

# INTEGRATED ANNUAL REPORT (2022 – 2024)

## INCUBATION CENTRE

*To enhance the value of knowledge by promoting a  
temperament for academic research*



St Edmund's College  
Shillong

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## About The Report

This Integrated Annual Report is the second — and expanded — iteration of the previous academic year's [Annual Report \(2022 – 2023\)](#). It systematically reviews the progress of the past two academic years and aims to convey transparency among various stakeholders. The Report outlines the actions taken and outcomes achieved for the Incubation Centre's stakeholders. It also discloses its roadmap to achieve its commitment to ethical research and the outlook for the upcoming academic year.

## Reporting Cycle

This Integrated Annual Report discloses information from 01 August 2022 to 15 July 2024.

## Feedback

The Incubation Centre values any feedback on its Integrated Annual Report to improve the robustness of future reports. Any suggestions, observations or criticisms may be directed to the Research Facilitator, Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves ([researchhub2@sec.edu.in](mailto:researchhub2@sec.edu.in)).

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## The Incubation Centre at a Glance



**Eight 36-hour courses** (7 Value-Added Courses & 1 Add-On Course organised)

Two-day *Research Methodology* **workshop** conducted with Department of Social Work (MSW)

**103 students (56.52% of participants)** awarded certificates

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Research papers, book reviews, field reports and student projects processed

Endorsed by **6 out of 22 departments**

**141 reports generated** since Mar 2023

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One **book chapter** published by a faculty from MSW

One **paper** by a faculty from Physics accepted for publication in *Springer Proceedings*

One **book review by a student published** in *Strategic Analysis*, a Scopus-indexed journal

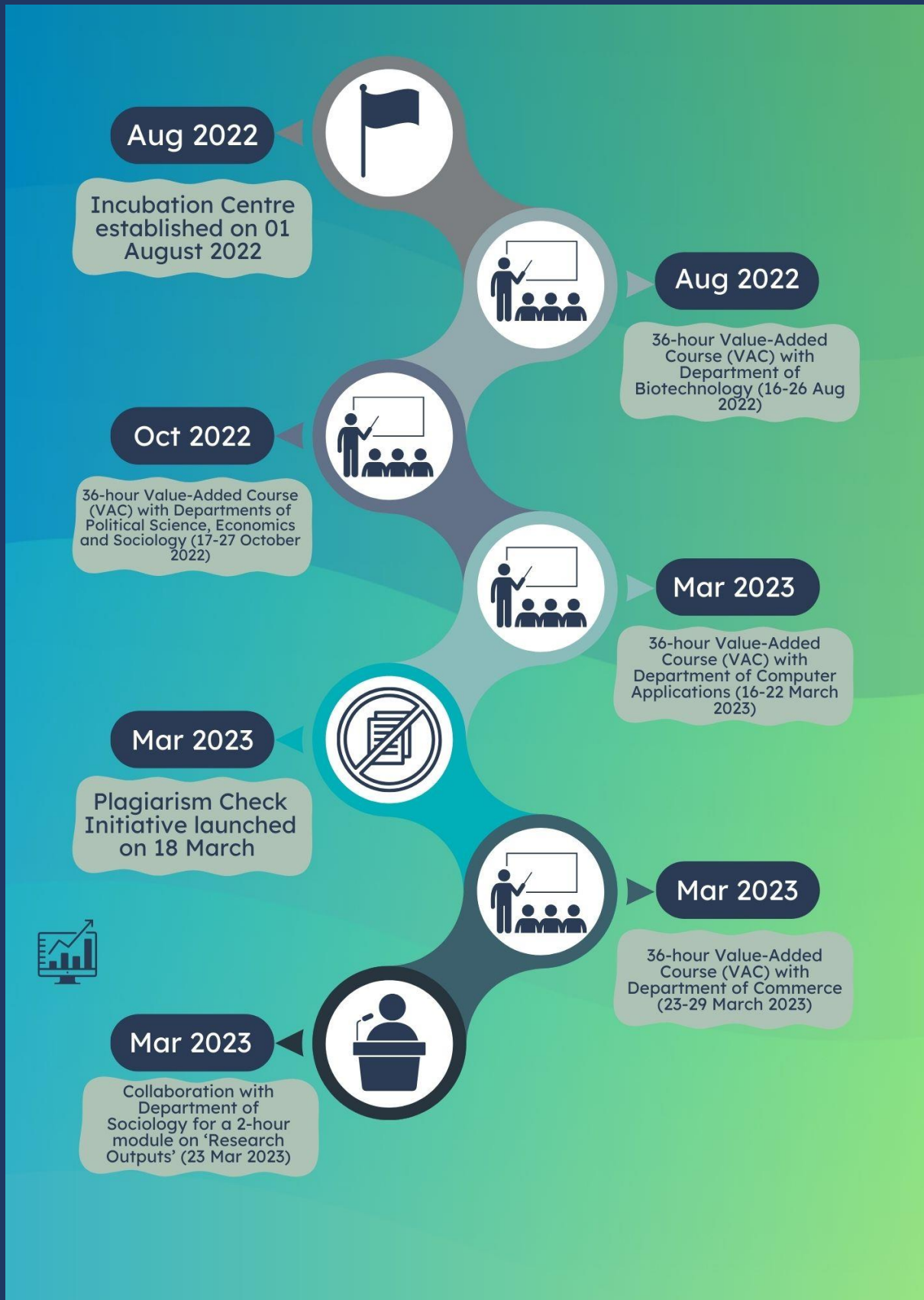
Three students enrolled in the college's **Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) programme**; eight others reviewing books

**Three book chapters published** by the Research Facilitator

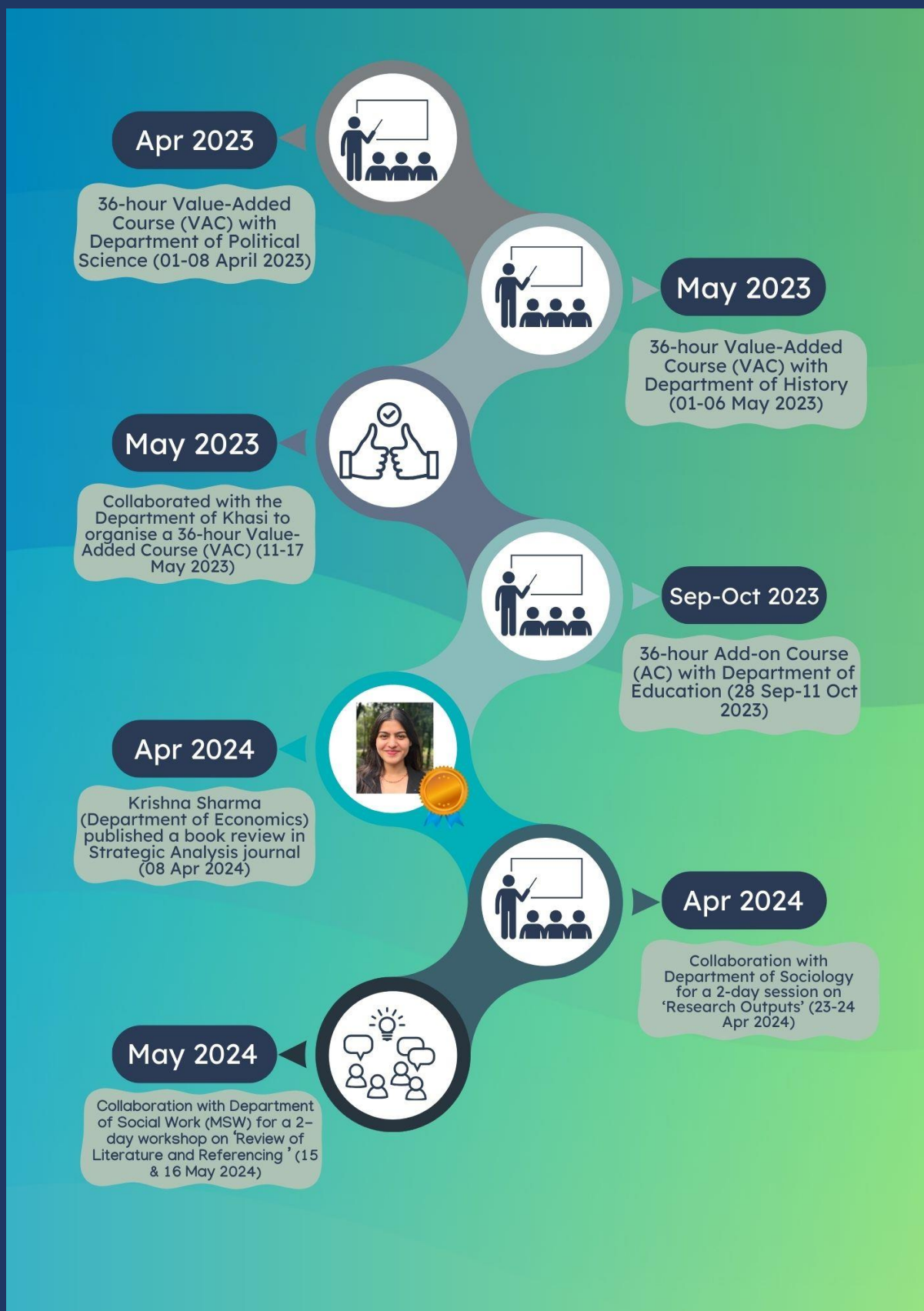
One **proposal submitted** for an ICSSR-sponsored short-term project

One **project proposal submitted** to the Inspector General of Police (CID), Meghalaya

# Milestones







## Profile of the Research Facilitator



Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves is the Research Facilitator and, since August 2022, heads the Incubation Centre at St Edmund's College, Shillong. The Incubation Centre is designed to accelerate the publication of the college's faculty and students and organise Value-Added Courses (VACs) and Add-On Courses (ACs) to familiarise them with the ecosystem of research.

Dr Gonsalves holds a PhD in Energy Studies from the Energy Studies Programme, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He also has an MA in International Relations and an MPhil in Chinese Studies from JNU. He has acquired more than six years of professional experience in research, business-intelligence, publishing and teaching.

He was formerly a *Visiting Research Fellow* at the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA University), Baku (2017) and a recipient of the prestigious *Maulana Azad National Fellowship* (2013-18). China's Ministry of Commerce also invited him to China as a delegate for a two-month Mandarin course in 2014. Dr Gonsalves is a Reviewer for two Scopus-indexed journals (*Australian Journal of Maritime & Ocean Affairs* and *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*).

As Research Fellow and Head of the Maritime Energy-Security and Security-of-Energy (MESSE) Cluster at the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, he led the NMF's study of the maritime facets of energy, with a focus on energy geopolitics (2019-2022). He also served as the Executive Editor of [\*Maritime Affairs: Journal of the National Maritime Foundation of India\*](#), a Scopus-indexed and UGC-CARE-listed journal. He continues to engage with the NMF as an [Honorary Adjunct Fellow](#).

His areas of interest include studying qualitative research methods, energy geopolitics, sustainability, and various issues unique to India's Northeast.

## Research Facilitator's message

India's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) — which overhauled a thirty-five-year-old policy and introduced qualitative changes to higher education in India — advances “holistic development” and “multidisciplinarity” in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It identified two significant challenges (among others) to higher education in India. First, the “development of cognitive skills and learning outcomes” is ignored, and second, it flags the absence of *research* in HEIs.

St Edmund's understands that developing a passion for research among the college's faculty and students could kindle analytical skills among stakeholders, enabling them to face the challenges of the Digital Age.

To this end, St Edmund's College, Shillong, established the Incubation Centre. The Incubation Centre is a first-of-its-kind initiative by an undergraduate college in Meghalaya. It is geared toward accelerating peer-reviewed and ethical publications, primarily in the college's Arts stream. In the two years since its establishment, the Incubation Centre has had slow — but steady — success. This Integrated Annual Report is a testament to student and faculty achievements in research. It outlines the courses undertaken for the students and the guidance and mentorship provided to faculty and students. A special highlight of this report is the success of the Incubation Centre's Plagiarism Check initiative. It is a perfect example of the college's intrepidity in pushing curricular limits to skill students in academic writing and adopting contemporary ethical academic practices.

The Incubation Centre attributes its success to the enthusiasm shown by the college administration, the teaching faculty and the students and thanks them all.

**Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves**

**Research Facilitator  
Incubation Centre  
St Edmund's College  
Shillong**

**15 July 2024**

## Creating Impact

This section depicts the Incubation Centre's initiatives since its establishment in August 2022. Although the Centre is independent of departments under the four primary streams (Arts, Commerce, Science and Professional courses), its activities are meticulously coordinated with their schedules. Knowledge of the latest qualitative research methods and an intimate understanding of the ecosystem of research, including publications and exposure to job-relevant skills, anchor the motivation for the Centre's three initiatives. These initiatives are discussed in the following sections below.

### **Value-Added Courses (VACs) and Add-on Courses (ACs)**

Value-Added Courses (VACs) were introduced to enhance the theoretical knowledge imparted by regular courses. Following the introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020) syllabus, Value-Added Courses were renamed Add-on Courses (ACs) in July 2023. The Incubation Centre's courses are designed to be job-relevant and conversant with the latest qualitative research methods. These courses are non-credit. These courses are:

- ❖ **Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research**
- ❖ **Research Methodology**
- ❖ **Developing Soft Skills: Communication and Critical Thinking (now renamed as Navigating Modern Workplaces)**

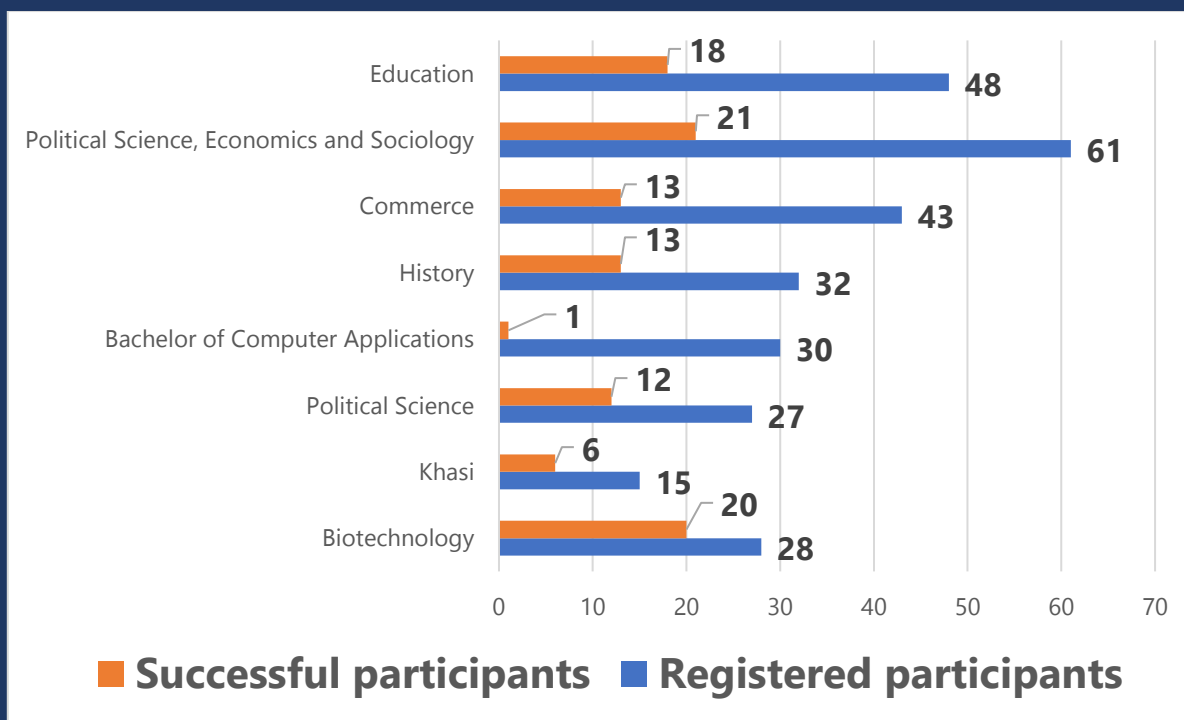
Eight courses have been organised since August 2022. **Table 1** (below) gives the department-wise breakdown of courses conducted by the Incubation Centre and mentions the dates on which these courses were taught.

Dates	Department/s	Name of the course
16 - 26 Aug 2022	Biotechnology	Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research
17 - 27 Oct 2022	Political Science, Economics and Sociology	Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research
16-22 March 2023	Bachelor of Computer Applications	Research Methodology – Beginner Level
23-29 March 2023	Commerce	Developing Soft Skills: Communication and Critical Thinking
01-08 April 2023	Political Science	Academic Writing and Understanding the Ecosystem of Research
01-06 May 2023	History	Research Methodology
11-17 May 2023	Khasi	Khasi for Everyday Life
17 - 27 Oct 2022	Education	Research Methodology

**Table 1:** Department-wise breakdown of Value-Added and Add-On Courses conducted by the Incubation Centre since August 2022

ACs are conducted over 36 hours (including assignment assessment). Most courses were conducted in hybrid mode.

Moving to the mode of evaluation, only students who scored a minimum of 40% and above are deemed successful and are, thereby, eligible for certificates. **Figure 1** (below) shows that **56.52%** of the participants have met this requirement.



**Figure 1: Success rate of participants in various courses organised by the Incubation Centre**

External subject-matter experts conduct a few modules unfamiliar to the Research Facilitator. These sessions may be offline or online, depending on the availability of the expert in Shillong. Further, feedback (through Google Forms) is sought from the students on the course's conduct. Responses are incorporated into the report and, more importantly, followed through. For instance, one of the participants, who had attended the VAC with the Department of Political Science in April 2023, suggested the circulation of reading material in advance. This practice was adopted in all following VACs.

In addition to these courses, the Centre also assists other departments in the organisation of their independent ACs. For instance, the Department of Khasi organised a VAC entitled *Khasi for Everyday Life* in May 2023. The Research Facilitator assisted the department's teaching faculty with planning various modules and preparing the report and certificates.

Similarly, the Research Facilitator conducted one module on Research Outputs with the students of the Department of Sociology. This two-hour module was part of the eight-day AC on *Basic Concepts of Social Research*, held between 15-23 March 2023. This module was so well-received by the students that in the following year, the Incubation Centre's engagement in the same course was increased to two two-hour long sessions with the 6<sup>th</sup>-semester students of Sociology.

In May 2024, the Research Facilitator was invited as a Resource Person by the Department of Social Work (Postgraduate), St Edmund's College, Shillong, to conduct a day-long workshop (15 May 2024) on *Review of Literature and Referencing* (Image 1). Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester students of the department are expected to write a dissertation, the workshop was extended for another day to familiarise them with what to expect while writing their dissertation.



**Image 1:** Workshop with the second and fourth-semester students of the Department of Social Work (Postgraduate)

One of the fourth-semester students (Siddhant Senapati, 4<sup>th</sup> semester, MSW) is interacting with the Research Facilitator to improve the quality of his dissertation.

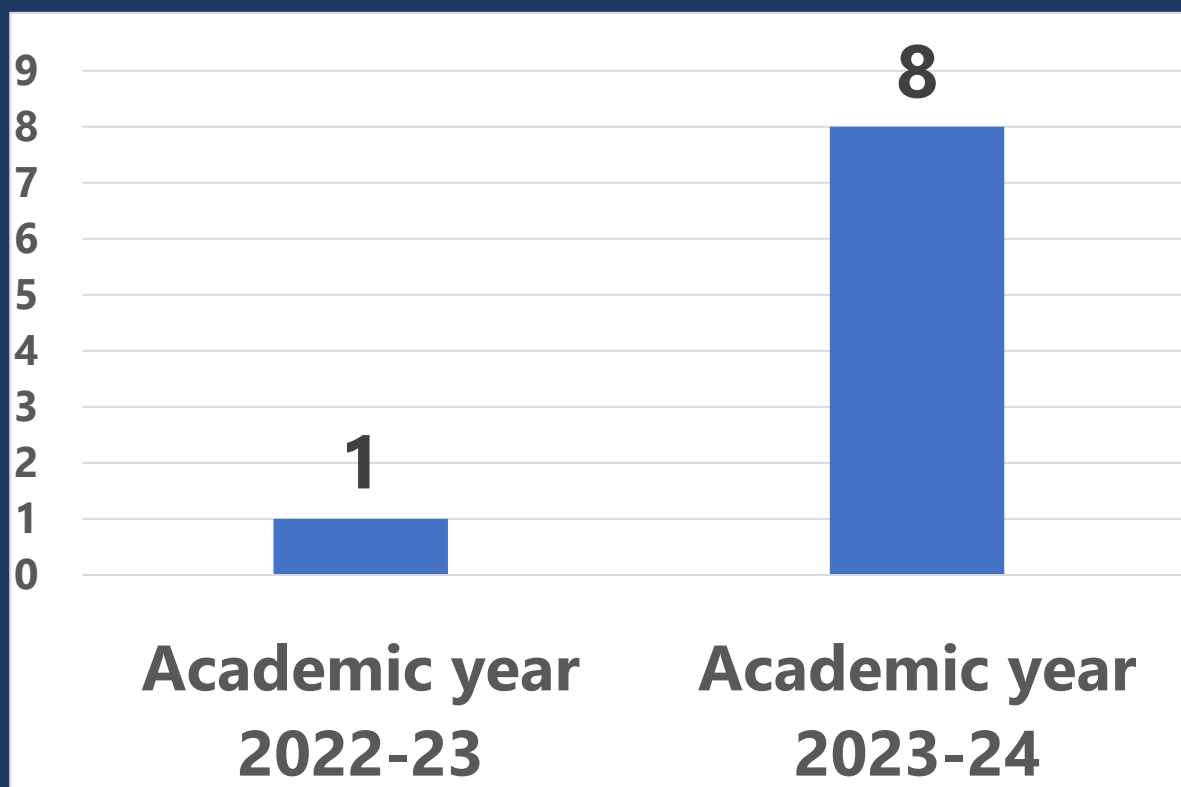
Reports of all ACs and any collaborative efforts are forwarded to the IQAC Coordinator, the Vice Principal (Academics), the concerned Head of the Department and Dr Samrat Adhikari, Head, Department of Biotechnology and in-charge of the preparation of the college's Annual Quality Assurance Report (AQAR). These reports are also available on the college's website (<https://sec.edu.in/incubation.php>).

## Student Engagement

Another initiative the Incubation Centre took is advancing research among students. The Research Facilitator mentors students to pursue research by encouraging them to review non-fiction academic books for journals. This initiative is promoted at all VACs as an independent student-oriented initiative where student researchers are trained to write in academically-acceptable language, analyse complex arguments and simplify them, make logically sound arguments, and acquaint themselves with the publication process.

Some of the features of this initiative are listed below:

- Students are encouraged to write book reviews only
- Students must propose works of non-fiction only
- Manuscripts are only sent to Scopus-indexed journals
- Relaxed submission deadlines; self-paced work
- Full authorship (and any remuneration by the journal) to the students



**Figure 2:** Intake of student researchers by the Incubation Centre

The emphasis on book reviews instead of research articles stems from existing capacity shortcomings. Currently, students need to be more trained in contemporary research practices as these are outside the recommended syllabus by North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU). Moreover, the VAC/AC conducted by the Incubation Centre comprises introductory modules spread over only 36 hours.

**Figure 2** (above) shows the intake of student researchers. Although it shows a minute increase, the Centre is optimistic about this effort's acceptance as an integral aspect of students' capability-enhancement. Due to the novelty of this enterprise, the college has not created a formal mechanism for recognising student researchers. However, this process is underway. St Edmund's College recognises the significance of publications in developing cognitive abilities and the broader impact such initiatives can have on morale and the dissemination of knowledge among students and teachers. The Incubation Centre has tasted early success in this initiative by publishing Krishna Sharma's book review in a Scopus-indexed and UGC-CARE-recognised journal (refer to **Table 2** below for more details). This is a first for a student from the Arts



faculty in the history of this college. **Image 2** (below) is one part (a PowerPoint presentation detailing Krishna's journey was also circulated on the college's Digi noticeboard) of the marketing campaign publicising Krishna's novel achievement.

St. Edmund's College, Shillong, congratulates Krishna Sharma on publishing her review of Chris Miller's book, *Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology* (Simon & Schuster Publishers, London). Her review is published in Volume 48, Issue 1 of *Strategic Analysis*, a Scopus-indexed and UGC-CARE-listed journal published by Taylor & Francis.



The image displays three components related to Krishna Sharma's achievement. On the left is the cover of the book 'CHIP WAR: THE FIGHT FOR THE WORLD'S MOST CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY' by Chris Miller, which is noted as a 'BUSINESS BOOK OF THE YEAR 2022' and 'SHORTLISTED'. In the center is a portrait of Krishna Sharma, an undergraduate student. On the right is a snippet of her review published in the journal 'Strategic Analysis', Volume 48, Issue 1, 2024. The review discusses the global concerns over supply chain security for high technology and the book's detailed record of the semiconductor industry.

This is a great achievement for an undergraduate student. A publication in a journal is very prestigious in academics. Its rarity among undergraduates in India also makes it a sought-after achievement for recruiters since it conveys a person's analytical skills.

**Check out Krishna's review at**  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09700161.2024.2339135>

Krishna was guided in her endeavour by Dr. Oliver Nelson Gonsalves, Research Facilitator at St. Edmund's College who heads the Incubation Centre (Room 22, Main Block). The Incubation Centre was established to accelerate publications by the faculty and students of the college. Krishna's success is a first of its kind for the Centre and the college.

**IF YOU (STUDENTS FROM ANY STREAM) ARE INTERESTED IN ACQUIRING ACADEMIC WRITING SKILLS TO PUBLISH YOUR WORK IN A JOURNAL, THE COLLEGE ENCOURAGES YOU TO E-MAIL THE RESEARCH FACILITATOR AT**



[researchhub2@sec.edu.in](mailto:researchhub2@sec.edu.in)

**Image 2:** Poster marketing Krishna Sharma's publication in a Scopus-indexed and UGC-CARE-recognised journal in April 2024

**Table 2** (below) depicts the progress of the four student researchers since the inception of this initiative in November-December 2022.

Sr No	Name of the student researcher	Department	Semester	Name and year of publication of the book under review	Date of joining as a student researcher	Status of review
1	Krishna Sharma	Economics	VI	Chip War: The fight for the world's most critical technology (2022)	10 December 2022	Review published in <i>Strategic Analysis</i> journal.  Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the review.
2	Sharmistha Sarma	History	VI	Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey through Opium's Hidden Histories (2023)	09 June 2023	Two drafts submitted for proofreading to the Research Facilitator
3	Harshini Saikia	Sociology	II	Lies Our Mothers Told Us: The Indian Woman's Burden (2022)	27 August 2023	Two drafts submitted for proofreading to the Research Facilitator
4	Dempi Naiding	English	II	Dust on the Throne: The Search for Buddhism in Modern India (2023)	16 May 2024	Review underway
5	Ipsita Parasar	English	II	Securing India in the Cyber Era (2021)	17 May 2024	Review underway

6	Sugandhi Pradip	English	II	H Pop: The Secretive World of Hindutva Pop Stars	17 May 2024	Review underway
7	Claudia June Basaiawmoit	Political Science	II	Undecided	04 July 2024	--
8	Shreyashi Vedashruti	Chemistry	II	Undecided	11 July 2024	--
9	Nabya Kalita	Sociology	II	Undecided	12 July 2024	--

**Table 2: Details of Student Researchers**

Three students are also closely assisting the Research Facilitator on a project entitled, *Evaluating Syllabus Design of Undergraduate Skill Enhancement Courses under the NEP 2020: A Case Study of Meghalaya*. This project is funded under the college's Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) programme. While the details of the project are available in the following section (refer to Table 5), the details of the assisting students are visible in Table 3 (below):

Sr No	Name of the Research Assistant	Department	Semester	Date of joining as a student researcher
1	Harshini Saikia	Sociology	II	23 March 2024
2	Christine Nongspung	Social Work (UG)	II	23 March 2024
3	Gayatri Das	Economics	II	14 May 2024

**Table 3: Details of Student Researchers under CURE**

## Faculty Engagement

In addition to student engagement, the Incubation Centre also encourages the college's teaching faculty to pursue research. To this end, the Research Facilitator proofreads manuscripts received from the faculty for publication on various platforms (journals, books, etc.). Until July 2024, the Incubation Centre received manuscripts from five faculty. These are outlined below (**Table 4**).

Sr No	Name of the faculty	Department	Name of the paper	Date of submission	Status
1	Dr Wandaia Syngkon	Social Work (Post Graduate)	Exploring Psychological Well-Being of Higher Education Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic	22 Sept 2023	<b>Published as a book chapter</b> in Raffey, M.A. (Ed.) <i>Recent Trends in Multidisciplinary Research and Development</i> (Vol. 1), Red'shine Publication
2	Dr Mahesh Ram	Physics	Half-metallicity in Rare-Earth-based Heusler alloy	15 Feb 2024	<b>Paper accepted for publication</b> in Volume I of <i>Springer Proceedings</i>
3	Randolph V Langstieh	Social Work (Under Graduate)	Decolonising Misinterpretations and Misconceptions of the Khasi Worldview	17 April 2024	Manuscripts submitted to <i>AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples</i> (Sage; Impact Factor 1.6)
4	Ritisha Kharshong	Sociology	Decentralization of Democracy: Khasi Durbar Shnong (Khasi Village Durbar)	25 April 2024	Proofreading underway
			Women and Work: Domestic Workers in Meghalaya	25 April 2024	Proofreading underway

5	Shubhankar Sarma	Sociology	Alternative Motherhood: A Sociological Understanding of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) With Special Reference to Women and Health	10 May 2024	Proofreading underway
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**Table 4:** Details of faculty papers

In November 2022, the Research Facilitator also published three book chapters. The details of these publications are given below (**Table 5**).

Sr No	Name of the faculty	Department	Name of the paper	Year of Publication	Status
1	Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves	Incubation Centre	India's Gas-Based Economy: A Bridge to a Transition or a Gateway to Energy Insecurity?	2022	<b>Published as a book chapter</b> in Chauhan, P., Lahiri, and Kumar, R. (Eds.) <i>Maritime Perspectives 2022: Non-traditional Dimensions of Maritime Security</i> , National Maritime Foundation  Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the review.
2			Floating Oil-Storage and its Implications on India's Energy Security	2022	<b>Published as a book chapter</b> in Chauhan, P., Lahiri, and Kumar, R. (Eds.) <i>Maritime Perspectives 2022: Non-traditional Dimensions of Maritime Security</i> , National Maritime Foundation

					Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the review.
3			Crude-Oil Storage in an Era of Plenty: India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves	2022	<p><b>Published as a book chapter</b> in Chauhan, P., Lahiri, and Kumar, R. (Eds.) <i>Maritime Perspectives 2022: Non-traditional Dimensions of Maritime Security</i>, National Maritime Foundation</p> <p>Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to access the review.</p>

**Table 5:** Details of papers published by the Research Facilitator

Since 2023, the Incubation Centre has also submitted research project proposals to national and state-level agencies. The details of these proposals are given below (Table 6).

Sr No	Name of the Faculty (Department)	Name of the proposed project	Year of proposal	Funding agency	Status
1	Dr Wandaia Syngkon (MSW) and Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves (Incubation Centre)	Housing for All: An Evaluation of the 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin' in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya	2023	Indian Council of Social Science Research	Rejected
2	Dr Wandaia Syngkon (MSW), Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves (Incubation Centre) and Iarisa Anette R Dorphang (BSW)	Assessing Drug Use in Urban Meghalaya: Towards Effective Prevention, Detection, and Rehabilitation Strategies	2024	Inspector General of Police (CID), Meghalaya	Under review

3	Dr Oliver Nelson Gonsalves (Incubation Centre)	Evaluating Syllabus Design of Undergraduate Skill Enhancement Courses under the NEP 2020: A Case Study of Meghalaya	2024	St Edmund's College, Shillong	Proposal accepted; research underway
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**Table 6:** Details of project proposals by the Incubation Centre

The following section will discuss the college's ground-breaking Plagiarism Check Initiative.

## Promoting Best Practices — Plagiarism Check Initiative

This section outlines the College’s internal process for generating plagiarism reports. It was developed in March 2023 after a discussion between five heads of various departments at the Department of Biotechnology. The Research Facilitator was designated as the point of contact for generating plagiarism reports.

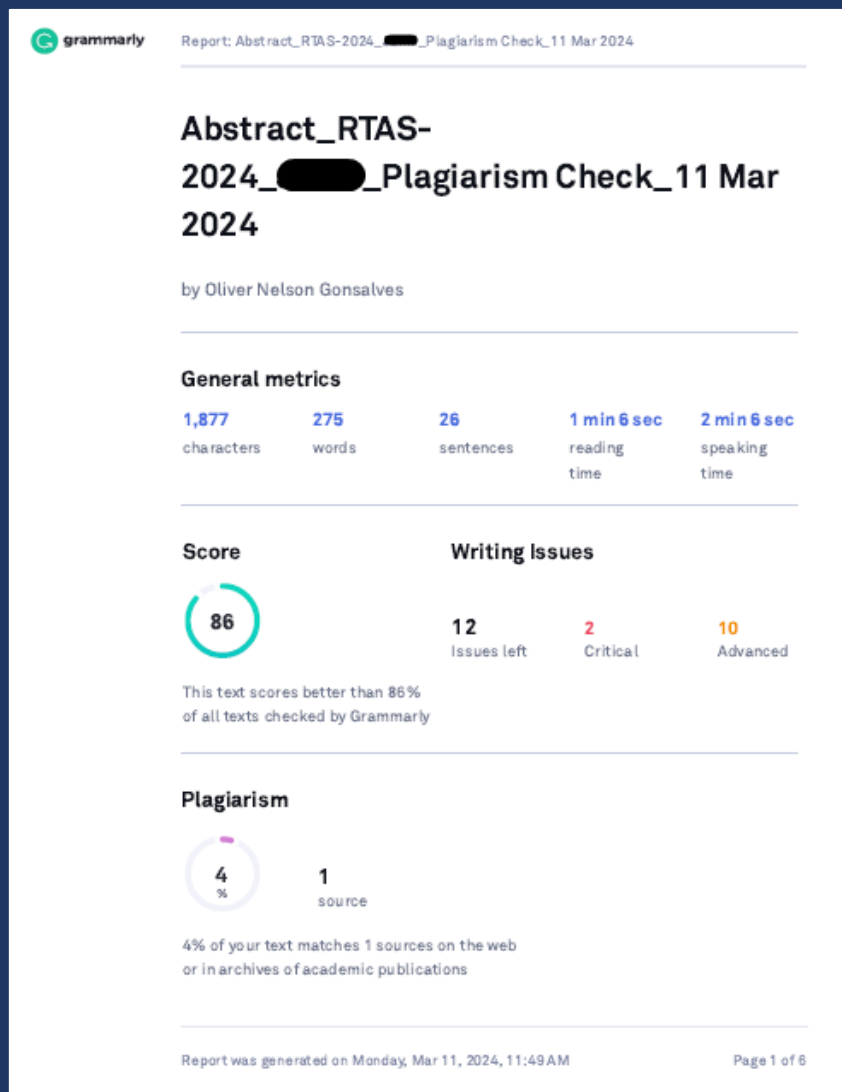


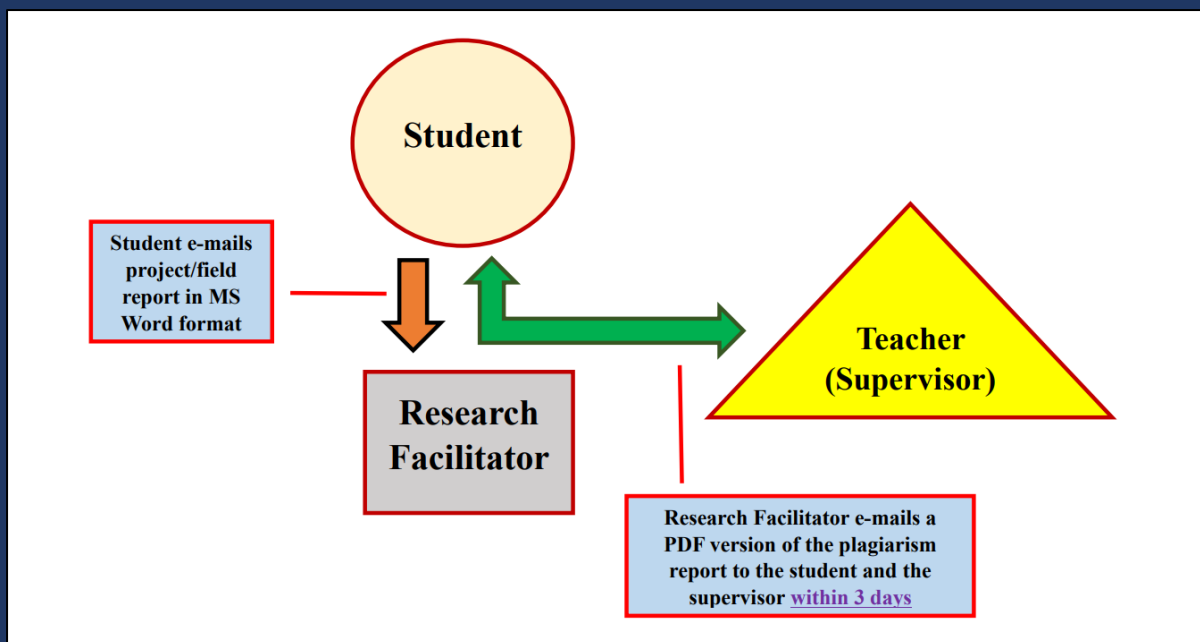
Image 3: Cover page of a plagiarism report

Note: Text redacted to protect privacy

**Image 3** (above) shows the first page (of a six-page report) of a plagiarism check for a document submitted in March 2024. The software also provides users with suggestions to improve grammar and other writing-related issues. It also shows the percentage of plagiarism (4%). **The College has fixed 20% as the threshold for similarity.**

**Figure 3** (below) depicts the implementation of St. Edmund’s Plagiarism Check Initiative. The research facilitator generates a plagiarism report and e-mails it to the students (keeping her supervisor in Cc) within three days of receiving the request.



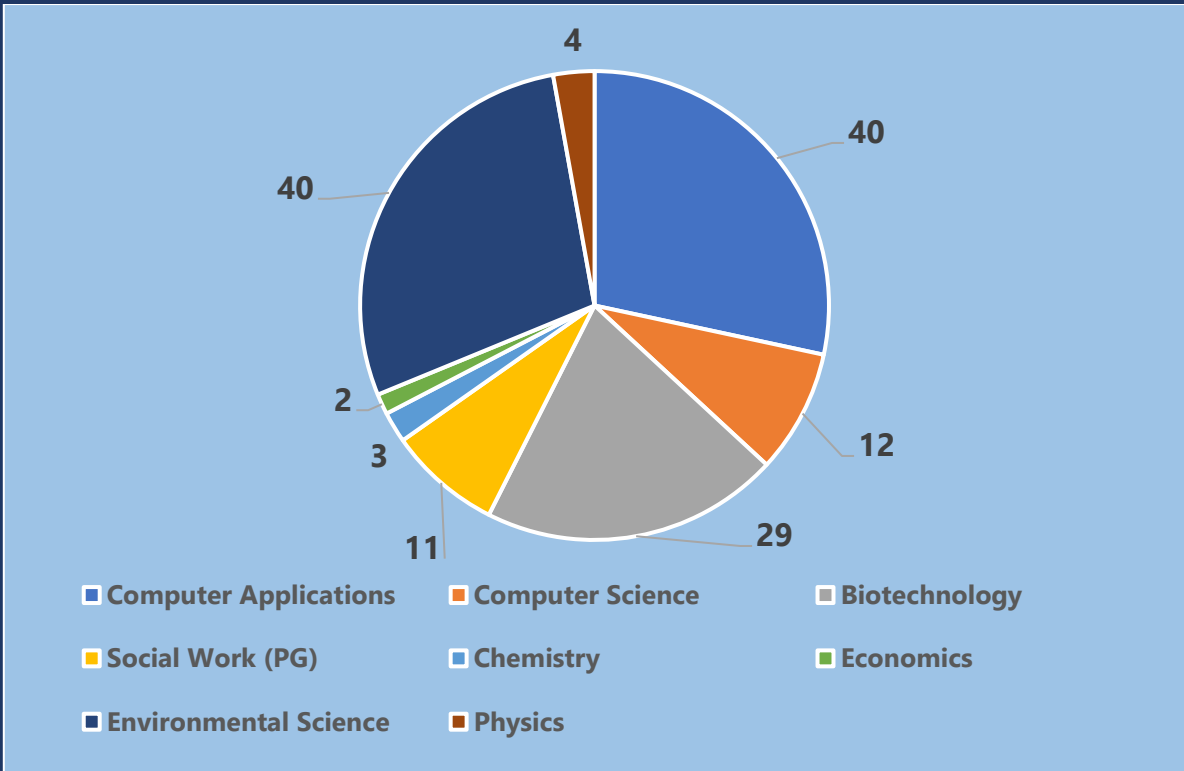


**Figure 3:** Flow chart of the implementation of St Edmunds' Plagiarism Check Initiative

Although the report is detailed and could cover several pages, only the first three pages are forwarded if the threshold is not breached. However, if a student exceeds the 20% threshold, she (and her supervisor) is e-mailed the comprehensive plagiarism report and directed to rewrite her original submission. Project/field reports unaccompanied by a plagiarism report from the Incubation Centre are excluded from end-semester assessments.

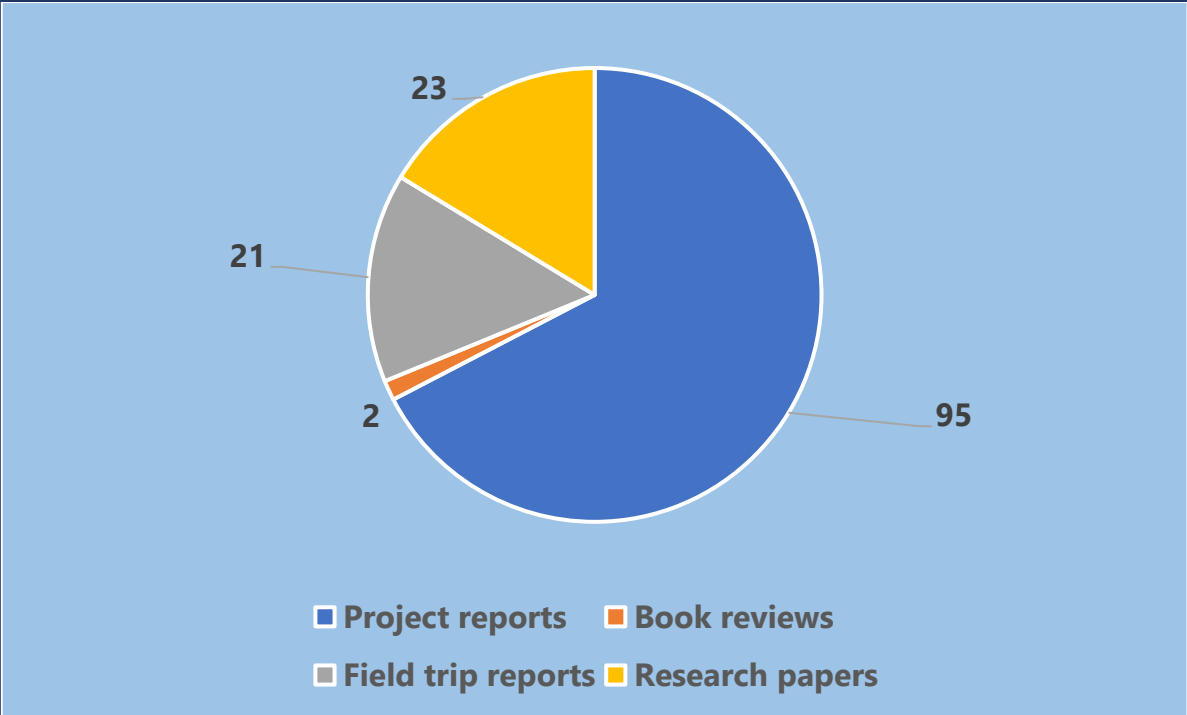
Since May 2023, the **Incubation Centre has processed 141 plagiarism reports**. Figure 4 (below) depicts the department-wise breakdown of these reports. This indicates that, so far, seven out of the twenty-two departments of St. Edmund's College are participating in this initiative.

So far, only five departments (Computer Applications, Biotechnology, Computer Science, Environmental Studies and Chemistry) have endorsed this process by forwarding student assignments for review by the plagiarism software. Documents from the Post Graduate Department of Social Work (Social Work [PG] in Figure 4), the Department of Physics and the Department of Economics comprised individual academic pursuits for submission to publishing houses (for book chapters) and various Scopus-indexed journals.



**Figure 4:** Total number of similarity reports generated by the Incubation Centre (May 2022 – 15 July 2024)

**Figure 5** (below) shows the various categories of documents forwarded to the Incubation Centre for plagiarism checks. Four departments alone account for the 77 project reports submitted (Computer Applications, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, and Chemistry). The Department of Biotechnology sought to evaluate field trip reports only.



**Figure 5:** Categories of documents processed by the Incubation Centre

The following section outlines the near-term objectives of the Incubation Centre in the academic year 2024-25.

## Outlook for the Future

St. Edmund's College, Shillong, has kept up with the latest developments in education. This initiative has shown that a primarily undergraduate college is ahead of the curve and attempting to expose its students to global ethical research and learning standards.

Therefore, it is essential to keep the momentum going by setting near-term objectives for the continued success of this initiative. Increased interaction with faculty and students for the publication of their work is evidence of the success of this fledgling enterprise. Having tasted success in the pursuit of its previous goals, the Incubation Centre is resolved to maintain its consistency in achieving the following objectives:

- ❖ Expand the participation of the college's departments in the Plagiarism Check Initiative
- ❖ Increase student engagement in the college's research-oriented pursuits
- ❖ Publication of at least two works by the Research Facilitator