ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2025-26

Name of Activity	**30 hrs Certificate Course**
Date/ Duration	26th to 29th November 2025
Venue	Botany Laboratory, Department of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, Goa
Name of organizing Department/Cell	Department of Botany
In collaboration with	In collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) – St. Xavier's College
Name/s of Faculty Co ordinator	Dr. Maria A. D'Souza
Stratum of Event	College
Name & details of Resource Person/s if any	Invited talk was given by Prof. D. J. Bhat, Fellow of DSFP, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia. Resource person - Dr. Maria A. D'Souza
Report	This report summarizes the experiences and key takeaways from the course. The course focused on the collection, culturing of environmental fungal samples, practical, field-based learning and laboratory techniques essential for mycological studies. The session comprised of field trip collecting samples from various substrates such as soil, decaying leaves, wood, and damp surfaces. and highlighted the role of microfungi in decomposition, food spoilage, biotechnology, and disease. Following the introductory lecture, students engaged in a practical demonstration on the preparation of culture media, which included steps for measuring, dissolving, sterilizing, and pouring media into culture plates and slants. Participants were also trained to operate essential laboratory instruments such as Stereo microscope, laminar airflow chamber and autoclave. Students observed the functioning of these instruments and practiced the basic handling techniques necessary for culturing and isolating microfungi. Participants were introduced to three different isolation methods, selected based on the type and condition of the fungi collected like serial Dilution Method, Three-Step Surface Sterilisation Method and Single Spore Isolation. Students learnt the types of fungal spores, including their structure, development, and dispersal mechanisms helping them identify microscopic characteristics important for fungal taxonomy. The highlight of the course was the special talk delivered by Prof. D. J. Bhat, an eminent researcher in the field of fungi. His lecture focused on various aspects of microfungi, including: Introduction and brief history of microfungi, Their significance in medical and food industries, Different types of mushrooms and cultivation methods, Modern advances in mycology, Indian fungal diversity and current research developments, Career opportunities in fungal studies and

	biotechnology. Participants gained valuable insights into practical and academic prospects within the field of mycology. Practical segment of the course strengthened their understanding of microfungal growth and culture techniques. Microscopic observations enhanced the participants' ability to differentiate between fungal species based on conidiophores, spores, and mycelial patterns. As the course drew to a close, students shared their reflections on the learning experience, expressing appreciation for the practical exposure and expert guidance received throughout the program. The 4-day course on the collection, isolation, and identification of microfungi was an invaluable experience that greatly enhanced the knowledge and skills of students in mycology. Finally the feedback form/Students assessment of the course were duly filled by the participants and the assessed grade was 3.6 out of 4. Students developed a deeper understanding on the sampling, isolation and identification techniques in microfungi.
Brochure/Poster	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/30-hrs-Certificate-Course-FLYER.pdf
Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/30-hrs-Certificate-Course-image.pdf
List of participants with signatures	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/30-hrs-Certificate-Course-Attendance.pdf
Certificate	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/30-hrs-Certificate-Course-certificate.pdf