

Assessment Period 2015-2020



HENRY BAKER COLLEGE, MELUKAVU

A Christian Minority Educational Institution run by CSI East Kerala Diocese



Criterion VII: Institutional Values and Best Practices

7.1.8 Describe the Institutional efforts/initiatives in providing an inclusive environment i.e., tolerance and harmony towards cultural, regional, linguistic, communal socio-economic and other diversities

Submitted to



THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL

Inclusive Environment

Henry Baker College has adopted a policy of inclusiveness accepting students from all communities.

Without privileging any religion, caste or class, the institution functions on the basis on perfect equality and an abiding tolerance in everyday activities, whether academic, administrative or co-curricular. Since the students and staff come from backdrops which are varied the institution tries to provide an inclusive environment to assure harmony and tolerance. The students and staff belong to diverse cultural, socio-economic, and regional backgrounds. Therefore, the college regards it imperative to cultivate a sense of togetherness by focusing on the values of harmony and tolerance.

Communal, religious, caste-based and class-driven differences are immaterial in the campus.

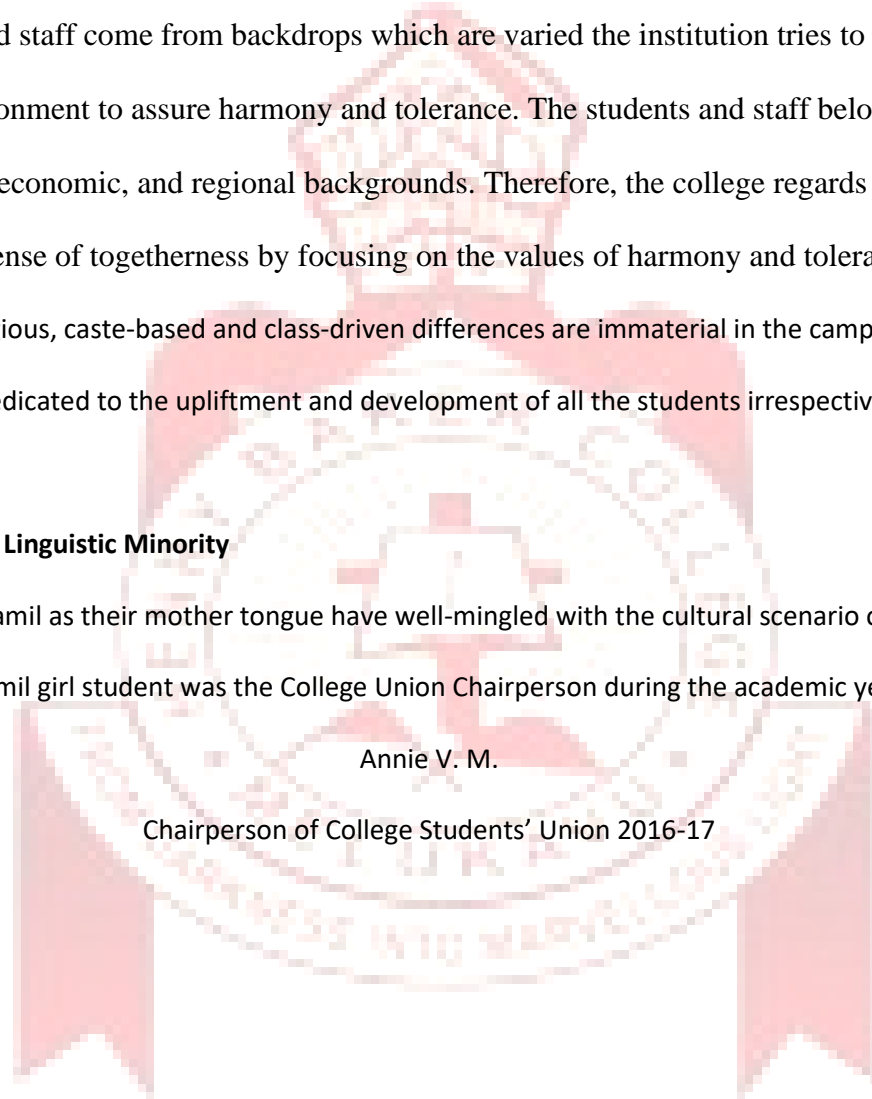
The college is dedicated to the upliftment and development of all the students irrespective of gender.

Inclusiveness of Linguistic Minority

Students with Tamil as their mother tongue have well-mingled with the cultural scenario of the institution. A Tamil girl student was the College Union Chairperson during the academic year 2016-17

Annie V. M.

Chairperson of College Students' Union 2016-17





Inclusiveness of Sexual Minorities and Transgenders

10-11-2017

Transgender Activist Seethal Shyam Inaugurates the College Union



10-11-2017

Interaction with Transgenders

The college Students' Union organised an interaction with Transgender Activists at 12. 30 p. m. on 10 November 2017. In an informal session students and teachers had a free conversation with Seethal Shyam, Vishnu Avanthika and Laya Jaison. This programme was an eye opener for many of us and inspired us to view the transgenders as normal citizens of the society. The intimacy with which these

activists communicated with the students lifted the barriers to make them freely mingle with them after the session, chatting and taking selfies.

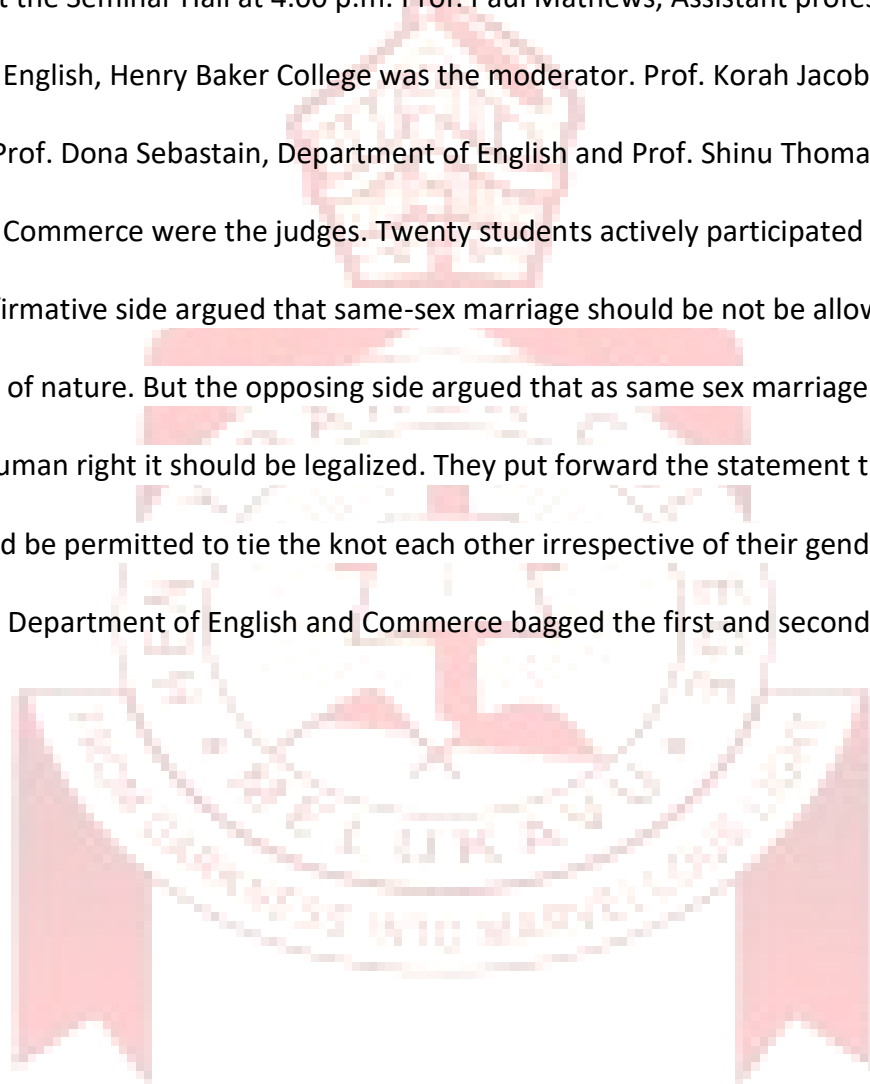




Debate Club- Debate on the topic 'Should Same-Sex Marriage be Allowed'

12-1-2016

A debate on the topic "Same-Sex Marriage Should Not be Allowed" was held on 12 January 2016 at the Seminar Hall at 4.00 p.m. Prof. Paul Mathews, Assistant professor, Department of English, Henry Baker College was the moderator. Prof. Korah Jacob, Department of Economics, Prof. Dona Sebastain, Department of English and Prof. Shinu Thomas, Department of Commerce were the judges. Twenty students actively participated in the debate. The affirmative side argued that same-sex marriage should be not be allowed as it is against the law of nature. But the opposing side argued that as same sex marriage is a fundamental human right it should be legalized. They put forward the statement that the populace should be permitted to tie the knot each other irrespective of their genders. The students of the Department of English and Commerce bagged the first and second prizes.





Integrating the Campus community through Festivities

Onam Celebrations

Onam is the chief festival of Kerala and the herald of the New Year. It is the harvest festival as well as a commemoration of the legendary period of lore while King Mahabali ruled over when equality and well-being prevailed, cancelling out all kinds of disparities. The festival usually falls in during the months of August-September coinciding with the first month of the Malayalam calendar, Chingam. Traditional belief and folklore say that Mahabali visits his erstwhile kingdom during this time and hence it is a time which displays oneness and merriment, expressed through collective festivities which rule out all individual differences. Nearly all such activities like the traditional Athapookkalam [Floral patterns that indicate welcome and lushness], Vallam Kali [boat races] dance forms like Thiruvathira, and contests like Tug of War.

This national festival is annually celebrated in the college with much verve and enthusiasm. In addition to Aathapookkalam, Tug of War and Thituvathira the

celebrations in the college also include uriyadi, musical chair, and vanchipattu [group song associated with the traditional boat race] etc. Teachers and students also partake of the Onasadya [traditional banquet]. Thus, this celebration creates a feeling of oneness and unity among all.







Keralapiravi

Keralapiravi is celebrated on the first of November every year to mark the birth of the State of Kerala in 1956, integrating the three princely states of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. The formation of the state of Kerala was part of the reorganization of Indian states on the basis of language. So, Keralapiravi marks the historic occasion of the birth of the state which is celebrated in a festive mood bringing in the message of unity and togetherness.



Christmas

The college celebrates Christmas in a spirit of perfect harmony. All the students and staff participate in the festive occasion of Christmas irrespective of religion and caste. Usually, the celebration in the college falls on the last working day before the college closes for Christmas holidays. Together, we cut cakes and the students and teaches of each class draw a secret lot to select their Christmas friend and then exchange gifts. there will also be cultural events and competitions like X'mas carol and X'mas tree, and X'mas Papa contests. It is a time when the campus

community give expression to their feeling of togetherness and the value of harmony that essentially make us a microcosm of the tolerant humanity at large.





The Arts Festival

The College Arts Festival is conducted every year under the leadership of the College Union and Arts Club. It is a colourful occasion when the students make a display of their varied talents through music, drama, mime, dance, etc. Writing competitions, elocution, recitation etc. are also part of the Arts Festival. Many of these programmes have as their themes that suggest ideas of national integration, communal harmony, social inclusiveness etc. The College Union and Arts club of the college are guided by the Staff Advisor of the college programmes.

During the college Arts Day celebrations, the institution also provides students from various backdrops an opportunity to display and share their cultural heritage through diverse art forms. Competitions are conducted for numerous art forms traditionally performed by members of various cultures and communities. Art forms like *Oppana*, *Duffmuttu* and *Kolkali* are associated with the Islamic culture and lore. Likewise, dance forms including *Thiruvathira*, *Bharatnatyam*, and *Kuchipudi* are associated with Hindu tradition and temple festivals. *Margamkali* is an art form customarily performed by Syrian Christians. But in the Arts Festival the cultural associations of these art forms and their links to particular religious

communities vanish as students from all communities participate in them. Thus, the Arts Festival is a time when students from diverse cultures interact and familiarize with diverse cultures, forming natural links with traditions alien to them and absorb values of tolerance and harmony.

