

# TRENDS & VIEWS – KRCE NEWSLETTER

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## *Editorial*

Education has traditionally consisted of the two fundamental elements of teaching and learning, with a heavy emphasis on teaching. Throughout history, the transfer of information from the teacher to the learner has been done on a person-to-person basis. A teacher stands in front of a room and imparts the information for a student to learn. Because this approach requires the teacher to be an expert on every topic that they teach, this is referred to as the “sage on stage” form of education. While lecture-style teaching has been used for centuries to build today’s literate and competent society, it ends up being a highly inefficient system, in many respects, the “equivalent of using Roman numerals.” For any new topic to be taught, a new expert needs to be created, and this universal need for more and more experts has become a serious chokepoint for learning. To illustrate this point, let’s look at the example of a new topic that cannot be taught because the expert on this topic lives on the other side of the world. A teacher-dependent education system is also time-dependent, location-dependent, and situation-dependent. The teachers act as a control valve, turning on or off the flow of information. The education system of the future will undergo a transition from a heavy emphasis on teaching to a heavy emphasis on learning. Experts will create the courseware and the students will learn anytime or anywhere at a pace that is comfortable for them, learning about topics that they are interested in. There has long been the pervasive notion that learning can take place only in a classroom. Even though schools use field trips and outdoor experiences to enhance education, the classroom remains the dominant central fixture of today’s educational systems. Classrooms are designed to focus attention, close off the rest of the world, and create a controllable environment where learning can take place. Architects refer to schools as a “place,” and over the years place-makers have attempted to create the ultimate classroom – a place where learning can be optimized and students can excel.

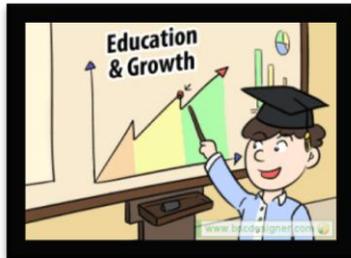


Most educators will argue that the real learning takes place inside the classroom. Even though external activities such as doing homework, reading assignments, or writing papers happen outside the bounds of the school, the primary education interface remains the classroom. Using classrooms as the primary “touch point” for learning creates many problems. The person or education system that controls the classroom also controls the time when learning can take place, the students who will participate, the lighting, the sounds, the media used, the tools, the pace, the subject matter, and in many cases, the results. However, classroom-centric education is not necessary for learning.

Learning takes place from the moment a person wakes up in the morning until they fall asleep at night. In fact, learning continues even while a person is sleeping. We may not be learning about math and science while we watch a movie, but we learn about the characters in the movie, the plot, the setting, the drama, the resolution of the problem, the kind of popcorn a theatre serves, and how comfortable the seats are. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking in terms of past top-down approaches. Instead, we need to focus on the key elements, the seeds of innovation, which will allow this new organic form of education to spring to life. New forms of education are not achieved by putting an umbrella over our existing education systems and networking them with hopes that they will get better. And they’re not achieved by simply recording the lectures for later broadcast. Education in its current state is the equivalent of Roman numerals, a system that is preventing us from achieving great things. We are much more concerned about finding products that will satisfy our own particular needs.

***Fr Eugene Lobo S.J.***

**Education and Growth:** Education is fundamental to development and growth. The human mind makes possible all development achievements, from health advances and agricultural innovations to efficient public administration and private sector growth. For



countries to reap these benefits fully, they need to unleash the potential of the human mind. And there is no

better tool for doing so than education.

Twenty years ago, government officials and development partners met to affirm the importance of education in development—on economic development and broadly on improving people’s lives—and together declared Education for All as a goal. While enrolments have risen in promising fashion around the world, learning levels have remained disappointingly and many remain left behind. Because growth, development, and poverty reduction depend on the knowledge and skills that people acquire, not the number of years that they sit in a classroom, we must transform our call to action from Education for All to Learning for All.

First, foundational skills acquired early in childhood make possible a lifetime of learning. The



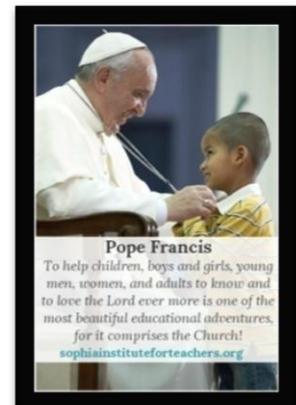
traditional view of education as starting in primary school takes up the challenge too late. The

science of brain development shows that learning needs to be encouraged early and often, both inside and outside of the formal schooling system. Prenatal health and early childhood development programs that include education and health are consequently important to realize this potential. In the primary years,

quality teaching is essential to give students the foundational literacy and numeracy on which lifelong learning depends. Adolescence is also a period of high potential for learning, but many teenagers leave school at this point, lured by the prospect of a job, the need to help their families, or turned away by the cost of schooling. For those who drop out too early, second-chance and non-formal learning opportunities are essential to ensure that all youth can acquire skills for the labour market.

Second, getting results requires smart investments—that is, investments that prioritize and monitor learning, beyond traditional metrics, such as the number of teachers trained or number of students enrolled. Quality needs to be the focus of education investments, with learning gains as the key metric of quality. Resources are too limited and the challenges too big to be designing policies and programs in the dark. We need evidence on what works in order to invest smartly.

Third, learning for all means ensuring that all students, and not just the most privileged or gifted, acquire the knowledge and skills they need. Major challenges of access remain for disadvantaged



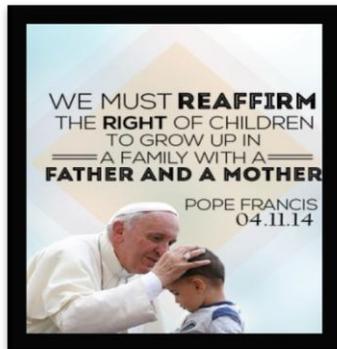
populations at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. We must lower the barriers that keep girls, children with disabilities, and ethno-linguistic minorities from attaining as much education as other population groups. “Learning for All” promotes the equity goals that underlie Education for All and the MDGs. Without confronting equity issues, it will be impossible to achieve the objective of learning for all.

Achieving learning for all will be challenging, but it is the right agenda for the next decade. It is the knowledge and skills that children and youth acquire today—not simply their school

attendance—that will drive their employability, productivity, health, and well-being in the decades to come, and that will help ensure that their communities and nations thrive.

**Pope Francis' teaching on the family:** During his Wednesday catechesis, Pope Francis spoke the topic of the family. He reflected on the family in the light of scripture and tradition, social realities and challenges, current roles and future possibilities. He said that the Incarnation of the Son of God opens a new beginning in the universal history of man and woman. And this new beginning happens within a family, in Nazareth. Jesus was born in a family. God chose to come into the world in a human family, which He himself formed.

In his address the Pope said: “There is a close link between the hope of a people and the harmony among generations. The joy of children causes the parents’ hearts to beat and reopens the future. Children are the joy of the family and of society. They are not a question of reproductive biology, nor one of the many ways to fulfill oneself, much less a possession of their parents.... No. Children are a gift, they are a gift: understood? Children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable; and at the same time unmistakably linked to his/her roots.”



Further the Pontiff added: “In the family, among siblings, human coexistence is learned, how one must live in society. Perhaps we are not always aware of it, but the family itself introduces fraternity into the world!” he said that the Son of God was not spared this stage. It is the mystery that we contemplate every year at Christmas.

Speaking from scripture Pope Francis said: “Man and woman are the image and likeness

of God. This tells us that it is not man alone who is the image of God or woman alone who is the image of God, but man and woman as a couple who are the image of God.” In the midst of these it is Sin that generates distrust and division between man and woman. Their relationship will be undermined by a thousand forms of abuse and subjugation, misleading seduction and humiliating ignorance, even the most dramatic and violent kind. He asked his audience to think of the exploitation and the commercialization of the female body in the current media culture. And let us also think of the recent epidemic of distrust, skepticism, and even hostility that is spreading in our culture.”



The family is often misunderstood in today’s world. “The family tops all the indices of wellbeing among young people; but, fearing mistakes, many do not want to even consider it; even being Christians, they do not consider the sacrament of matrimony, the single and unrepeatable sign of the covenant, which becomes a testimony of faith. Perhaps this very fear of failure is the greatest obstacle to receiving the Word of Christ, which promises his grace to the conjugal union and to the family. The Christian seed at the root of equality between spouses must bear new fruit today,” said the Holy Father.

“Jesus never stops accepting and speaking to everyone, even those who no longer expect to encounter God in this life. That is an important lesson for the Church! The disciples were chosen to care for this assembly, for this family of God’s guests. In order to maintain this reality of the assembly of Jesus in today’s situation, it is indispensable to renew the covenant between the family and the Christian community.

Ally, the Pope added that the family is at the beginning, at the root of this world culture

that saves us. "The family, the fruitful covenant between man and woman, is the answer to the great challenge of our world. That challenge is two-fold: fragmentation and standardization, two extremes that coexist and foster each other, and together they support the economic model of consumerism. The family is the answer because it is the cell of a society that balances the personal and the communal dimensions, and that at the same time can be the model for the sustainable management of the goods and resources of creation. The family is the principal agent of an integral ecology, because it is the primary social agent, which contains within it the two foundational principles of human civilization on the earth: the principle of communion and the principle of fruitfulness."

**Cardinal Gracias re-elected to head Latin rite bishop:**



Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Bombay has been re-elected to head of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI), the forum of Latin rite bishops in India, for another term of two years February. 6. However, other top officers, vice president Archbishop Philippe Neri Ferrao of Goa and secretary general Bishop Varghese Chakkalal of Calicut were replaced. Archbishop George Antonysamy of Madras - Mylapore is new vice president and Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto of Delhi is new secretary general. The re-election of Cardinal Gracias was unanimous decision of more than 130 bishops attending the 29th plenary of the bishops in Bhopal, said CCBI spokesperson.

The prelates are deliberating on way to revitalize Catholic families after Church studies have suggested that Catholic families are drifting away from vital the Catholic teachings such as those on family planning.

Cardinal Gracias is also the president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences as well as the Archbishop of Bombay.

Archbishop Antonysamy has served in the Vatican embassies in Gambia, Liberia and Sierra Leone and was in charge of d'Affaires of the Vatican Embassy in Jordan. In 2012 he was appointed the sixth archbishop of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese.

Archbishop Couto began his Episcopal career as the auxiliary bishop of Delhi. He was then transferred to Jalandhar as its second bishop in 2007. He became the Delhi archbishop in 2012. The newly elected office bearers were installed at a ceremony moderated by Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara of Nagpur.

**New Bishop of Mysore installed:**

Bishop K.A. William was ordained as the seventh bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Mysore at an elaborate ceremony here on Feb 27. Held at the St.



Philomena's Church precincts, the Episcopal ordination and installation ceremony was witnessed by a large gathering of the devout. There were nearly 30 Bishops, 450 priests, more than 600 religious sisters in the congregation.

Bishop Thomas Anthony Vazhapilly, the outgoing bishop, officiated the ordination ceremony in the presence of other spiritual



leaders of the church. Nearly 5,500 people had gathered to witness the consecration of the new Bishop. The appointment of the new bishop was announced by

Pope Francis on January 25, and he succeeds

Bishop Vazhapilly who held the post for 14 years.

Bishop William belongs to Polibetta in Kodagu district and completed his education in Mysuru before joining the seminary to take up theological studies. He also has a Master's degree in Canon Law and Christianity. Besides being the spiritual head of Catholic churches in Mysuru, Mandya, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu, as the Diocese head, Bishop William will also be responsible for more than 130 educational institutions in the region. He was the vicar of the Cathedral of Mysore, Treasurer of the Diocese and PRO to the Bishop of Mysore.

**Archbishop Moras completes 20 years as Bishop:** Archbishop Bernard Moras completed 20 years as bishop first as the Bishop and for the last 12 years as Archbishop of Bangalore. Archbishop Moras expressed his gratitude to

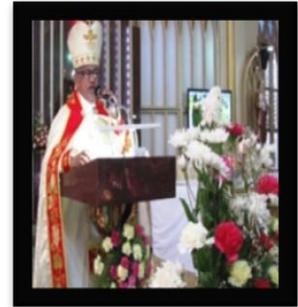


God and all others who collaborated with him in his ministry. He also thanked all the bishops, priests, religious and laity for their support and presence on the occasion. He also laid the foundation stone for the Archdiocesan Retreat Centre and said that the Retreat Centre will be a powerhouse and everyone who comes to the Centre will be touched.

Bishop Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy of Beltangady who preached the homily during the Mass felicitated the Archbishop and asked the congregation to give him (Dr Moras) a 'big hand' on the occasion of his 20th anniversary of Episcopal ordination. He said Archbishop Moras is a gift of God to people of the state, particularly to the Archdiocese. As per the Bible and established tradition bishops are the foundation to send and spread the Word of God. The Bishops are the shepherds for people and we are fortunate about it unlike many places where they do not have shepherds to look after the people. The Retreat Centre that comes up in the premises

of Lourdes Church is a great blessing as Mary is an icon of the Church. Mother Mary is a role model. She would be called blessed from generation to generation. Mary advocated to imitate Christ as St Paul said 'be imitators of me, as I am of Christ (1 Cor. 11:1).

In his message Bishop Lawrence said Jesus is Lord of all. He will take care of us. He will keep His promises. He will make us new persons and will give the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the model and the planned Retreat Centre is to help everyone to reach the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Bishop Mukkuzhy congratulated Archbishop Bernard Moras for having taken the leap for the new Archdiocesan Retreat Centre.



The foundation stone tablet was unveiled by the Archbishop. He sprinkled holy water on the stone tablet and the six bricks. The six bricks were carried in procession to the place marked for the Retreat Centre. The Archbishop was accompanied by the Bishops, priests, CRI representatives, parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes where the Archbishop blessed the foundation stone at the place of the Centre planned to come up. Fr S Jayanathan, vicar general, explained the significance of time capsule and the contents placed in it. Capsule contained among other things, currency note, photo of Archbishop and various other details. It will be opened after 50 years and replaced by some items with relevant matters and materials of that time. The foundation stone-laying ceremony ended with the choir singing the hymn: There shall be showers of blessings.

**Seminar at Holy Spirit PU College, Bangalore:** A seminar was held on education and POCSO Act for the staff members of Holy Spirit PU College on February 10, 2017. 45 staff members were present. Sr Pauline Pereira the Principal welcomed the members present and

introduced the topic. Fr Eugene Lobo the Resource Person presented the meaning of education and the art of being a good teacher. Then the topic on POCSO was introduced giving the present day situation and the existing dangerous



in schools in and around Bangalore. In fact this an universal problem and reminded the teachers to be alert in ordered to protect the children. He explained the origin of the problem both in schools and in work place and explained the measures through which these problems may be overcome. He placed before the teachers the legal obligations and the measures to be employed by the individual teachers and the institution.



**Prayer session at Jyothi School, K K Halli, Bangalore:** A half day prayer session and reflection was held at Jyothi School K K Halli, Bangalore. 52 staff members from three institutions under Jyothi school took part in the prayer session. At the commencement



of the session Sr Jeevan BS welcomed and introduced the topics and explained how important it is spend some times with God. The entire session was in Kannada with Fr Eugene Lobo as the Resource Person. In the first session the meaning of prayer was explained and with the help of video clips he place before them the need of prayer and the way in which a person can pray. In the second session he placed before the teachers the concept of faith, interreligious prayer,

environment and harmony and finally forgiveness and mercy. There was a good response from the staff providing a good prayerful atmosphere. There was a session of question and answers where the teachers asked pertinent questions.



**A True Duck Story:** Something really cute happened in downtown San Antonio. Michael R. is an accounting clerk at Frost Bank and works there in a second story office. Several weeks ago, he watched a mother duck choose the concrete awning outside his window as the unlikely place to build a nest above the sidewalk. The mallard laid ten eggs in a nest in the corner of the planter that is perched over 10 feet in the air. She dutifully kept the eggs warm for weeks, and Monday afternoon all of her ten ducklings hatched.

Michael worried all night how the momma duck was going to get those babies safely off their perch in a busy, downtown, urban environment to take to water, which typically happens in the first 48 hours of a duck hatching. Tuesday morning, Michael watched the mother duck encourage her babies to the edge of the perch with the intent to show them how to jump off. Office work came to a standstill as everyone gathered to watch.

The mother flew down below and started quacking to her babies above. In disbelief Michael watched as the first fuzzy newborn trustingly toddled to the edge and astonishingly leapt into thin air, crashing onto the cement below.



Michael couldn't stand to watch this risky effort nine more times! He dashed out of his office and ran down the stairs to the sidewalk where the first obedient duckling, near its

mother, was resting in a stupor after the near-fatal fall. Michael stood out of sight under the awning-planter, ready to help.

As the second one took the plunge, Michael jumped forward and caught it with his bare hands before it hit the concrete. Safe and sound, he set it down by its momma and the other stunned sibling, still recovering from that painful leap. (The momma must have sensed that Michael was trying to help her babies.)

One by one the babies continued to jump. Each time Michael hid under the awning just to reach out in the nick of time as the duckling made its free fall. At the scene the busy downtown sidewalk traffic came to a standstill. Time after time, Michael was able to catch the remaining eight and set them by their approving mother.

At this point Michael realized the duck family had only made part of its dangerous journey. They had two full blocks to walk across traffic, crosswalks, curbs and past pedestrians to get to the closest open water, the San Antonio River, site of the famed "River Walk." The on



looking office secretaries and several San Antonio police officers joined in. An empty copy-paper box was brought to collect the babies. They carefully corralled them, with the mother's approval, and loaded them in the container. Michael

held the box low enough for the mom to see her brood. He then slowly navigated through the downtown streets toward the San Antonio River. The mother waddled behind and kept her babies in sight, all the way.

As they reached the river, the mother took over and passed him, jumping in the river and quacking loudly. At the water's edge, Michael tipped the box and helped shepherd the babies toward the water and to the waiting mother after their adventurous ride.

All ten darling ducklings safely made it into the water and paddled up snugly to momma. Michael said the mom swam in circles, looking back toward the beaming bank bookkeeper, and proudly quacking. At last, all present and accounted for: "We're all together again. We're here! We're here!" Like all of us in the big times of our life, they never could have made it alone without lots of helping hands. I think it gives the name of San Antonio's famous "River Walk" a whole new meaning! Maybe you will want to share this story with others.

**Story of Two Screws:** Once upon a time there were two screws fastening a vital part of a gasoline engine. One of the screws was haughty and proud of its shining head. The second screw was quiet, intent only on doing its job to the best of its ability.

One day a speck of rust appeared on the head of the second screw. Filled with vain pride of its own beauty, the first screw began to laugh at the second. "Your head is tarnished," the first said to the second. "Look at you. Your perfect luster is gone."

The second screw said nothing. Instead, it concentrated on what it was doing. "How ugly you have become," the first screw chortled, "and how beautiful I have remained."



Then it began to laugh so hard at the second screw that it failed to notice that it was working itself loose. Finally it dropped off the engine and plunged into a small pool of dirty oil below.

With the first screw no longer holding up its end of the load, the second was faced with doing the work of two. Meanwhile the first screw, now covered with grimy oil, wailed and lamented. "Just look at me! I'm dirty and filthy and all my beauty is gone. By laughing at the blemish on my friend the second screw, I

worked myself loose and fell into the muck. Now I'm doomed."

Now, it just so happened that a short time later the owner of the engine started it up. He immediately noticed that something didn't sound right -- the engine was running rough. When he checked, he instantly saw that one of the two screws holding the vital part was missing. "Ah ha!" the owner said. "One of the screws must have worked itself loose and fell to the ground, but I don't see it. Maybe it fell into that puddle of old oil."

The owner reached into the oil and found the missing screw. "Look at you," the owner said. "You're all covered with grime and oil. How ugly you are. But I will fix that right away." The owner reached for a nearby rag and wiped all the oil and grime off the first screw until it shone even brighter than before. Then he replaced it on the part. Before he turned away, he noticed a little speck of tarnish on the head of the second screw. With the second rag, he wiped the head clean and bright. Then the owner walked away.

Finally the engine was started. The two screws, now equally beautiful, held the part tight. "Forgive me, my friend," the first screw said to the second. "In my vanity, I was so busy laughing at your blemish that I did not notice that I was working myself loose."

"And what have you learned?" the second screw quietly asked.

"I learned not to judge others because I have my own sins to deal with."

"Then," the second screw said, "I forgive you."

"Thank you, my friend. And rest assured, my vanity will remain forever at the bottom of that dirty puddle of oil."

**Face the situation:** Once after visiting a temple, swami Vivekananda was crossing a place which had a tank on one side and wall on the other. There was a group of monkey not allowing swami to cross. They started to snatch him and trying to get hold of his belongings. Swami after some trying started to run. But as Vivekananda ran, the monkeys got even bolder.

After failing to escape, Vivekananda heard a monk shouting, "Face the Brutes!" Words had a magical impact on Vivekananda; he turned back, stood his ground and faced the monkeys. As he did that, the monkeys went on their way and ran away. Vivekananda thanked the monk with traditional 'namaste'. The monk started walking his way and swami his.

Like those monkeys, there will be mischief, negative thoughts, trouble and difficult situations coming your way. Never run. Turn back and "Face the brutes". They will disappear.

**Just a reminder:** The CBCI office for Education & Culture, New Delhi has re-sent the questionnaire with the imperative that all institutions, schools and colleges are obligated to respond to it. The questionnaire indicates the implementation of the All India Catholic Education Policy. Kindly respond. If you have not received the questionnaire as yet, kindly contact KRCE.



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