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HENRY BAKER COLLEGE MELUKAVU

Department of
History

2015-16

ACADEMIC
YEAR

FROM DARKNESS INTO MARVELLOUS LIGHT

Henry Baker College, Melukavu Is a Christian, Minority, Co-Educational, Government-aided Arts and Science College Established In 1981, affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.

POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Report of the Departmental Activities 2015-2016

1. *Nattugadhiga*

On behalf of the History association, Department of History organised *Nattugadhiga* on 8th June 2015. On the occasion Kovilmala Raja, Raman Raja Mannan , the one and only tribal king of Kerala came to the college to deliver a talk on **Identity and Culture of Tribal People**. The talk helped the students to get first hand information about the tribal life and people. The meeting was presided over by Melukavu Grama Panchayath president Tessy Thomas. The Programme was inaugurated by Dr. Aneyamma Varghese, Principal of the college. An antique exhibition and a poster exhibition were also arranged on the day. This helped the students to familiarise many antique objects. Students as well as Alumni members attended the programme.



2. Bridge Course

Bridge course for I BA History students were conducted from 15/7/15 to 21/7/15. The course was started with a common programme for entire first year students of the college. Day two onwards department started the programme to bridge the gap between school and college system. Students were given a brief introduction about the programme and syllabus. Programme for interpersonal skill development and career orientation class were also arranged for them. Entry level exams and one to one counselling were conducted. This helped the students to understand their strength and weaknesses, as well as the socio-economic background.

Career Orientation Class



Interpersonal Skill Development Programme



3. Commemoration of Hiroshima Nagasaki day

As part of the commemoration of Hiroshima Nagasaki day, Department of history arranged a college level Caricature Competition on 5th August 2015, at 1.30 pm, with a title, *Towards a Peaceful World*. Ten students participated in the competition. The department

conducted a **Samadahana Sandhesayatra** on 6th August 2015, rallying round the college with lighted candles to spread the message of peace. The procession ended in front of Principal's room. Prof. Renjith Sebastian, Staff Secretary of the college addressed the gathering and offered peace message. Ninety four students attended the programme.

Caricature Competition





4. Department Library

Postgraduate department of History has a department library. It consists of academic books as well as historical fictions. The number of books in the library exceeds two hundred. The purpose of the library is to provide books to slow learners as well as advanced learners. Slow learners are provided with simple fictions and advanced learners with historical fictions and reference books to supplement the curriculum. Books on Positive thinking are also provided for self motivation. Books are provided from the department library for book reviews as part of the reading club activities.

5. Book Review Meetings.

As part of the Reading club, regular book review meetings were conducted. These meetings were to enhance the reading, analytical and critical skills of the students.

First book review meeting of this academic year was held on 12th August 2015 at 1.20 pm. Kum. Sumi Sudhakaran II MA History reviewed the work *Pattabacki* by K. Damodaran. Fifty students attended the meeting.

Second book review meeting of this academic year was held on 8th September 2015 at 1.20 pm. Kum. Amrutha Gopalan II BA History reviewed the work *Kayar* by Thakazhi Sivasankarapilla. Forty five students attended the meeting.

Third book review meeting of this academic year was held on 6th November 2015 at 1.20 pm. Vijayan. P. III BA History reviewed the work *Kocharethi* by Narayanan. Forty students attended the meeting.

Fourth book review meeting of this academic year was held on 16th December 2015 at 1.20 pm. Kum. Nithya Raj III BA History reviewed the work *Randamoozham* by *M.T. Vasudevan Nair*. Sixty students attended the meeting.



6. History Association Inauguration

Inauguration of the History Association was conducted on 10th September 2015 at 2 .00 pm in the college auditorium. Dr. James John, HOD and Vice-principal of St.Thomas College, Palai, inaugurated the programme and delivered a talk on *Portuguese Maritime Activities in*

Malabar. The lecture was insightful, as it unravelled the maritime activities of the Portuguese and the impact thereafter in Kerala Society. It also revealed how the Portuguese presence in the Kerala coast determined the destiny of land. The main attraction of the day was the performance of *Thamper*, traditional percussion of Melukavu. This provided the students an opportunity to see the extinguishing art form for the first time.



7. Net Orientation

One day NET Orientation programme was arranged for PG Students on October 17, 2015. The resource person of the programme was Smt. Muhsina Nooh, JRF holder and Research scholar, MG University, Kottayam.



8. Release of Historica JWALA

Department manuscript magazine Historica, titled *Jwala* was released on 28th September 2015. The magazine is an initiative of students to develop their writing, analytical and critical skills. The novel ideas contributed by the students was its highlight. Sri. Tom

Jose, HSST, St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Arakulam, History and Alumni Association Secretary addressed the students and released the Magazine. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Aneyamma Varghese, Principal of the college. Ninety eight students attended the programme.



9. Alumni Meeting

Annual alumni meeting of the academic year 2015-16 was held on 26th January 2016. Dr. Beena Paul, Head of the Department of History welcomed the gathering. History Association President Adv. V.P. Nazer presided over and addressed the gathering. College Principal Dr. Aneyamma Varghese, former Principals Rev. K.J. Samuel, Dr. Abraham Daniel and Rev. P.D. Joseph (Rtd., Dept. of Politics)) were also present in the meeting. In the meeting alumni members shared their memories and the meeting came to an end at 1.00pm.



10. Tribal Visit

On 5th January 2016, I MA students and teachers of the department visited, Kovilmala tribal settlement. The visit was to get first hand information about the tribal culture and life. For the first time students got an opportunity to visit a settlement and had an interaction with a tribal king. The students were excited to see Kovilmala King Raman Raja Mannan, the one and only tribal king of Kerala. Meeting with the Raja rejuvenated their knowledge about tribal life, culture, customs, beliefs and practices. Students also met Elaya Raja, maternal uncle of the king. He also gave vivid description of tribal tradition and administration. The team visited the nearby tribal temple. They got the opportunity to see the crown and throne which was kept confidential as part of their traditional beliefs.



11. Visit to Pattanam Excavation Site

Department conducted a study tour for IBA and II MA students on 11th March 2016. Students and teachers visited Muziris Heritage museum, Pattanam site, Pallipuram Fort, House of Sahodaran Aiyappan, Kodungallur Mosque etc. Muziris, was an early historical urban site and a centre of Indo- Roman trade on the Kerala coast, in early Christian centuries. Students got the opportunity to visit an archaeological site and understood how excavations were carried out. They saw the original artifacts like glass beads, gold ornaments and objects made of stone, copper and iron, Roman amphora and wharf with bollards and wooden canoe. They were exposed to the primary sources of Kerala history. The students also got the opportunity to see the house of Sahodaran Aiyappan, one of the renowned social reformers of Kerala.



At Pallipuram Fort



In front of Sahodaran Aiyappan's House

12. One day Professional Development Programme on The Question of Adivasi Land in Kerala: Tracing Roots from History

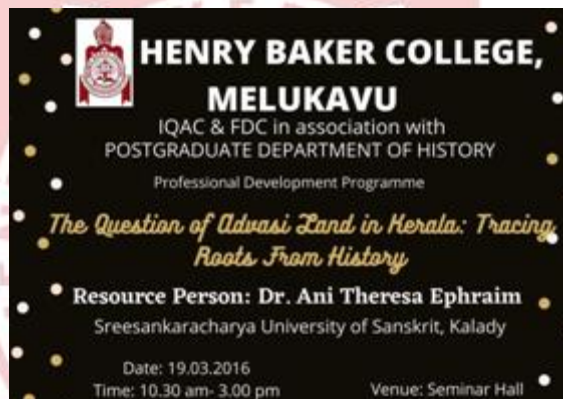
Seminar: The Question of Adivasi Land in Kerala: Tracing Roots from History

Date: 19.03.2016

Venue: Seminar Hall

Time: 10.30am- 3.00 pm

During the academic year 2015-16, a Professional Development Programme on “**The Question of Adivasi Land in Kerala**” conducted on 19th March 2016. The Meeting was presided over by Dr. Abraham Daniel, former principal and HOD of the Department of History. Dr. Ani Teresa Ephraim, Associate Professor, SreeSankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady delivered the lecture on the topic, **The Question of Adivasi Land in Kerala: Tracing Roots from History**. She illustrates that the question of Adivasi land was always a contesting subject. From the British period onwards Adivasis started their struggle. Even after the independence this struggle is continuing. The struggles like Vellarada Land Struggle, Muthanga Land struggle; Aripa Land Struggles and Thovarimala Land Struggles are a few instances of their struggle. These are some popular movements, whereas for Adivasis’ every day in their life is a struggle -struggle with non-tribes, struggle with wild animals, struggle for their rights etc. She reiterated the concern for this voiceless marginal and entrusted each of us to stand for their cause. Faculties and PG students has been benefited from the programme.



Dr. Beena Paul
HoD History