

# INSTITUTIONAL DISTINCTIVENESS OF NEWMAN COLLEGE, THODUPUZHA

*Catering the demand for quality education and research in arts, science and commerce to the rural community of Idukki district*



*Institutional distinctiveness 2020-2021:*

*Promotion of inter disciplinary research and experiential learning*



## ***Preface:***

During a time when the educational ambitions of the people of high ranges remained dreams unfulfilled, Newman College, the first higher education institution of Idukki district, was established in the year 1964. The much awaited dream institution of a rural agrarian community, headed by the Syrian Catholic Diocese of Kothamangalam, not only accomplishes the educational aspirations of the high range people, but also has become the centre of their social and cultural life. Being the most prominent institution of the district, Newman College shines bright catering to the needs of all communities without any discrimination. By virtue of the geographical ease of access, the college opens its doors to knowledge seekers from Idukki as well as two neighbouring districts. Named after the great visionary philosopher and educationalist St. Henry Cardinal Newman, the college stands as a prime centre of higher education by offering 14UG, 8 PG programmes and 3 research programmes.

The infrastructure and facilities in the College campus is planned and executed to meet the diverse needs of students and local community. The compact infrastructure of Newman College with well-maintained and easily accessible library, University Study centre, IGNOU study centre, computer labs, theatre, indoor stadium, outdoor stadium, basketball court, yoga centre, gymnasium, sky watch facility, church, bank, ATM counter, post office, stationary shop and canteen makes it an easily accessible campus. Most of these facilities are made available for the public when necessary. The indoor stadium of the college hosts several state and national level sports events and caters the need of local sports events too. In addition to the conduct of various sports events in the College ground, the vast area is utilized to host the prestigious agricultural fest of Idukki district, which is a festival for the local community and a hub of display and sale of rural produce.

2020-2021

*Institutional distinctiveness: Promotion of inter disciplinary research and experiential learning*

Newman College, in its quest to attain excellence in academics and research and to give promote STEM education to students with emphasis to experiential learning, made continuous efforts to get collaborations and grants from various directions. Identifying the Potential for excellence of the College, Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India selected Newman College for **DBT Star College Scheme under the Strengthening component**, which gives special emphasis to STEM education and experiential learning. The college is one among the 15 institutions which got selected for this prestigious scheme in this academic year. The scheme supports interdisciplinary research, training programmes and other activities of various departments, namely, Botany & Biotechnology; Chemistry; Physics and Mathematics.



The UGC STRIDE project on the *“An Institutional Research Scheme on the Sustainable Development Initiatives in the Western Ghats in Idukki, Kerala”* selected 100 undergraduate students from all disciplines of study as ‘UGC STRIDE fellows’ to carry out the project by adopting bottom-up approach of policy making. The project has addressed issues of global significance in a scientific way through the cross talk between different disciplines and will lead them to efficient policy makers.

The college took different measures to increase the research excellence of faculty and students and as part of that various interdisciplinary projects and research works are promoted among faculty and students. As a result, more interdisciplinary and collaborative publications were produced. Students' projects were presented in international conferences and received appreciation.

### *Collaborative publications by faculty members*



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## Cooking fat types alter the inherent glycaemic response of niche rice varieties through resistant starch (RS) formation

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Article

## Thermomechanical Analysis of Isora Nanofibril Incorporated Polyethylene Nanocomposites

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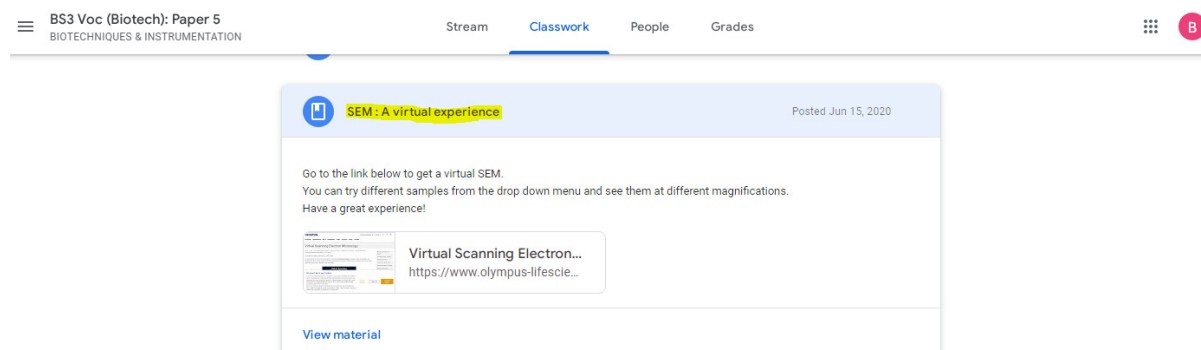
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Experiential learning was promoted during online teaching with the help of virtual lab visits, animated videos and various learning based activities.



Newman College keep up its academic excellence by bagging Mahatma Gandhi University ranks in various UG and PG programmes. The quality maintained by the college got recognition by being the UGC mentor college under 'Paramarsh' scheme to mentor five neighbouring colleges for NAAC accreditation and assessment process. The college also mentored 72 students from different disciplines to participate in Reboot Kerala Hackathon 2020, an innovative initiative of Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Kerala to suggest IoT based solutions for various problem statements. This helped in fostering an innovative ecosystem in the campus. While moulding the students to research and academic excellence, the College ensure to hold on to the human values and ethics by promoting grass root level discussions with local community in STRIDE project and being in the fore front of activities during the time of natural calamities in the district. This ensures the all round presence of Newman College in uplifting not only the overall quality of education but the quality of living and quality of ecosystem of Idukki district.