



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2025-26

Name of Activity	MOU Report-Dept. of History
Date/ Duration	August -September 2025
Venue	St. Xavier's College
Name of organizing Dept.	Department of History Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Porvorim
In collaboration with	
Name/s of Faculty Co ordinator	Dr. Sharmila Pais
Stratum of Event	COLLEGE LEVEL
Name & details of Resource Person/s if any	Fr. Rinald D'Souza
Report	As part of the academic collaboration under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Department of History, St. Xavier's College, with Xavier Centre of Historical Research, Porvorim-Goa, an internship programme was undertaken on the photographic archive of the art historian Gritli von Mitterwallner. The internship was conceived as an important component of experiential learning, intended to take students beyond conventional classroom instruction and introduce them to the practical dimensions of historical research, archival preservation, documentation and interpretation. It provided students with direct exposure to a specialised photographic collection and enabled them to understand how photographs can be approached not merely as illustrations of the past but as valuable primary historical sources. Eleven students of TYBA participated in the same. The programme commenced in August 2025 and concluded in September 2026. One of the most significant aspects of the internship was the students' introduction to the photographic legacy of Gritli von Mitterwallner. Students learned that a

	photograph is not simply a visual record of a person, building, landscape or event. Every photograph contains several layers of historical information. The photographer's choice of subject, angle, framing, composition, distance and moment of capture can influence the way a place, community or activity is represented. The students were therefore trained to look at the photograph, within the photograph and beyond the photograph. This approach encouraged them to move from simple description towards historical interpretation. Initially, students viewed photographs primarily for their visible content, people, monuments, houses, landscapes, religious structures, streets, occupations or everyday activities. Through sustained engagement with the collection, however, they began to recognise that the same photograph could be studied from several perspectives. They learned to ask questions such as: Who or what is being photographed? Why might this particular subject have attracted the photographer? What does the background reveal? What details of dress, architecture, occupation, environment or material culture are visible? What is absent from the frame? What might have changed since the photograph was taken? Photographs depicting people and communities enabled students to observe aspects of social and cultural life. Clothing, ornaments, gestures, occupations, domestic spaces, religious practices and everyday objects could provide clues about the social environment in which the photographs were produced.
Brochure/ Poster	NA
Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/images-of-MOU-with-Xavier-Centre-of-Historical-Research-Porvorin.pdf
Beneficiaries	11
Certificate	NA