

TRENDS & VIEWS – KRCE NEWS LETTER

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Editorial

“Learning is finding out what you already know; doing is demonstrating that you know it; teaching is reminding others that they know it just as well as you. You are all learners, doers, teachers”.

Richard Bach

Our Contemporary culture is affected by several problems that are causing a widespread “educational emergency”: this expression refers to the difficulty in establishing educational relations which, in order to be genuine, should convey vital values and principles to younger generations, not only to help individual growth and maturation, but also to contribute to building the common good.

Catholic education, with its many schools and universities that are scattered all over the world, provides a remarkable support to ecclesial communities that are engaged in the new evangelization, and contributes to the fostering of anthropological and ethical values in individual consciences and cultures, which are necessary in order to build a society that is based on fraternity and solidarity.

Since the Second Vatican Council, the historical and social context has changed remarkably, both in terms of world vision, as well as ethical and political concepts. The 1960s were a time of confident expectations, following the Council’s announcement and the possibility of more peaceful relations between States. Compared to that time, the scenario has deeply changed. The drive towards secularization has become more apparent. The increasingly faster globalization process, rather than favouring the promotion of individual development and a greater integration amongst peoples, seems to limit individual freedom and exacerbate conflicts between different ways of looking at personal and collective life (with positions ranging from strict fundamentalism to sceptical relativism). Other economic and political developments are equally significant: such as the encroachment on the Welfare State and social entitlements or the triumph of liberalism, with its dreadful impact on schools and education. However, all the changes that have taken place since the 1960s not only have not weakened the teachings provided by the Council on educational issues, but have actually enhanced their prophetic scope.

In 1990, St John Paul II issued the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, which aimed at drawing people’s attention to the importance of Catholic universities, as a privileged instrument to gain access to the truth regarding nature, man and God in order to favour an open dialogue between the Church and men and women of all cultures. In line with the Council Declaration, the Constitution reiterated that Catholic universities, as such, were supposed to adequately engage in research, teaching and cultural services like any other academic institution. As Catholic universities, they would have to:

a) Be inspired by Christian values not only in so far as individuals are concerned, but also the entire university community as such; b) Promote constant reflection, in the light of Catholic faith, on the processes and achievements of study and knowledge, providing their original contribution; c) Be faithful to the Christian message, as it is presented by the Church; d) Serve the people of God and mankind in the efforts they undertake to access truth.

Furthermore, the Pontiff urged Catholic faculty members to become aware of the ethical and moral implications of their research, to foster dialogue between different disciplines in order to avoid any isolated and particularistic approach and favour the development of a synthetic view of things, albeit without challenging each discipline’s integrity and methodology. A special role was assigned to the dialogue between different kinds of knowledge and theology, since the latter could help other disciplines to delve into the reasons and meaning of their activity, just like other forms of knowledge could stimulate theological research to address life issues and achieve a better understanding of the world.

Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ

Secretary, Karnataka Regional Commission for Education.

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY KRCE

The Commission for Education and Culture , CBCI, New Delhi had organized a two day seminar at CBCI premises in New Delhi on 23rd and 24th of September 2014. The Commission Secretary Fr Joseph Manipadam SDB called the Secretaries of each of the 13 regions in India. Dr Joshua Mar Ignathios, Bishop of Mavelikara and Bishop in charge of CBCI Office for Education and Culture presided over the Seminar. During the seminar It was proposed that the secretary of the CBCI Commission Fr. Joseph Manipadam would visit all regions all over India and address some dioceses regarding the evaluation and accreditation of the institutions. The Secretary of the region along with other diocesan secretaries could meet the remaining dioceses.

Seminar on CBCI Accreditation and POCSO: Fr. Joseph Manipadam Secretary for the CBCI commission of Education and Culture visited Karnataka from 20th of November to 24th of November, 2014. On the 21st of November he met the Secretaries, Correspondents and Principals of the Archdiocese of Bangalore.

On the 24th of November he met the Principals and correspondents of the Diocese of Mysore. The proposed visit of the secretary to the Diocese of Mangalore could not be held due to some unavoidable circumstances. However fresh visit by the Secretary will take place in the month of February and he will cover Mangalore, Udupi and Karwar and if possible Shimoga. Fr Manipadam may not be in a position to attend the other Dioceses but the task will be done by other resource persons before the end of the year.

Mudigere Seminar for Teachers : A teachers training programme was arranged by Fr. Lancy Pinto Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Church, Mudigere on November 9, 2014 on teachers orientation and Catholic Education. 55 teachers belonging to the Parish took part in this seminar. Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ was the resource person of the programme. The day began with a short prayer led by the Parish Priest and Mr. Vivian the organizer. Fr. Eugene Lobo spoke in Kannada on the topic of education in the church today, the characteristics of a good teacher and the possibilities of better training necessary. Then he spoke on the POCSO, child sexual harassment in various

institutions and work places and the government measures and laws enacted. He also spoke on the Government norms regarding its implementation in our institutions and the committees to be formed. The seminar ended with the Holy Mass.



Gulbarga Diocese Seminar for the Priests and Heads of Institutions: A Workshop cum seminar on Sexual Harassment and Labour Laws was organized by Fr. Stany Lobo, the Vicar General and Secretary Gulbarga Diocese Education Society, for the Priests, Correspondents and Heads of Institutions. More than 55 members from all over Gulbarga Diocese participated. Bishop Robert Miranda President of Gulbarga Educational Society participated in the entire programme.

The seminar commenced with a prayer led by the Bishop of Gulbarga, Dr. Robert Miranda. In his Presidential address he spoke of the necessity to study and understand the role of catholic education in today's world, the problems faced by our institutions in the context of minority rights and need of protecting the students of our Institutions from sexual harassment. Fr. Eugene Lobo, who was the first resource person, spoke on the importance

of education in the church, the recent teachings of the Pope on education, minority rights, POCSO and sexual harassment at workplace. He guided the groups into the understanding of RTE and the Government norms affecting our institutions and the necessity of forming various committees. MR. Vincent Concesso, the other resource person and the retired Deputy Commissioner of Labour, explained the various laws and regulations affecting our institutions. He spoke on the Gratuity Act, Provident Fund Act, ESI Act, and Appointment of our staff, discipline, Dismissals and Legal litigations. Fr. Stany Lobo spoke about the need to form the various committees in our schools as prescribed by the Government. He told all the institutions how sensitive we must be in facing these various situations.



Bangalore Seminar on Accreditation: Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB, CBCI Secretary for Education and Culture, was the resource person of the first session at the Bangalore seminar. The theme of the seminar was education, evaluation and accreditation of our schools. The session was attended by 185 members of Bangalore Archdiocese, Principals, staff, Correspondents and Administrators. The seminar began with a short prayer and a scripture reading. Fr. John Rose, Secretary Archdiocesan Board of

Education and Rector of St Mary's Basilica, welcomed the gathering and the resource persons. Fr. Jayanathan the Vicar General the Archdiocese spoke on the importance of education and the role of the church in the character formation of the students. He stressed the need of working together and to evangelize people in India. Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ, Secretary KRCE introduced the topic of the day and the importance of following Government laws in our institutions. Fr. Joseph Manipadam spoke on the role of CBCI in education, the need of quality education and the necessity of accreditation of our institutions to the CBCI. With beautiful and well prepared power point programme he explained the content of education, faith formation and the implementation of our education policy in the country. He spoke on the minority rights and the right of education and how we can contribute towards educating children. He explained POCSO and child harassment and the need to protect children in our schools.

Mr. Vincent Concesso, the retired Assistant Labour Commissioner, was the resource person for the second session. He spoke on the legal help, ESI Act, Gratuity Act and clearly explained the Provident Fund rules recently introduced by the Government. He emphasized the need to follow proper rules and guide lines in our institutions and build up good relationship between management and workers and also with the Government officials. At the same time he stressed on the need of following the rules correctly in our appointments, disciplinary action, and retirement norms and particularly in dismissals. The seminar ended with a sumptuous lunch provided by the organizers.



“Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire”

William Yeats



cautious about the appointments, discipline and dismissals. There were 75 members present.



Mysore Seminar on Accreditation: The seminar on accreditation and legal aid was held in Mysore on November 24, 2014. Fr. Joseph Manipadm, Secretary CBCI Education and Culture and Mr. Vincent Concesso were the resource persons. The seminar was held at the Catholic Centre, Mysore with Dr. Thomas Vazhapilly, Bishop of Mysore and the President of Mysore Diocese Education Society present. The seminar began with a short prayer led by the Bishop and Sr. M. Genevieve CSST. Fr. Thomas Becket D' Souza welcomed the Bishop and the members present and also introduced the resource persons. Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ Secretary KRCE spoke on the content of the seminar and its importance to our educational institutions. Fr. Joseph Manipadam explained the relationship between CBCI and the Diocesan Education centers and showed the methodology of getting ourselves accredited to the CBCI. He also explained the problems of POCSO, child abuse and women harassment in India and brought forth the remedies offered by the Government. He also explained about the state of our country under the new regime. In the afternoon Mr. Vincent Concesso spoke on legal issues, ESI Act, the gratuity act and provident fund act. He told the audience to be

Some measures to be implemented by schools and colleges regarding sexual harassment.

Stringent measures :

1. Apart from CCTVs, schools must set up a control room
2. Mandatory background check of all teaching and non teaching staff including school bus driver, other cleaner and security staff.
3. Police have to maintain data bank of all offenders against women and children.
4. SHO of the police station will be responsible for inspection and implementation of guidelines in association with Education Department officers.
5. Preferably only women teachers in co-education schools up to class V.
6. Intensive awareness campaign to spread the message of deterrence in the society against committing offences against women and children.



Extracts from the directives given by the State Government (circular dated 23/07/2014)

Sexual harassment, atrocities and rape cases against women, children and girl students happening in various places of the State are frequently being reported in the media. The Government / Department has decided to take stern measures or mentioned below to prevent and suppress sexual harassment of girl students and women by issuing a circular to all Educational institutions. The Taluk level supervisory officers are hereby directed to take timely action, by appropriately executing this order.

1. Every school shall furnish the name of their school and address to the police station in its jurisdiction.
2. Information of the School Management Committee Members along with their names and addresses will have to be furnished to the police station.
3. The names and addresses of teachers/staff working in the school will have to be registered in the police station and updated from time-to-time.

It is mandatory to constitute a "Child Protection Committee" at the school level in every school. The committee should consist of 4-5 members in which the Head of the institution will be the President and selected teachers, parents, students, security officer and an individual who has an interest in the development of children will constitute as the members of the committee.

Responsibilities of Parents:

1. Parents while sending minors to schools should create awareness among minors by advising them not to talk/converse or develop friendship with strangers/persons not known to them while going to school or give out personal information to even known persons without the knowledge of parents.
2. Parents should always keep track of phone calls and messages being received by their wards on their mobiles and in case of instances where they receive instigating messages or dirty/obscene pictures through

MMS, immediately reported to the nearest Police Station.

Responsibilities of Head of the institution and Private School & Management Committees

1. The management of schools should take adequate /measures/ steps to ensure that children leave school only with their parents or with relatives of the parents (who have authorized Identity Cards).
2. In emergencies/precaution should be taken to never leave minor girl students alone with any male staff member of the school. They must arrange the presence of lady teachers to handle the situation with care and responsibility.
3. Senior students should never be made to sit with their juniors in the same class.
4. School Management Committee should ensure separate toilets for boys & girls, as far away as possible from each other.
5. School Management should appoint workers for transport, security, housekeeping and canteen through recognized outsourcing agencies only and get them verified by the police department.
6. School managements should appoint both female and male security personnel to monitor all entrances, exits and premises and also check visitors.
7. Phone numbers of Child Benefit Committee, District Child Protection Unit, Special Police units for Children in the school zone should all be displayed on the notice board of the school.
8. School Management Committee should ensure that no student or any staff member is remaining in the premises after school and the security reports to the Head of the institution every day before leaving school.
9. Parents must be told to give a report and certify the conduct of the driver/cleaner of any of the transports used by their wards to reach school.
10. Arrangements to check and inspect unauthorized persons in the school premises should be made.

11. School Management should name a staff member as security officer on rotation to monitor and observe the movements of the students outside classrooms.
12. School Management should ensure that punishment like locking up children in darkrooms, sending them out of the classrooms etc, are not practiced.
13. School Management Committee should constitute an internal / vigilance committee to discuss and find solutions to problems which have risen and are a threat to the security of students.
14. The school management should name a parent as the coordinator, who will report to the Management in secrecy about day-to-day developments in the school.
15. The School Management Committee should convene meetings of the School staff and teachers to discuss issues/problems related to school students and their security from time to the time.
16. The School Management Committee has to ensure that the attendance of students after lunch and at the end of the day's session is taken without fail. In case any student who has come to school and is found absent at school hours report immediately.
18. School Managements should necessarily ensure that unauthorized persons or persons not concerned with the school do not enter or travel in the school transport vehicles.
19. School Management should direct the driver and the staff to drop the students off at the exact point where the students had been picked up.
20. The management of residential schools and other schools should conduct parent-teacher meeting every month to discuss about the complaints.
21. The schools which are situated in poorly habituated/remote/outskirt areas should appoint security staffs.
22. The schools should create awareness from prohibiting the students from taking drugs.
23. The schools should ensure enough light (electricity) facility in every part of the school premises.
24. CCTVs should be installed in every class room and should appoint two vigilant staff members to report the information on the CCTVs.
25. Care should be taken to drop off girl students and the woman staff first at their place of residence on preference in the evenings after school.
26. It is mandatory for two female and two male staff members of the school to take part in every educational trip.
27. Students should be advised to go in groups rather than going alone while going home after the school hours.
28. Children' helpline toll free No. 1098 available 24X7 should be displayed in every classroom and in every student's dairy.
29. It should be ensured that all visitors should make an entry of their names and addresses in the visitor's log books in all the schools, hostels and residential schools.
30. Schools should follow the school timings as per the Department's stipulations.
31. Awareness trainings should be made compulsory to educate all the managements, teachers and non-teaching staff on the POCSO Rules 2012.
32. Complaint and suggestion boxes to be installed at the easy reach of students.
33. Schools should provide identity cards to all the staff members, drivers, and helpers, cooks, cleaning staff and security staff and photos to be displayed on the notice board.
34. Teachers and school managements should not communicate or transact with students after school hours or on holidays individually for any purpose other than the school curriculum or co-curricular activities.
35. It is important to identify and mark unsafe and dangerous places in the school premises.

36. Contact the nearest police station in case of any mishaps/accidents.

Child Safety/Protection and Action Plan

1. "Child safety/protection Action Plan" should be prepared by every primary and secondary educational institution.
2. Every school has to constitute a parent - teacher committee without fail.
3. State rules and regulations to be followed by the staff and the managements of schools.
4. In case an incidence of sexual harassment happens or is likely to happen, the child protection officer of the school or the counselor should immediately make a report and submit the same to the District Child Protection Officer, Deputy Director of Public Instruction, nearest police station and the Child Benefit Officer in the concerned police station.

Immediate action to be taken in incidents as given below

1. If a Child complains about physical/sexual abuse by any person concerned with the school or otherwise.
2. If a change is observed in the behavior or development of the child or if wound marks are seen on the child's body.
3. If the child has been teased or ragged inside or outside the school.

Maintenance of the school vehicles

1. School vehicles should be in yellow colour only.
2. If the school has hired buses for drop and pick-up of students, then it is a must to display the "On school duty" board in the front and back of the vehicle.
3. School vehicle should possess a specified quality speed governor.
4. School vehicles should possess a fire extinguisher to put off flames, in case of fire.
5. Name of the school and telephone number should be written on the school vehicles.

6. The doors of vehicles used by schools should have a reliable locking system.
7. There should be an attendant in the school vehicles to look after the children.
8. Students, parents, guardian and school teachers can travel in the school vehicles to check the safety (measures) precautions taken in the vehicles by the schools.

If a child is subjected to sexual crimes in educational and religious institutions by the management committee or the staff, then such crimes will be considered for severe punishment, which will be imposed as given below as per the II chapter of POCSO Act-2012.

GOD BLESS YOU

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears. This class would NOT pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened. All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED.

The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU' And he walked off the stage...

The audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval. GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

This is a true story and it happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

The Boy who wanted to meet God

so he packed his suitcase with cupcakes, several cans of root beer and started on his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he saw an elderly woman. She was sitting on a park bench watching the pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed the lady looked hungry so he offered her a cupcake. She gratefully accepted and smiled at him.

Her smile was so wonderful that he wanted to see it again, so he offered a root beer as well. Once again she smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling without saying a word.

As it began to grow dark, the boy realized how tired he was and wanted to go home. He got up to leave but before he had gone no more than a few steps, he turned around and ran back to the old woman, giving her a big hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy arrived home his Mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked, "What has made you so happy today?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." Before his mother could respond he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile in the whole world!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face. He asked, "Mother, what has made you so happy today?" She replied, "I ate cupcakes in the park with God." And before her son could reply, she added, "You know, he is much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring; all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Conclusion

The globalization of the world market and erasing of socio-cultural barriers, the world is becoming a global village. Moreover, the neo policies of

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, liberalization and privatization of Government of India have given birth to diversified sectors of economy. The infrastructure, manufacturing, communication, service and other fast growing sectors are changing the country to knowledge economy leading to demands for efficient, vibrant, dynamic and qualified knowledge workers. This has shifted the focus of education from pure to applied sciences and sciences to engineering and technology. Today's Indian youth is more focused, target oriented and well versed with upcoming needs and accordingly opts for the type of education which is demand driven, job-oriented and unbiased for gender. Viewing the importance of this changing education trend, various non-conventional, technical and non-technical courses are being introduced in general educational institutions, polytechnics and engineering colleges in India. The curricula of these courses are being designed keeping in view the demands of world of work. Keeping the above educational trend in mind, a study was undertaken in Chandigarh, a city recognized as Knowledge City in India. The objective of the study was to identify the genesis and type of upcoming courses in various disciplines especially in science and technical education, their relevance, the number of students (boys and girls) undertaking these new and demand driven courses, reasons for their preference and success rates. The present paper puts forward the findings of this study. The emphasis is on presentation of the changing trends in higher education amongst the youth of the country.

Information: Governing Body cum General Body meeting on January 16, 2015 at 9.00 am. Kindly mark this date in your calendar and be present at KROSS, 2nd Cross da Costa layout.

Schools statics: Just reminder for those who have not yet submitted the statics and not remitted the subscription fees. Kindly do so at the earliest.

New Joint Secretary KRCE : Archbishop of Bangalore and President of KRCE has appointed Brother Titus Anto cmsf as Joint Secretary of KRCE. Congratulations.

Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ,

Secretary, Karnataka Regional Commission for Education

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