

TRENDS & VIEWS – KRCE NEWS LETTER

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Editorial

Every human being has a right to live without violence. We must not forget that children are human too. They have the same rights as everyone else - perhaps more so because given their age and ability, they do not have the strength and resources to fight for this right. It is the bounden duty of all adults and institutions to respect and protect children's rights. Over the past year many gruesome acts of corporal punishment have come to light - some of which resulted in the child's death.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child." This saying was popular or at least widely quoted, even in more or less recent times. It is unacceptable today, and we are aware that it is unacceptable with good cause. To force a child to be good is to awaken in him a resentment that will probably find full expression once he attains the "dignity" of adulthood.

Children can be spoiled. To spoil a child is to raise him in the belief that he can always get his own way, perhaps by temper tantrums, perhaps by wheedling and flattery, perhaps by playing one adult against another. It is necessary for the child to grow up with the awareness that the world is not there to do just what he wants.

Nevertheless, liberal use of the "rod" can also spoil the most beautiful aspect of a child's nature: the quality of trust. For although the world shows him soon enough its massive indifference to his whims, without trust in life the child will grow up to be cynical. People who trust and who trust in the power of love can cope far better with life's setbacks than those who have been schooled by punishment.

We have no right, as human beings, to control the lives of others, even if it is our duty to teach children right behaviour. The punishment-reward method of training children is offensive to the modern mentality, and is opposed by most modern methods of education. Still, it is a fact of Nature that punishment and reward is the system by which all creatures learn. The important thing is as much as possible to allow Nature herself to do the teaching. And so she does, quite effectively. Things are so arranged in the great scheme of things that we soon learn the lessons we need for our own survival and well being. Adults should be sensitive to a child's need for awareness of these broader realities.

"Spare the rod and spoil the child." We have simply to accept that Life itself applies this truth impartially to everyone, whether children or adults. And we have to accept also that if this weren't life's law, we would never attain true maturity. We would in effect become spoiled because ignorant of broader realities than those of our own petty egos and our own selfish desires. Everyone needs discipline, particularly self-discipline. But corporal punishment is not a form of inculcating discipline. Research has consistently shown that that it impedes the attainment of respect for discipline. It rarely motivates children to act differently, because it does not bring an understanding of what they ought to be doing nor does it offer any kind of reward for being good. The fact that those parents, teachers and others have to repeat corporal punishment for the same misbehaviour by the same child testifies to its ineffectiveness. In the countries where corporal punishment is banned there is no evidence to show that disruption of schools or homes due to children has increased.

Fr. Eugene Lobo S.J.

The Bliss

I land up in a wonderland As I ponder 'God



the Creator wore my form'

Once I asked him 'why?'

This is how he

answered me: He paused without words

And He possessed my

heart!

Love and kindness oozed out from Him

Smiled, spoke to me,

Made me feel at home with Him.

As though I am His equal!

**--Sr. Cynthia Pais B.S. Principal,
Gulabi High School, Bangalore**

EASTER – A CELEBRATION OF NEW

LIFE: Easter is the feast of feasts, the day that the Lord has made, the summit of the liturgical year when we celebrate with joy the supreme event of the Resurrection, which changed everything



in the world. Jesus has risen from the dead. He is alive!

What an incredible truth! Jesus has risen from the dead. Shall we say

he has risen like Lazarus who resumed the life he had before he died? No! Jesus' Resurrection was not a mere reanimation. He did not

appear to His disciples in the state in which he was when they sat at table with Him at the Last Supper. He was different, yet the same.

We celebrate this event and rejoice with the Lord who is one with the Father and yet he is one with us. He has made the

choice of being one with us human persons and to infuse into us new life. He is the Risen Jesus who has come to give us new life and wants us to have it to the full.

The Resurrection of Christ has already brought about a change in the world: that is the wonderful power of love received from Him. There are people whose lives are filled with such great love that the only explanation we can find for it is the power of Christ's Resurrection at work in them.

In our own lives, there are moments when we, too, experience the power of Christ's Resurrection. This happens, for example, when we succeed in giving a helping hand to those in need, in smiling in the midst of trials and difficulties, in praying for our enemies and in forgiving those who hurt us or take advantage of our goodness. This tremendous power that changes everything in the world is the power of love, which is the fruit of Christ's Resurrection. That love is not merely a concept. We can see it at work everywhere in the world in the midst of conflicts and injustices.

For some of us, the real question is not whether we believe in the Resurrection of Christ or not, but whether we want to rise again with Him to a new life.

And if we do believe that we can start a new life, we have to learn what it costs



to be true followers of Christ. We have to die to ourselves and make the Gospel our rule of life. That is not going to be easy, especially when the time comes to forgive offences. Then we will be prepared to take part in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist in order

to experience the love of Christ for us. In other words, we will rise again to a new life each time we take part in the sacraments.

Today, the world needs to see and hear Christ's witnesses more than ever. How do we expect the people with whom we come into contact every day to believe in the Resurrection of Christ unless they see it reflected in our own lives? There is only one 'proof' that Christ has truly risen from the dead and that is the way His followers live.

During the paschal season, it is not only the Resurrection of Christ that we celebrate, but also ours. If we do not believe that, everything we do is useless, (St. Paul says it in 1Cor.15: 14-18). So to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ is also, for us, to celebrate the beginning of a new life.

Saint Augustine tells us that, on Easter morning, the pagans of his time could see the new Christians in the streets wearing their white baptismal robes. These new converts were transfigured with joy. "On seeing them," he writes, "they thought they saw Christ Himself." How do we "Christians of today" appear to others on Easter morning? Let us be radiant, as Jesus is radiant. Let us be filled with His peace, love and joy. May we all have a New Life in Jesus this Easter Season!

Let me extend to you warm Greetings on this Easter Day on behalf of the KRCE. May the Peace and Joy of the Risen Lord remain with you always.

The Temple

It thrills!
I think for a moment and the thought lingers. And with the momentum gained

I hold my breath with wonder
'I am the Temple of my God'.

It thrills!
To hold Him
within me
Oh! What a
wonderful
mission

To treat Him as the guest of my soul
To make Him feel at home!

My Lord, be my help. Sinner as I am,
Not worthy that you should dwell in me.
Cleanse this Temple of all its impurities
And illumine the darkness therein with
your light.

May your presence in me flow forth
To the least, the last and the lost
To the ailing, good health;
To the burdened, rest.
To the sorrowing, joy;
To the dying, solace.
And to me an eternal heaven!

**- Sr. Cynthia Pais BS , Principal,
Gulabi High School, Bangalore**

An Ideal Teacher: Our perception of an ideal teacher is of a good human being, kind, compassionate, understanding and forgiving, someone, who is interesting and fun loving, someone, who loves every one and can make teaching interesting.

A good teacher is not one who is educated, it is the person who has a lot of experience and knows how to communicate with students. Also he or she must know how to guide and support them during this journey. This is critical to help students make good choices and prepare them for a good future.



Teaching is considered to be a noble profession but today people opt for this profession without giving a thought to the sacrifice, commitment and dedication it needs.

There are many teachers but it would not be wrong say that very few have the aptitude and attitude to become teachers, any are in this profession more for the sake of earning money. For them teaching is a profession and not a vocation, it is a job to make their livelihood and not an occupation to build people.



They are least concerned about the students and are more interested in performing their routine work without putting themselves to much inconvenience.

They go to the class vomit what they know and come back without even trying to find out how much the students have understood. They have no time to solve the problems of students and understand them. They are too busy with themselves and their occupation and not with the persons they work with and subjects they are to handle. The question is whether they should ever remain as teachers.

An ideal teacher should have many qualities. A student remembers such a teacher for long. The effect of his personality on students lasts long. An ideal teacher is the one who is loved and respected by every student. He must try to win the hearts of all students. He should try to establish a kind of relationship and bond between the hearts and minds of himself and the students.

An Ideal teacher should be a scholar. He must have the knowledge of the subject

he teaches in the class. He should teach the subjects in an interesting way. He should be able to make the students really interested in their subject. An ideal teacher should express well, should have a good voice and must have love for teaching. The students should feel that their minds are growing under his teaching. An ideal teacher deals with the subject well. He makes his subject interesting too.

An ideal teacher is the one who makes his students think and enhances their creativity. He not only passes information to them but also develops love for learning. He activates the minds of his students. He teaches them how to think and grow logical power. He brings into play the hidden mental powers of students. He must be a man of ideas. He should explain things in a scholarly and interesting way.

An ideal teacher is ideal in all respects. He does not use words of learned lengths. He does not use difficult sentences. His language must be clear, easy and simple so that students may understand it. His teachings should be a tonic to the mind. An ideal teacher should be self respecting man. Thus his students also acquire self-respect and dignity from him.

An ideal teacher must be a man of



culture. He should have a sense of duty and responsibility. He should be

honest to himself, to his students and to his profession. Man making is the central function of an ideal teacher. He is an engineer of the soul. In other words, an ideal teacher is a student's friend, philosopher and guide.

An ideal teacher is the one who loves students and can inspire them. He gives them empowerment and fulfillment in life.

An ideal teacher knows his subject well and can make it so interesting that children do not get bored. When he teaches, the students are spell bound. An ideal teacher is a good actor who can put life into any dull topic. Students want to be in the class by choice and not by force.

He has a good sense of humour, can laugh at him and can also laugh with the students. He does not get angry easily and can enjoy each moment of being with students. He is like a friend in whom the students can confide easily without the fear of being ridiculed or criticized. He is their friend counselor and guide.

An ideal teacher is kind and forgiving. He always has time to solve problems of the students. He never loses his temper with them. He is honest, disciplined, simple and humble. He never brags about what he knows and does not try to prove that he is God and knows everything. He is ready to listen to them and even learn from them.

He is ready to accept his mistakes and does not hesitate to apologize, also. He is fun loving! And is good company to be with. He goes with us for picnics and outings and enjoys with us. He is always well dressed and looks smart. He enjoys playing with us and can easily discuss any topic. He is a teacher learner and doer. He is ready to share his life with the students. He is committed to the cause of students, knowledge and learning.

A teacher is the person who develops students' learning, growth and dependency on each other. The experience is much more important than learning to recognize each country on the

map or knowing how to sing a song. Life isn't just writing in a book, if we don't experience it we won't know it clearly.

Preparing leaders of today for tomorrow:

A seminar was held on the Thursday 5th of March 2015 at KROSS organized by Dr Henry D' Souza, Bishop of Bellary and President of Commission for Youth on



the topic, preparing the leaders for tomorrow particularly from the Catholic community. This meeting was attended by representatives from

Commission for Education, Youth and Social Work . Representatives from the Legislative Assembly, Industry, Entrepreneurs, Civil Servants, Agriculturist, Teaching Faculty, Computers and University and Colleges were also invited.

The meeting started with a prayer led by Fr. Franklin D' Souza, National Director for Youth. Bishop Henry D' Souza welcomed the gathering and introduced the topic and stressed the importance of recruiting youth from our community and train them towards public services and Government works. Mr. J R Lobo MLA, Mangalore and Mr. Ivan D' Souza MLC, Mangalore were present.

The topic was discussed for over three hours with the help of input given by various experts and people working in the field. It was considered necessary to reach out to various parishes and schools to select qualified candidates and train them in selected locations such as KROSS. It was suggested to have a permanent secretariat consisting of experts in the field and communicate the message periodically and enlighten the local authorities regarding this important

matter. A special Steering committee was formed with Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ – Secretary Education, Fr. Marie Joseph - Secretary Youth, Fr. Peter Brank - Director KROSS, Mr. Roy Castellino, Mr. Lukose V., Sr. Elizabeth JNC, Fr. Praveen Martis and Mr. Mathai. A finance committee and a committee for preparing modules separately for schools and colleges was also appointed. Bishop Henry D' Souza thanked the members present for their active participation and suggestions given. He hoped that this step would give greater impetus to the formation of young leaders in Karnataka and India.

May we request you all Secretaries, Correspondents, Principals and Heads of Institutions to identify capable students for competitive examinations and encourage them to go for further coaching.

The Food Bag: My boss drove a luxury car every day and it was my duty to greet him and to open the gates for him, as I worked as a watchman in his villa. But he never responded back to my greetings.

One day he saw me opening the garbage bags outside the villa in search for any leftover food. But, as usual he never even looked at me, it was like as if he never saw anything!

The very next day I saw a paper bag at the same place, but it was clean and the food inside was covered well. It was fresh and good food like someone had just brought it from the supermarket. I didn't bother as to where it came from, I just took the paper bag and I was so happy about it.

Every day I found this paper bag at the same place with fresh vegetables and all that we needed for home. This became my daily routine. I was eating and sharing this food with my wife and kids. I was

wondering who this fool could be?! To forget his paper bag full of fresh food, everyday.

One day there was a big problem in the villa and I was told that my boss has died. There were too many guests coming to the villa that day and I didn't get any food that day, so I thought that one of the guests must have taken it. But the same thing happened the 2nd day, the 3rd day and the 4th day. It went on like this for a few weeks and I found it difficult to provide food for my family, so I decided to ask the wife of my boss for a raise in my salary or else I would quit my job as a watchman.

After I told her, she was shocked, and asked me, how come you never complained about your salary for the last 2 years? And why is this salary not enough for you now?!

I gave her so many excuses but she was never convinced! Finally in the end, I decided to tell her the truth, I told her the entire story of the bag of groceries, and as to how it was my daily provision. She then asked me as to when this stopped? I told her after the death of her husband.

And then I realized that I stopped seeing the paper bag immediately after the death of my boss.

Why didn't I ever think of this before? That it was my boss who was providing this for me? I guess it was because I never thought that a person who never replied to my greetings could ever be this generous!

His wife started to cry and I told her to please stop crying and that I'm really sorry that I asked for a raise, I didn't know that it was your husband who was providing me with the meals, I shall remain as a

watchman and be happy to provide my service.

His wife told me, I'm crying because I've finally found the 7th person my husband was giving this bag full of food. I knew my husband was giving 7 people every day, I had already found the 6 people, and all these days I was searching for the 7th person. And today I found out.

From that day onwards, I started to receive the bag full of food again, but this time his son was bringing it to my house and giving it to my hand. But whenever I thanked him, he never replied! Just like his dad! One day, I told him THANK YOU in a very loud voice! He replied back to me to please not be offended when he doesn't reply, because he has a hearing problem, just like his dad!

Oh May God forgive us all, for we have all, as humans, judged another person without knowing the real story behind their actions. May God forgive us all and guide us towards the right path in life.

The Animal School: A Parable: Once upon a time the animals decided to do something decisive to meet the increasing complexity of their society. They held a meeting and finally decided to organize a school.

The curriculum consisted of running, climbing, swimming and flying. Since these were the basic behaviours of most animals, they decided that all the students should take all the subjects.

The duck was excellent at swimming, better in fact, than his teacher. He also did well in flying. But he was very poor in running and he was made to stay after school to practice. He had to drop swimming in order to get more time in which to practice running. This continued till his webbed feet were so badly

damaged that he became only average at swimming. But average was an acceptable grade in the school, so nobody worried about that except the duck.

The rabbit started at the top of her class in running, but finally had a nervous breakdown because of so much time spent in practicing swimming. The squirrel was excellent at climbing until he developed a psychological block in flying class, when the teacher insisted he start from the ground instead of from the tops of trees. He was forced to practice flying until he became muscle-bound and received a 'C' in climbing and a 'D' in running.



The eagle was the school's worst discipline problem; in climbing class, she beat all of the others to the top of the tree but she insisted on using her own method to get there. The gophers, of course, stayed out of school and fought the tax levied for education because digging was not included in the curriculum. They apprenticed their children to the badger and later joined the groundhogs, and eventually started a private school offering alternative education. The above parable calls for serious reflection on the notion of learning. It is taken for granted that every child should learn mathematics, science, history, art, music and language. It is time we realized that an average child is not interested in all of these subjects. We have yet to come across a child who is not happy to get a 'free period'. When-children are coaxed, goaded and forced into learning they turn out to be indifferent scholars who scrape through school and college and become dull office workers, uncreative teachers, mediocre engineers, talkative politicians and unimaginative factory managers.

We have always felt a little uncomfortable with phrases like joyous learning', 'maths can be fun', 'fun with physics', 'sci-fun', 'play way method' and so on. They seem to suggest that the ultimate aim is 'learning' and, that, learning is something tedious and unpleasant but essential for life and therefore needs to be sugar-coated with play. In such thinking, play, fun and joy are used as mere means.

Our society seeks study and play as exclusive categories. Study is usually regarded as serious business, boring but unavoidable, while play is something of our choice, something we enjoy. Unfortunately in an increasingly consumerist society even the nature of our play and leisure is determined by commercial interests.

We have been making simple toys out of throwaway material which are popular with both children and adults. However, there has been one difference in the response of the adults and the children. While the children have blissfully played with the toys, dismantled them and tried to rebuild them, the adults have always added a rider after appreciating the toys. 'What is the scientific principle behind this toy!' or 'How can it complement the textbook" Children should be allowed to enjoy themselves. 'We must not spoil their fun by giving pedantic scientific explanations. This is likely to kill the interest in the activity. If and when the curiosity in the child is awakened, he/ she will find out for herself.

In our society 'learning' is over emphasized. Unless a child is learning something it is considered that she is wasting her time. We have heard parents

say, 'Our son can play the whole day, but ask him to study and he begins to feel sleepy and tired.' Similarly, a child who can rattle off all the film songs and ad jingles with gusto cannot remember the multiplication table for 13. This calls for a serious reconsideration of how learning takes place in our society.

Conclusion: We have come to the end of yet another year of grace, a year of hard, dedicated work. It is time to sit back and reflect and express gratitude to God for all that he has done to us. He has blessed us in many ways and has strengthened us in our work. We express a large hearted thank you to Him.

Everyone has contributed much in building up our education ministry. Our aim has been to reach out to student and make them better citizens of tomorrow. In this endeavor we have to stand together and give our best to those placed under our care.

Now our students are getting ready go for their exams and we aim to rebuild ourselves with greater energy to prepare ourselves to the future. We have a task place before us: to train young for tomorrow. As teachers we have to be learners and our education is never ending.

May God bless us, our students, our co-workers, the parents of past students and all those who have helped us directly or indirectly. Let us prepare ourselves for greater things to come.

"The best teachers teach from the Heart and not from the books".
- *Anonymous*

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