



ST. TERESA'S COLLEGE, ERNAKULAM (AUTONOMOUS)

DEBATE CLUB

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES: 2014-15

Coordinator: Ms Jisha John, Department of English

The Debate Club is a platform where the students can share their freedom of speech and expression in an open forum, engage in rhetoric on a variety of issues at the local, regional, national, and international level and expand learning in order to become more active and productive citizens.

The Debate club of the college has functioned keeping in mind the vision of providing opportunities to the students interested in social change and community organization, to discuss relevant topics and ideas, to engage in activities beneficial to their personal and professional development, and to increase the visibility of issues throughout the campus and community.

The club was instituted in June with the induction of the members. Ms Minna Jose of II English literature was chosen as the secretary of the club.

Several members of the Debate Club represented the college for various inter-collegiate debate competitions held during the academic year.

Several students of the Debate Club were selected for the Federal Bank “Speak for Kerala” competition organized for the students of Kerala. Minna Jose (II English) could reach the final round while Deepa (II English) could qualify the first two rounds.

In October, the Debate club co-ordinated the *Mathrubhumi* “Young Journalist Award” competition held for the students of the college. Hard and soft copies of various articles of current significance were collected and handed over to Mr Jijo Cyriac, Senior Editor, *Mathrubhumi*.

Three students of the department of English—Minna Jose, Divyamanjari and Navya Dennis participated in the Debate Competition held at the St Joseph’s Pontifical Seminary in November on the topic “Gandhian Philosophy and Social Change”. The team was adjudged as the best debating team and the members were widely appreciated for their excellent performance.

On 19 January 2015, the Debate Club organised the annual Mother Digna Ever Rolling All Kerala Inter-collegiate Debate Competition. The topic for the debate was “Politics of the Public Space: Whose Arena is It?” The first prize was secured by Bharat Mata College, Thrikkakara. S.H. College, Thevara emerged second while the third prize was bagged by CUSAT.

Three students of the department of English- Tia Johny, Anagha Surendran and Arya Mohan participated in the Spelling Bee competition co-ordinated by the Debate club held at St Joseph’s College, Alappuzha on 5-13-15.

The debate team members Sauparnika R. Krisha and Devika of the department of English participated in the debate competition organized by KCYM held on 7 March 2015 at Kaloor Renewal Centre on the topic “Should Freedom of Speech and Expression have Restrictions”. The team won the second prize for the competition. Devika V. won the best speaker award.