



GOVERNMENT COLLEGE MOKERI, KOZHIKODE

Commitment to Regional Culture and Heritage Preservation

Government College Mokeri, located in the rural heart of Kerala, stands out as an institution deeply committed to preserving, promoting, and studying regional culture and heritage. This priority is reflected in its academic offerings and the college's dedication to creating a platform for historical research, cultural studies, and community engagement. Among the various areas of academic focus, the most distinctive and impactful priority is the institution's emphasis on preserving regional history, tribal literature, and local cultural practices through its Research Centre and History Museum based on interdisciplinary research, and pedagogical approaches. Government College Mokeri is focused on its ongoing commitment to safeguarding and disseminating Kerala's rich cultural heritage.

The History Museum: A Living Archive of Kerala's Cultural and Historical Legacy

One of the most visible and significant expressions of the college's priority in heritage preservation is its History Museum, established and curated by the Department of History. The museum is more than just a collection of artefacts; it serves as a living archive of Kerala's past, showcasing various elements of ancient civilizations, indigenous practices, and local history. Through its exhibits, which include Harappan seals, stone tools, traditional household items, and artifacts like the Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-Daro, the museum offers a comprehensive representation of different historical epochs that have shaped Kerala and India at large.

The museum's focus on Harappan artifacts, such as seals and tools, offers a significant link to one of the most ancient and sophisticated civilizations in human history. The Harappan seals, which are essential for understanding trade and administrative practices of the Indus Valley Civilization, are a key exhibit. These items help connect students and visitors to the global significance of India's early history, providing a tangible link to one of the world's earliest urban societies.

Additionally, the museum hosts a variety of local and indigenous artifacts, such as *Thaliyola* (traditional palm-leaf manuscripts), urn burials, and *Methiyadi* (traditional wooden shoes), all of which represent the unique cultural practices of Kerala's past. These exhibits highlight the institution's commitment to preserving the region's unique identity, drawing



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attention to the rich and diverse cultural heritage of Kerala. By displaying both everyday items and rare historical objects, the museum encourages students and the local community to appreciate and engage with their historical roots.

Moreover, the History Museum plays an educational role, serving as an accessible platform for students to interact with history in a direct, hands-on manner. Instead of relying solely on textbooks, students have the opportunity to engage with primary artifacts that are integral to the region's cultural memory. This experience fosters a deep connection to history, encouraging students to think critically about how the past informs present-day cultural identities and practices.

Promoting Research on Tribal and Vernacular Literature

In addition to the museum, the Research Centre of the Department of English has distinguished itself through its dedication to promoting research on tribal and vernacular literature. Kerala, with its rich oral traditions and diverse linguistic landscape, provides a unique site for studying marginalized voices, particularly those of tribal communities. The college has prioritized research in this area, contributing to a growing body of work that explores the intersections of ethnicity, culture, and identity within Kerala's tribal populations.

The institution encourages interdisciplinary approaches to studying tribal literature, often incorporating ethnographic methods to understand the socio-historical contexts of indigenous narratives. By focusing on the preservation of oral histories and folk traditions, Government College Mokeri serves as a guardian of diverse Malayali and Indian cultural expressions, many of which are at risk of being forgotten in the face of modernization and globalization. Research in this area emphasizes the resilience of tribal communities in maintaining their cultural practices and highlights the importance of preserving these traditions for future generations.

Furthermore, the study of vernacular literature, particularly in Malayalam, allows the college to engage with a wider audience in the region. The focus on local language literature helps ground academic research in the lived realities of the community, ensuring that the college remains relevant to the needs and concerns of its immediate environment. By



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promoting the study of regional literature, the institution not only enhances the academic landscape but also contributes to the preservation of Kerala's and India's literary heritage.

Fostering Interdisciplinary and Community-Oriented Research

One of the most distinctive elements of Government College Mokeri's commitment to heritage and cultural studies is its interdisciplinary research approach. The institution encourages collaboration between departments such as history, sociology, literature, and media studies, fostering a holistic understanding of Kerala's cultural and historical landscape through its Research Centre. This interdisciplinary focus ensures that research at the college transcends traditional academic boundaries, offering fresh insights into the region's evolving cultural identity.

For example, the study of Malayali popular culture—including cinema, television, and traditional performing arts—has become a vital area of inquiry at the college. Kerala's rich cultural scene provides fertile ground for analysing how modern media reflects and reconfigures the region's historical and cultural identity. The institution promotes research on how gender, mobility, and identity are represented in popular media, thereby contributing to broader national and global discussions on cultural representation. The interdisciplinary, annual, peer-reviewed Research Journal *Crosswaves*, by the Research and P. G. Department of English is focused on the discussions of literatures, languages, identities, and cultural nuances of India and Kerala. Research Forum and other departments of the college are committed to the promotion of interdisciplinary research by organising seminars and workshops regularly.

Moreover, the college's focus on community engagement enhances its distinctiveness as an institution rooted in regional identity. Through NSS, CoK, Entrepreneur Club, outreach programmes, cultural festivals, and local collaborations, Government College Mokeri actively engages with the surrounding community, ensuring that its academic research remains connected to the everyday lives of people in Kerala. By making its research accessible to the public, the institution plays a crucial role in promoting cultural awareness and pride within the region.



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Embracing Technological Change: Digital Pedagogy and Heritage Preservation

While the college remains deeply committed to preserving the past, it has also embraced the challenges and opportunities presented by digital technologies. The integration of digital pedagogy into its curriculum, particularly in the context of English language education, has allowed Government College Mokeri to stay at the forefront of educational innovation. The use of advanced digital tools like smart boards in classrooms and labs, not only enhances student learning but also serves as a means of preserving and disseminating regional cultural knowledge in new and dynamic ways.

For example, the college has begun digitising portions of its History Museum's collection, making it accessible to a wider audience through online platforms. This initiative allows the preservation of fragile artefacts while expanding the museum's reach beyond the local community. By incorporating digital tools into its heritage preservation efforts, Government College Mokeri ensures that its cultural contributions are relevant in the modern age and accessible to future generations.

The distinctiveness of Government College Mokeri lies in its unwavering commitment to the preservation and promotion of regional culture and heritage. Through its History Museum, research on tribal and vernacular literature, interdisciplinary academic programmes, and community engagement initiatives, the institution has positioned itself as a leader in the study and safeguarding of Kerala's rich cultural history. By blending tradition with innovation—particularly through its embrace of digital pedagogy—the college ensures that its contributions to regional heritage remain relevant, dynamic, and impactful.

This commitment to regional culture not only enhances the academic environment of the college but also strengthens its ties to the community, ensuring that the institution remains a vital part of Kerala's cultural landscape for generations to come.



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Ongoing Research Projects-Research Centre- Department of English

The Research Centre under the Department of English aims to foster and promote academic inquiry into the diverse cultural, social, and historical contexts of regional communities in India, with a special focus on Kerala. This research centre seeks to explore the intersections of hybridity, identity, popular culture, and digital pedagogy, providing a comprehensive understanding of both the historical and contemporary dynamics of Indian society. It draws upon interdisciplinary approaches, including literature, visual media, folklore, and technological interventions, to contribute to ongoing discussions on cultural representation, modernisation, and identity formation.

1. Sasikumar- **Space, Place, Mapping in Fiction: A Geocritical Study** of Select Novels of Anita Nair

Location and culture are of significance in this study.

2. Seeja H- **Hybridity, Cultural Space and Identity: An Ethno-Historic Reading of Tribal Literature in India** with Special Reference to Complete Works of Narayan.-

This research focuses on understanding *the complexities of identity formation among tribal communities in India* through their literary expressions. The centre promotes the study of these indigenous literatures, enabling a dialogue between modernity and traditional cultural practices.

3. Seena J- **The Emerging Middle Class and Popular Indian English Fiction: A Study of the Politics of Genres and Narratives-**



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Indian English fiction has played a pivotal role in portraying the *evolving Indian middle-class values and aspirations*. The Centre encourages research that examines this burgeoning middle class and its depiction in literature, particularly in relation to consumerism, globalization, and urbanization.

4. Shirin Shibili- Gender and the Representations of **Mobility and Travel in Malayali Popular Culture**

This research theme focuses on how gender is constructed and represented in the *mobility and travel narratives within Malayali culture*. The centre seeks to explore these representations in popular cinema, literature, and art.

5. Libin Muslih- Chronotopic Transitions: A **Study of the Myths and Folklore in Oral Culture, Print Modernity, and the Visual Culture of Kerala.**

The centre promotes the exploration of *myths and folklore in the oral tradition of Kerala and other Indian regions*, examining how these narratives transition over time and space, influencing both collective memory and contemporary cultural practices. Kerala's print and visual culture have undergone significant changes, especially in the context of modernization. It supports research that investigates the interplay between print media and visual cultural practices, focusing on how they shape public discourse and identity in the state.

6. Prasanth Chandra P- Across the Field and into the Highway: A Study of the **Emerging Urban Literary Cultures in India.**

The rise of urban centres has led to the emergence of distinct literary cultures. The centre encourages research on how urbanization affects literature, focusing on new forms of storytelling that *engage with the urban experience*.



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7. Nisanth TV- Aesthetic Reconfiguration and the Formation of the Cultural Self in Popular Media Representations: A Study of **the Visual Cultural Practices of Kerala** at the Turn of the Century.

This area looks into how Kerala's popular media, particularly cinema and television, represents and reconfigures the cultural self. The centre supports studies that analyze these visual cultural practices, especially in the context of post-globalization Kerala.

