

Bishop Heber College is a religious minority educational institution established by Tiruchirappalli – Thanjavur Diocese of the Church of South India. Its main objective is to cater for the higher educational needs of the members of the Church of South India and other Christians and specially to provide for them an educational atmosphere in keeping with the Christian ideals of the Church. The College, however, admits students of all faiths and religions and seeks to provide for them the best possible higher education.

Bishop Heber College traces its origin back to Heber Memorial School which became a full-fledged High School in 1864. In 1873 the School was raised to a Second Grade College and in 1882 it became a First Grade College. It was then known as S.P.G. College. It was the first College to be established in Tiruchirappalli. Honours Courses in History and Mathematics were introduced in 1925. The College came to be known as Bishop Heber College in the late 1920's and its Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1926 under the Presidentship of the then Governor of Madras, Lord Goschen. The Lindsay Commission on Christian Higher Education in India recommended the merger of the Bishop Heber College with the Madras Christian College. Accordingly, Bishop Heber College was closed in 1934 and the Bishop Heber Hall emerged at Madras Christian College, Tambaram.

The Most Rev. Dr. Solomon Doraisawmy, who was the consecrated Bishop of Tiruchirappalli-Thanjavur Diocese in 1964, succeeded in reviving the College on 24th June 1966. The College functioned at Teppakulam in the Old College Buildings from 1966 to 1969, having only Pre-University classes. In July 1968, the College was upgraded to the Degree Standard with three Degree Programmes viz. History, Economics and Mathematics and the Degree Classes were conducted at Puthur, where the College had acquired a site for its permanent buildings.

For four years from 1968 to 1972, the College functioned in two places, the Pre-University Classes at Teppakulam and the Degree Classes at Puthur. The College grew not only in strength but also in popularity and academic excellence and attracted students from all over Tamil Nadu. In the meantime, the College managed to secure financial aid from the Protestant Central Agency for Co-operation in Development, Bonn, Germany for the construction of its permanent buildings. The building scheme was taken in hand early in 1970 and four new buildings were opened in 1972. Many more buildings have since then been added and the College now has a beautiful campus with lovely gardens. The College started offering programmes in the Self-Financing stream from the year 1985. The College runs the accredited Study Centre of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi. The revived College celebrated its Silver Jubilee in February 1992 and Golden Jubilee in 2016.

The College now offers ten Under-Graduate, seven Post-Graduate, and one M.Phil. programme under Aided Stream; two B.Voc. programmes under UGC grant and fifteen Under-Graduate, fourteen Post-Graduate, One integrated Post Graduate programme and many Certificate, Diploma and Post-Graduate Diploma programmes of study besides offering research programmes leading to M.Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in self-financed stream.

The College has established a great reputation for its high academic standards and attracts students from all over India and abroad. The University Grants Commission, New Delhi and Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli granted Autonomy to our College during 2004-2005. The College was accredited with 5 stars by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on 21st May 2001 and was reaccredited at the A⁺ level in March 2007. Also, our College has been recognized by the UGC as “College with Potential for Excellence” on September 2011. In March 2015, the college reaccredited (3rd cycle) at A Grade by NAAC with CGPA of 3.58 on a 4-point scale and stood first among all the affiliated colleges in Bharathidasan University. The College was ranked 4th by MHRD through National Institution Ranking Framework 2017. UGC has elevated the College from the status of “College with Potential for Excellence” to the status of “College of Excellence” in April 2017 for the period of 5 years. The College received “Green College Award” in the Year 2016, from CSI Synod, Chennai.

The College, with the spirit of a goodwill ambassador, has cut across boundaries to propagate its educational mission. In keeping with the present educational trend, the College has signed a number of MoUs with various Universities, Colleges, institutions and other agencies of international repute. The College has signed MoUs with Liverpool Hope University, UK, Wolverhampton University, UK, University of Burgundy, France, Kasetsart University, Thailand, Appalachian State University, USA, Groupe ESC, Rouen, France, UAE Exchange and MAHE, Dubai. Concordia College, New York, Merrimack College, USA. These MoU’s bear eloquent testimony to the high standard and quality of education offered in the College.

UGC has sanctioned Rs.1.7 crore for introducing B.Voc., programme in Information Technology and Accounting & Taxation. DST-FIST has sanctioned Rs.1 crore towards “College as a Whole” scheme for the development of PG programmes. DBT has sanctioned Rs. 35 lakhs for the development of Life Sciences along with Basic Sciences at the UG level under “Star College scheme”. UGC has sanctioned Rs.1 crore for building Multipurpose Gymnasium. UGC has sanctioned Rs. 1.25 Crores under ‘College of Excellence’. Apart from this, the College has received Rupees One Crore Seventy-Seven Lakhs, Seventy-Three Thousand as research grant through various Funding Agencies, like UGC, ICSSR etc., for carrying out Major and Minor Research Projects. The College Management is generous enough providing Rupees Ten Lakhs Seventy-Six Thousand towards promoting research activities by the members of the faculty.