



STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI - INDIA

STELLA MARIS
International Centre for Multidisciplinary Research

SMICMR : Holy Blessing



With Fr. Kurien Thomas

PREFACE

The College is an autonomous institution and is affiliated to the University of Madras. It is run by the Society of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, a religious congregation founded by Blessed Mary of the Passion (Helene de Chappotin) in Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu in 1877. Guided by her charisma, the initiatives of the college arise from a sound philosophy of life based on faith in God and the contemporary reality of a pluralistic Indian society that is challenged by global ideologies and cultures.

The college is committed to serving the economically and socially marginalized sections of society and provides university education in a Christian atmosphere for women students, especially those belonging to the Catholic community. Admission is open to all, irrespective of caste and creed, and their rights of conscience are respected. The College motto, "Truth and Charity", has been the foundational philosophy of the quest for a value-based education. In keeping with its mission, the College promotes inclusive practices in the implementation of its academic programmes, taking into account learning differences and the special needs of the differently-abled.

The College is at the forefront of higher education in India by virtue of its commitment to academic excellence through periodic revision and updating of its curriculum based on stakeholder feedback. The curriculum promotes national development, fosters global competencies and facilitates skills training to meet the challenges of a competitive workplace. It offers students flexibility and a wide range of programmes which includes both traditional Arts and Science courses and more contemporary ones, in emerging areas such as International Studies, Information Technology, Bioinformatics and Biotechnology. The infrastructure and facilities on campus have supported these efficient and effective academic transactions and placed the College on par with some of the best institutions of higher education in the country.

Running parallel with the nation's trajectory towards selfhood and development, Stella Maris College has evolved into an Institution of repute, serving national, regional and local needs. The vision of the College is to build on these achievements and work towards a new world order in which equity, access and justice for all will be a reality.

VISION

The VISION of the college is to build a vibrant and inclusive learning community in a culture of excellence sustained by a sound value system that promotes responsible citizenship and effects social change.

MISSION

The MISSION of the college is to empower young women to face the challenges of life with courage and commitment, to be builders of a humane and a just society, and to promote a learning community in which all, especially those from less-privileged backgrounds, feel part of the collaborative high quality educational process which is value based and leads to holistic growth.

FOREWORD

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



The setting up of this Centre has been a long-standing dream of the College. The idea of a designated space, with infrastructure and resources that would cater to the research aspirations of the academic community was a much needed facility at Stella Maris College.

In today's transnational world, research and innovation have become key academic goals. In order to keep pace with a rapidly changing scenario in the education sector at local, national and international levels, institutions of higher education need to review reflect and act in the interests of scholars, academics and the student community. Our students and faculty members should not lose the edge they have over other comparable institutions because we were slow in responding to change. This Centre is a sign of our continued commitment to excellence and to building a community of intellectuals who will contribute to social development through the creation of new knowledge and acquisition of new skills. We hope to secure a strong and sustained culture of research collaboration, partnerships and networks across the globe while ensuring that local and national needs are met.

Today, with this fulfillment of a dream, I hope Stella Maris College, will, in due course of time join the ranks of educational institutions that are renowned for their outstanding contribution to the formation and dissemination of new ideas, knowledge, philosophies and discoveries.

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm
Principal, Stella Maris College

STELLA MARIS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

INITIATIVES AND AIMS

The advancement of knowledge for many years has taken a path of increasing specialization. We have approached understanding of our world by deconstructing into smaller and smaller fragments creating disciplines and sub-disciplines in order to be able to enquire and examine about nature, humans and society through research. In our increasingly globalized world today's knowledge landscape has altered dramatically and there is a powerful need and drive to understand a world characterized by multiple diversity through a multidisciplinary research.

Stella Maris College has long strived for excellence and innovation in research. In continuing to pursue these academic goals the Stella Maris International Centre for Multidisciplinary research was instituted with the purpose of addressing the global initiative of internationalization of research. While ensuring research output of an international standard we intend to creatively seek new methodologies in making our discoveries across multiple disciplines.

Currently the College facilitates the core research departments of Mathematics, English, Social Work, Economics and Fine Arts and plans are on the anvil for obtaining research recognition for all the departments. We also have a vibrant, rapidly expanding postgraduate student research culture which is now being fully integrated into the college's research environment.

The following pages outline our key research projects undertaken since 2008 to the present. Key research areas are highlighted with the approaches adapted by the faculty/research scholars while acknowledging the funding support agencies. The International Centre is supported by the core research team which is dedicated to scholarship, research supervision and publication. Many of the departments adopt the interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship enquiry encouraging collaborative research enterprises and creative integration of multiple perspectives, languages and frameworks.

Building on our areas of existing strengths we aim to build sustained partnerships, networks and research collaborations bringing together a critical mass of expertise from across the world. Our strategic research initiatives aim to address large scale multidisciplinary research challenges to influence global connections, teaching standards, research policies and keep our goals open to further scope and extension of research.

*We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time*

T.S. ELIOT

Dr. Renuka Rajaratnam
Dean, Research
Stella Maris College

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Since 2008, policies and assessment in Research have been revised and evaluated to ensure quality of research production. In an attempt to encourage and promote a teaching-learning process both faculty and students are encouraged to participate in research related events such as interactive sessions, workshops, seminars, conferences, training programs. Faculty research development is one of the top priorities of Stella Maris College and one of the steps taken to ensure this prime development is by encouraging them to apply for research grants and incentives are provided in the form of TA/registration fee and Leave on Duty facilities.

KEY AREAS OF RESEARCH

Economics	Human Resources, Gender, Environment Economics, Microfinance, Development Economics
Fine Arts	Art History, Design History and Culture, Drawing, Painting, Textile Design, Graphic Design
English	Postcolonial Studies, Contemporary Critical Theories, Gender Studies, Theatre, Translation Studies, Women's Writing, English Language Teaching
Commerce	Marketing, Management, Finance
Physics	Biophysics, Nanomaterials
Chemistry	Nanomaterials, Polymers, Food and Water Analysis, Chemical Kinetics, Solid State Chemistry
Botany	Medicinal Plants, Microbial Ecology, Microbiology, Plant Anatomy, Chemotaxonomy
Zoology	Animal Behaviour, Vermitechnology, Entomology
Social Work	Community Development, Medical and Psychiatric Social Work, Child Rights and Social Work Practice with Families
Computer Science	Designing, Software Testing
Bioinformatics	Drug Designing and Data Mining, Clinical Research Management, Biochemistry, Structural Studies
Biotechnology	Microbial Biotechnology
International Studies	International Political Economy, Global Environmental Policy
Public Relations	Mass Communication

Faculty involved in research

Faculty Guiding Doctoral Students

Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm, Principal & Head, Dept. of Mathematics	-	5
Dr. Felbin C. Kennedy, Dept. of Mathematics	-	1
Dr. Crystal David John, Dept. of Economics	-	1
Dr. Razia Tony, Dept. of Fine Arts	-	3
Dr. Thilagavathy Joseph, Dept. of English	-	3
Dr. V. Padma, Dept. of English	-	5
Dr. Padma Alistair	-	1

M. Phil programmes

Faculty of the following departments are actively involved in guiding M.Phil, dissertations: Mathematics, Fine Arts, English, Economics and Social Work. Dr. Priscilla Jebakumari, (Dept. of Botany) has guided two M.Phil students each from other universities.

Research capacity of Ph.D. - includes 73 doctoral faculty, 28 faculty are pursuing research- out of them 8 have already submitted their thesis, 17 student researchers in all are pursuing PhD.

M.Phil capacity holds 70 faculty members and 23 student researchers in all.

Postgraduate programmes - Faculty members of all PG departments are engaged in guiding students in the postgraduate dissertations/projects.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Sl. No	Name of the Principal Investigator & Co-investigators	Title of the project	Funding Agency	Duration of the project	Sanctioned Amount (In ₹)
1.	Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras fmm, Principal, Dept of Mathematic	Dilation and Wire length Problems in Interconnection Networks	UGC-Major Research Project	3 years 2011-14	5,92,800
2.	Dr. Sandra Joseph, Dept. of Social Work	An action research study on creating sustainable livelihoods for rural women in Tirupassur Panchayat, Thiruvallur dist. Tamil Nadu	UGC-Major Research Project	2 years 2011-13	6,26,200 enhanced to 7,06,600 in April 2013
3.	Dr. N.L.Mary and Dr. Revathy Rajagopal Dept. of Chemistry	Synthesis, Characterisation and application of Novel polymer metal nano composites in opto electronics	UGC-Major Research Project	3 years 2013-16	9,78,800
4.	Dr. Mary George Ms. Avila Josephine & Ms. Mary Teresita. Dept. of Chemistry	Synthesis and humidity sensing properties of nanocomposites of mixed metal oxides	UGC Minor Research Project	18 months 2013 -14	1,70,000
5.	Dr. Rajini, Department of Physics	Theoretical Studies on P-Waves Super Conductivity in Two Coupled Chains of Spineless Fermions	UGC Minor Research Project	18 months 2013-14	1,70,000
6.	Dr. Agnes Rozario, Ms. Shanthi S. and Ms. S. Vidya, Department of Commerce	A Study on Distribution Network adopted by Women Entrepreneurs of the Unorganized Sector in Chennai and Neighboring Districts	UGC Minor Research Project	18 months 2013-14	70,000
7	Ms. A. Rashida Banu, Ms. Zonita Mason Ms. Shanthi Selvanayagam, Department of Commerce	A Comparative Study of Work-Life Balance of Female Nurses in Government and Private Hospitals in Chennai, Tamil Nadu	UGC Minor Research Project	18 months 2013-14	90,000
8	Dr. Padma V. Mckertich and Ms. V. Shilpa, Department of English	Reclaiming Green Presences: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the subjectivity of Plants in Literatures and Botanical Sciences	UGC Minor Research Project	18 months 2013-14	80,000
9	Dr. Mary George, Ms. Avila Josephine Dept. of Chemistry	Synthesis and humidity sensing properties of nanocomposites of lanthanum mixed metal oxides	UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific research	3 years 2011-12 onwards	35,000 for contingency and chemicals per year
10	Department of Mathematics	Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions , FIST, DST, Govt. of India	DST- FIST	2007 till date	22,50,000

Sl. No	Name of the Principal Investigator & Co-investigators	Title of the project	Funding Agency	Duration of the project	Sanctioned Amount (In ₹)
11	Dr. Juliana Joe Dept. of Zoology	STAR College Scheme	DBT	2009 till date	36,00,000 extended for 3 more years in 2012 7,80,000 in 2012-13
12	Dr. GeethaSwaminathan and Dr. Mary George Dept. of Chemistry	Role of Chemistry in Food Safety	DST sponsored project- Training programs	2012-13	3,35,000
13	Dr. Sandra Joseph Dept. of Social work	Assisi Aid Project Inc. Australia	ACDA	2012-13	5,00,000
14	College Archives project	Preservation of Manuscripts of Rare Books	National Archives of India	2012-13	1,59,000 + 53,000 (SMC)
15	College Project	Interfaith Education and Peace Building: Towards a United World	UBCHEA	2012-13	2,38,932
16	College Project – IFCU	Studies on Policies and Practices in the field of Drug Use/Abuse	IFCU, France	Will be completed 2013	5,48,276
17	Ms. K. Latha, Dr. Padma V Mckertich, Ms. Tanya Lawrence Department of English	Translation and Publication of Four Tamil Plays	UBCHEA	2008-13	2,02,823
18	Social Work	Building Sustainable communities – four research projects – DeLPHE Liverpool Hope University, UK	DFID, through British Council	Since 2008	Travel grant

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS

The College honours faculty members who have successfully completed their doctoral programme during staff meetings, and a special mention, is made of them on College Day and at Governing Body Meetings.

- Dr. V. Padma, Dept of English, received the Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Award given by the Rockefeller Foundation, (March 09 to April 09), Bellagio, Italy
- Dr. UlaganayakiPalani, Department of Tamil, received the Veeramamunivar Award for the Best Research Paper by the VeermamunivarThamizhChangam, Vellore, Nov. 2011.
- Dr. SwapnaSathish, faculty, Department of Fine Arts received a research grant from Charles Wallace India Trust to undertake postdoctoral research in the United Kingdom to study art and artefacts from the homes of British Nabobs with a Madras connection, in September 2011.

SMICMR CORE TEAM:

The Research Cell was instituted in the year 2011 with a purpose of addressing research activities and research publications aiming to pursue standards of research excellence. The college has acquired ten ISBN numbers and has proposed to launch research publications across the departments. Currently a Resource Centre has been opened with a view to provide research reference space and is closely aligned with the SMICMR for research technological support and video/CD referencing as well. The Resource Centre will also have facilities of digital library and E-IBRARY. The Research cell group now assumes a revised title as the SMICMR Core Team and represents the college research capacity comprising of faculty and research coordinators across academic disciplines. It is ably supported by the Vice Principals' office and is patronized by the Principal, Dr. Sr. Jasintha Quadras. The team is dedicated to scholarship, research guidance and publications and proposes to work towards the research recognition of all the departments and enter into research collaborations at the national and international levels.

CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The broad areas of consultancy are:

- Functioning of Autonomy and CBCS
- Accreditation and Assessment
- Entrepreneurship Development
- Subject Expertise

College encourages faculty to share their expertise with various institutions and the industry as guest speakers, trainers, examiners and other specified and honorary roles. Consultancy has been a successful venture and our skilled staff has offered consultancy services at the regional and the national level to prestigious institutions in the country

The activities of consultancy provide exposure to professional practice conducted in other institutions, enriches knowledge sharing and dissemination. Such consultancy practices provide healthy interaction which promotes innovation and creative stimulation.

Extension activities and ISR-Institutional Social Responsibility are given prime importance to instill values of social responsibility and raise concerns regarding the need for social intervention and transformation. All the departments are involved actively in conceptualizing and implementing projects which create social impact and effect social change through awareness, teaching and creativity. Centre for Women Studies which is sponsored by the UGC has taken many initiatives in women's development programmes mainly in the direction of education, research and intervention on gender issues. Other vital extension projects include Sangamam and the Entrepreneurship Development Cell.

Information Source: Stella Maris College Self-Study Report 2008-2013

AT THE SMICMR- A HUB OF RESEARCH ACTIVITY



Research Training / Capacity Building



Prof. Prakash Sai, IIT



Faculty of IS / Commerce Departments

INAUGURAL OF THE SMICMR



Dr. Sultan Ismail



Dr. Suniti Solomon

Future directions

The Stella Maris international Centre for Multidisciplinary Research was inaugurated on 5th December, 2013 and is currently in a position to not only shoulder the ongoing research activity in the college but move on with ambitious plans for our future. Building on our existing research capacity we are open to innovative proposals, consolidation and expansion of any emergent areas of multidisciplinary enterprise.

We have initiated training sessions for all researchers including supervisors to address standards of performance and create evaluative policies in assessments. We intend to take this forward by interacting with expert research panels and provide forums for debate, dialogue and discussion.

We are equally concerned about the research development of the faculty members and intend to provide opportunities for their research fellowships and other incentives to help them publish, conduct/ participate in research exchange programmes and enter into sustainable research collaborations at both national and international levels.

New directions of SMICMR lie in:

- Advocating research development of international standards for researchers.
- Promoting research based teaching and providing scholarships which link research with professional practice, creative work and dissemination of knowledge which help create a stimulating ambience of knowledge –sharing research culture.
- Expanding the qualitative as well as quantitative strength of postgraduate research scholars.
- Creating research opportunities and research development for early -career staff.
- Increasing external funding and support for research and creative work. Develop a college research funding body in support of instituting a Stella Maris Research Scholarship.
- Introducing post-doctoral programmes encouraging interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary methodologies of research- as a healthy inter-faculty initiative.
- Raising awareness of ethical prevention of plagiarism, protection and ethical use of intellectual property. We are now adhering to the adaption of plagiarism detection software and establishing an ethical committee for Science/technology /Humanities disciplines.
- Developing a research library (the initiative has already commenced) and catering to the infrastructure needs of maintaining e-books/journals and instituting a digital library.
- Exploring the possibility of establishing a research block and even a research park with residential facilities for Research professionals from across the world.
- Finally, in keeping with the Stella Maris values of uplifting and serving the needs of disadvantaged women in particular we intend to give scholarships, special training and monetary support to deserving young women from marginalized communities to take up research studies as an initiative in social development.

The final key to SMICMR lies in increasing its visibility and influence by forging strong and productive collaborations with the regional, national and international research institutions, relevant funding bodies and with the regional /national media who support research education as an agent of social development.



Research Study Group, Kanchipuram
TATA Institute of Social Sciences, SMC Social Sciences and Economics Departments

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- College Management
- Vice Principals
- SMICMR Research Team
- Ms Manasi Ravindranath
- All at the Systems Department
- Mr.Raghavan, DRV Prints



TRUTH

CHARITY

STELLA MARIS COLLEGE
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