

### **7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness**

Kannur University is structured with multi campus system in order to ensure the process of decentralization of administration and greater democratization of knowledge. This is done with the vision that such a structure can accelerate the systematic dissemination of vistas of knowledge over diverse geographical areas and among larger sections of the population. The rationale behind this distinct concept takes into consideration the specific features of the localities where the campuses are located. The remote villages in which these campuses function suffer from serious lack of facilities for imparting higher education and research. This distinctive system of educational structure goes in tune with the vision of the UGC stated policy to promote village-rural campuses for more efficacious and equitable dissemination of advance enquiry and knowledge.

The diversity of disciplines in each campus contributes to the multi/inter disciplinary approach in the production and dissemination of knowledge in the higher education system of Kerala. Each department in the campuses focusses on their areas of specialization and offers various courses relevant to the needs of the people in their respective locality. Conservation of the Western Ghats, the hotspot of biodiversity, is one of the prominent concerns of present ecological activities of the State and the departments of Applied Zoology, Rural and Tribal Sociology, and Plant Science initiate various academic and nonacademic programmes for ensuring the maintenance of the ecosystem there. Protection of flora and fauna is ensured and the social and cultural diversities of the people are safeguarded while trying to bring them to the mainstream of society. Northern Malabar is acclaimed for the art forms like Kalaripayattu (a form of martial arts) and various folklores. Departments belonging to the discipline of Humanities try to protect them from being extinct. Language departments of various campuses try to safeguard the indigenous forms and varieties of languages prominent in their locality. With the purpose of enhancing the physical wellness of the people, the Department of Physical Education organizes various courses like Swimming in their locality. The historical heritage of North Malabar explored and disseminated by the Department of History. The research works conducted by the departments under the School of Life Science address the most burning issues of health among the local people. The University also offers training for civil service aspirants in the region.

All these context bound and culture specific activities are possible because of the multi campus system followed by Kannur University and this contributes to its distinctiveness.