awareness to the surrounding villages in various fields.
17) Residential Programs.
18) Collaborations with Foreign Universities.
19) The facilities for obtaining academic and financial support for the college by frequently associating with higher education centres.

2. Physical Infrastructure
1. P.G. Science Block (including Marine Studies)
2. P.G. Arts Block (Including Business and Management Studies)
3. Administrative and Examination Block (The necessary facilities for conducting Internal - External examinations)
4. Hostel Facilities for boys
5. Staff Quarters.
6. Amenity Centres for girls.
7. Excellent Canteen facility / Public Amenity Centre.
8. Auditorium with Multimedia facilities to conduct seminars, discussions, debates and workshops. (Fr. Aikara Memorial Golden Jubilee Monument.
9. Innovative Counseling centre to channel the students according to their talents.
10. Facilities for updating teachers and students in modern technologies.
11. Basic facilities for the smooth functioning of PTA and Alumni.
12. Open school facility for all departments.
13. Facilitation of the Continuing Education Scheme for different age groups.
14. Enable drinking water facility for students.
15. Provide Primary Health care facility inside the campus.
16. Upgradation and modernization of the Physical Education Department.

17. Facilities for Geriatric care.

III. Plan and Estimate

The estimate and plan based on the above outline has been prepared with the assistance of an architect. The plan has been as Annexure I. The project has three phases, and the estimate of the first phase has been given in Annexure II.

The Amount required to develop the basic facilities of the existing courses. (Table of contents II. 1)	3,00,35,050/-

IV. Financial Sources and the Means of Achieving the Goals

The approximate estimate of funds required for the immaterialities of the project has been mentioned above. The overall development of this institution is indeed a development of this society itself. Locating a source for the estimated amount is not practical as far as the Jesuit charitable society is concerned. Hence, this project which is meant for the welfare of society undoubtedly requires the support of the government and the public.

The Main financial sources for implementing this project have been listed below:
- Alumni
- Retired Faculty
- P.T.A
- College Management
- Philanthropists
- M.L.A Fund
- M.P. Fund
- Local Self Government
- Government Aids.
- Utilizing the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Financial support for implementing the project has been envisioned to be provided by the management too. The management will surely finance the excess amount required after the contribution from other sources. The management is undoubtedly sworn to make the college a centre of excellence in every sense.

Conclusion

The Smart St. Xavier's project is to be implemented in three stages:
1. Develop the basic facilities of existing courses.
2. Start new courses related to existing ones and prepare basic facilities for these.
3. Prepare for and start entirely different and new courses.

Implementing these three stages naturally involves the presence of related facilities. Construction process for this will be eco - friendly. From its initial stage this institution has worked with society and has intellectually awakened a marginalized group of people. This change has become very essential for this institution as society, culture and technology rapidly. This project initiates an attempt towards this venture for change.

St. Xavier's college: Outline/ Sketch

Over the years, the coastal hamlets of Thiruvananthapuram such as Thumba and its neighbouring villages have been able to develop from its culturally and financially poor background to communities that have made known their presence in all arena of the society. St. Xavier's college has played a leading role in facilitating this progressive growth. The higher education institution was established in 1964 by the Society of Jesus, well known as Jesuits.

The college began functioning as a pre-degree institute inside the campus of Loyola College of Social Sciences, Sreekaryam. Gradually, when need arose to find another location for the college, Rev. Fr. P. C. Antony S. J. sought the help of his classmate, the then Kerala Governor, Sri. V. V. Giri, to procure suitable land in the coastal village of Thumba. The Kerala Provincial of Jesuits obtained finances from about 26 people and with the assistance of the government, was able to pay, from Rs. 30 to Rs. 150 per Cent, and procure the land to build the institution. The technical support for facilitating the land dealings were received from the then Tahsildar and a native of Puthenthope, Sri. Pathros Pereira. St. Xavier's college was established in Thumba by the Jesuit missionaries, who observed that an institution of such a constitution will be able to promote the comprehensive progress of the socially and educationally backward fishing communities of Thumba. The college can never forget the blessings and paternal care of the Second Bishop & First Indian Bishop of Thiruvananthapuram, Most Rev. Fr. Peter Bernard Pereira, who had constantly encouraged the Jesuit congregation in the development of the institution. This sacred relationship continues to this day through his successors.

For over half a century, the institution has led thousands of students from the coastal and backward communities to the path of knowledge. It is gratifying to observe that St. Xavier's college has succeeded, and still continues to mould and bring forth young generation, who are intellectually equipped, and firmly rooted in moral values and social commitment.

Initially begun as a Junior College, St. Xavier's college was later promoted as a degree college in 1977. With the approval of Post Graduate courses in 2005, the college has been able to encourage research and further studies in the respective disciplines. The

institution, at present, has eight departments offering mainstream graduate degree courses and two post graduate courses (Physics and Commerce) and numerous certificate courses. About 1200 students get admitted to the college every year.

St. Xavier's college has been able to open up new opportunities to the coastal community, whose livelihood otherwise, depended on fishing. The first batch of the college contained only one student from the fishing community. 1960s were witnessed with poor literacy and academic qualifications among them. The initial batches of St. Xavier's college constituted mostly of pupils from the centre of Travancore (middle Travancore). To develop awareness among the people in the region, the Jesuit missionaries organized value educations camps and tuition programs to about thirteen neighbouring schools. Through this, they were able to convey the importance of education to the children from the coastal communities. These devoted commitment and interaction gradually led to the increase in the enrollment of students from the fishing communities for higher education. Gradually the institution was able to procure 20% of seats as community quota for the students from the Latin Catholic community. Thus, Jesuits were able to fulfill its motto of "being one with the poor." No other institution in Kerala offers such provisions and prominence for students from backward communities.

The alumni of the institution are proudly credited with many eminent personalities who are involved in the political, social, cultural and administrative fields of Kerala. Former DGPs Jacob Punnoose, Alexander Jacob and Ramesh Chandra Bhanu; former Chief Secretary of Maharastra, P. C. Johny; High Court Judge, Ramachandra Nair; former MLAs M. A. Vahid and Antony Raju, the present Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram, Adv. V. K. Prasanth; Rural S.P. Ashok Kumar; Most Rev. Bishop Silvester Ponmuthan, the third Bishop of Punalur diocese; former D.P.A Shajahan; cine artist Prem Kumar; legendary poet and songwriter Sri. Vayalar Sharathchandra Varma; the well known "Kathaprasangham" artist, Vasanthkumar Sambasivan are some of the famous personalities who spent part of their education in the college. The extensive list also includes acclaimed athletes such as Thomas Sebastian, Harilal; former Indian Volleyball team member C. V. Sunny, Olymbian K.M. Binu, Santhosh Trophy Football team captain Vijesh Ben, team member Ignatious Martin John, Indian team member, Akshay K.C; Kerala Cricket team member, Amal Ramesh and so forth. The existence of a cricket stadium well maintained by Kerala Cricket Association proves the kind of importance given by the institution for sports related activities.

As an institution whose heritage has been providing valuable contributions to the society for over 50 years, St. Xavier's college needs to be transformed into a centre of excellence for the successful accomplishments of academic endeavors in the future. Development according to timely changes is necessary for providing just opportunities for its stakeholders.