

TRENDS & VIEWS – KRCE NEWS LETTER

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Editorial



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” - Nelson Mandela

We are deeply committed to supporting the proclamation of the Gospel through our primary and secondary Catholic Schools, Catholic higher education, campus ministry, certification for ecclesial ministry, and support of children and parents through advocacy and public policy in our Nation's Capital.

We recall the statement made by the Second Vatican Council, "Holy Mother Church must be concerned with the whole of man's life, even the secular part of it insofar as it has a bearing on his heavenly calling. Therefore she has a role in the progress and development of education."(Gravissimum Educationis, Preface) Education remains critically important in the formation of the human person by teaching how to live well now so as to be able to live with God for all eternity.

Catholic education addresses the development of the whole person through spiritual and academic formation based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission of Catholic education provides a particular environment for the New Evangelization by presenting the Gospel anew within the school and parish communities.

Our schools serve both the faith community and society by educating children, young people and adults to contribute to the common good by becoming active and caring members of the communities, cities and nation in which they live. As you explore this web site, we ask for your support of Catholic education through prayer and action on the school, parish and national levels.

Programmes conducted by KRCE :

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” - Aristotle

Bangalore: KRCE organized jointly with KROSS a seminar on Minority Rights, Children Rights and Protection of Children, Right of Education Act, Labour issues and Problems, Gratuity and Pension Acts and Provident Fund Act. All these issues have been affecting our schools, colleges and other Christian institutions in recent days. These problems have been affecting growth and stunting the progress of our institutions. We as Christians face challenge from all around us: from the

Government, from Politicians, from Religious fanatics and fundamentalists and from vested interests.

To study these problems a seminar was arranged on the first and second of September 2014. We had the key resource persons in Mr. Robinson D' Souza, Retired Law Secretary, Government of Karnataka and Mr. Vincent Concessao, Retired Deputy Labour Commissioner, Government of Karnataka. We had other persons who shared the input sessions: Fr. Edward Thomas sdb, Fr. Pramod D and Mr. J R Lobo MLA, Mangalore. Each of the speakers explained clearly the problems and suggested solutions. Although it was impossible to solve them all, they brought in the awareness of the problems particularly in understanding the Minority Rights, RTE, problem in hostels, labour relations problems and the knowledge of good and bad touch.



Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore and President of KRCE, Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ Secretary KRCE and Fr. Peter Brank Director KROSS, formally inaugurated the seminar by the lighting the lamp. In his inaugural speech the Archbishop said there should be zero tolerance with regard to sexual harassment to

female students particularly to little children. He explained how our mission ought to be, to serve, to care, to understand, to impart knowledge to bring about growth. We are the children of light and we have the task to spread the light of Christ.



Mr. Robinson D' Souza Retired Law Secretary, Government of Karnataka enlightened the members regarding areas of sexual harassments, consequences and remedial measures. Mr. J R Lobo MLA Mangalore listened carefully to all the problems faced by our institutions and promised all Government help through his position and as member of the Minority cell. Mr. Vincent Concessao, Retired Deputy Labour Commissioner, explained all the acts on labour and the problems involved. He gave with examples the errors we can make in appointments dismissals, in payment of Gratuity and working of the Provident Fund. About 150 persons were present for the programme.

“A good head and good heart are always a formidable combination. But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.” - Nelson Mandela



*“Live as if you were to die tomorrow.
Learn as if you were to live forever.”
- Mahatma Gandhi*

Udupi: On September 12-13, 2014 KRCE along with Catholic Education Society of Udupi organized a two day seminar at Bishop’s House, Udupi. Mr. Robinson D’ Souza, Retired Law Secretary and Mr. Vincent Concessao, Retired Deputy Labour Commissioner were the resource persons. The topics discussed were: sexual harassment of women, protection of girl children, minority rights and certificates, RTE , Labour Laws, Gratuity and Provident Fund Acts.



Dr. Gerald Isaac Lobo, Bishop of Udupi was the President of the Programme. Bishop Gerald Lobo along with Mgr. Baptist Menezes, Vicar General, Fr. Eugene Lobo S.J. Secretary KRCE, Fr. Fred Mascarenhas, Parish Priest, Udupi Church and Fr. Clement Mascarenhas

Secretary CESU, inaugurated the seminar by lighting the lamp. Bishop Gerald Lobo stressed the need of holding such seminars in our schools and colleges to help our staff and students from unwanted harassments. He explained the responsibility of teachers in protecting and taking care of them.

Fr Eugene Lobo S.J. Secretary KRCE gave a brief outline of the Programme and introduced the resource persons. Mr. Robinson D’ Souza explained the difficulties encountered by schools and colleges regarding minority rights, RTE, RTI and sexual harassment of children. He also spoke on the minority rights and the demand of the Government regarding 25% of minorities in the institutions, while mentioning the Constitution requirement of 0% of minority student strength and a minimum of 75% of Board of Trustees. Mr. Vincent Concessao, Retired Deputy Labour Commissioner Government of Karnataka conducted the sessions on Labour Laws, Gratuity Act and Provident Fund. Fr Clement Mascarenhas, Secretary, gave vote of thanks. About 85 persons attended the seminar.

*“I have never let my schooling
interfere with my education.”
Mark Twain*

Mangalore: Two day seminar on awareness of Minority Rights, Sexual Harassment in schools and colleges, Human Rights and Labour Laws was organized at Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Shanthi Kiran, Bajjodi on the 26th and 27th of September 2014. Dr Aloysius

Paul D' Souza, Bishop of Mangalore presided over the inaugural programme. He spoke about the importance of Education in modern times and the problems that we encounter from various sides particularly from the Government, Students and sometimes the parents. He wanted all to be alert to the problems we encounter and wanted to give proper solutions to them. Fr Eugene Lobo S.J. Secretary KRCE welcomed the gathering. He introduced the resource persons and gave a brief outline of the Programme. Fr Gerald D' Souza, Secretary of the Mangalore Catholic Board and the organizer of the programme briefed the members present about the need of understanding the problems of our institutions and look for a solution in the face of various struggles we face. He pointed to the events that took place in Bangalore schools in recent past and stressed that we must take care to prevent such things in our institutions.



Mr. Robinson D' Souza, the resource person dealt with the Minority issues, sexual harassment in schools and work places, prevention of women harassment and the norms and Acts given by the Government. He also spoke of RTE and RTI and the precautionary measures to be taken in schools. Mr. Vincent Concessao, Retired Deputy

Labour Commissioner Government of Karnataka conducted the sessions on Labour Laws, Gratuity Act and Provident Fund. He spoke in detail about the appointment of staff, leave matters, Gratuity to be paid to staff, and Provident Fund Act. About 210 persons were present for the seminar. Fr Gerald D' Souza, the Secretary CBE Mangalore proposed the vote of thanks.

“Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.”

Robert Frost

Shirva: St Mary's College, Shirva, Udupi District organized one day programme for the staff and students of the college. Mr. Robinson was the resource person of the programme. In the morning he addressed the senior students of the college on career opportunities available on completion of the course and leadership themes necessary in their life. In the afternoon he addressed the teaching staff on sexual harassment in colleges and the measures taken by the government to resolve these issues. He put before them the RTI issues and how to handle such a situation.

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

Margaret Mead

Puttur: Puttur St Philomena's College is one of the oldest Diocesan colleges of Dakshina Kannada. The Institution has a large campus and educational institutions giving courses from first standard to Post Graduate programme. KRCE organized two day seminar along with the Catholic Board of Education

Mangalore at St Philomena's College on September 30 and October 1, 2014. Fr Gerald D' Souza, Secretary CBE Mangalore presided over the seminar. Fr Alfred Pinto Parish Priest Puttur and correspondent of the Institutions spoke at the inaugural function. He stressed the need of education for every citizen to face the challenges of life and build for themselves a better future. He explained how teachers face so many problems had asked them to be alert always. Fr Eugene Lobo S.J. Secretary KRCE introduced the resource person Mr. Robinson D' Souza and gave the objective of the seminar and the content of the programme.



Mr. Robinson conducted the sessions separately for men and women because of the large number of participants. He spoke on sexual harassment in schools and of the precautionary measures to be implemented by each Institution. He spoke of Minority Rights, Minority Certificates demanded by the Government and the difficulties we encounter. He explained the role of each teacher in fulfilling this task and the responsibility we have in today's structure. He spoke on Sexual harassment at workplaces and particularly schools and offices, the punishment prescribed and the

remedial measures. He placed before the staff the RTE norms and their consequences. He explained the importance of RTI in today's situations.

*"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."
- Martin Luther King Jr.*

Protest on New Government Fee

Structure: The Government of Karnataka in its notification of September 30, 2014 had announced a fresh fee structure applicable to managements of unaided schools in response to the High Court Directive of January 24, 2013 to fix a reasonable fee structure. This was published in the newspapers and the Government website. The fee structure prepared by the committee of retired officers from education department looked very unreasonable and extremely low and hence meager and insufficient to run our institutions. The salary fixed for the teachers and other staff is much lower than the salary fixed by any finance commission or managements. If this is implemented it would be impossible to manage our schools.

The circular also noted that if the institutions did not agree with the prescribed fee structure they must send their protest on or before October 30, 2014 which was later revised to November 10, 2014. The circular of the Government mentioned that protests may be made through the Director of Public Instruction Primary Section, Bangalore. KRCE took the initiative of drafting the protest letter outline for Managements and staff and sent them to each school to register their protest

at the earliest. The teachers could protest separately since it will ultimately affect them also. Several of our institutions have already sent in the protests to the Government. We hope that this fee structure may not be imposed on our schools and managements and it will be withdrawn completely by the Government.

*“Rejection is an opportunity for your selection.”
- Bernard Branson*

CBCI Conference on Education New Delhi: The Commission for Education and Culture, CBCI, New Delhi organized a two day seminar at CBCI Centre New Delhi on 23rd and 24th of September 2014. The Commission Secretary Fr Joseph Manipadam SDB invited the Secretaries of each region in India and larger regions to have two members attending the seminar. Fr Eugene lobo S.J. and Fr Gerard D’ Souza of Mangalore Catholic Education Board attended the Seminar. Dr Joshua Mar Ignathios, Bishop of Mavelikara and Bishop in charge of CBCI Office for Education and Culture presided over the Seminar and gave the key note address. He stressed on the need for a comprehensive plan to implement the All India Catholic Educational Policy of 2007 and to make CBCI office self financing without depending on sponsorship agencies which are reluctant to help.

*“Give a bowl of rice to a man and you will feed him for a day. Teach him how to grow his own rice and you will save his life.”
- Confucius*



The two day consultation and training programme reach the following understanding :

1. The implementation of the All India Catholic Education Policy is most desirable and the method proposed by the Office of the Education & Culture is workable and practical. But needs a definite directive issued by the Bishop of the each Diocese and those religious institutions . This will lead to the evaluation of each institution individually and accredit these institutions to the CBCI who will award a certificate of accreditation.
2. Regarding self financing project the members present suggested and proposed that the office of Education & Culture do a calculation of their requirement while considering the type , number and strength of the educational institutions in each region and ask the Bishop in charge of education in each region the amount that is expected to be collected and forward the amount to the CBCI Commission of Education and Culture.
3. It was proposed that the secretary of the CBCI Commission Fr. Joseph Manipadam should visit all regions all

over India and address some dioceses regarding the need of evaluation and accreditation. The Secretary of each region along with other diocesan secretaries could meet the remaining areas of the diocese to enlighten them on the programme.

Seminar on CBCI Accreditation: Fr. Joseph Manipadam Secretary for the CBCI commission for Education and Culture will be visiting Karnataka Region from 20th of November to 25th of November, 2014. During his visit he will meet the Diocesan Secretaries, Correspondents and Principals of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, Diocese of Mysore and Diocese of Mangalore and Udupi. The Diocese Secretaries are requested to attend any one of the seminars held. Fr. Manipadam will meet the members of Archdiocese of Bangalore on 21st of November 2014. Then he will proceed to Mysore to address the educators on Monday 24th of November 2014. The Mangalore seminar will be held on Tuesday 25th of November 2014.

“Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life.”

Brigham Young

Task ahead: As Educators we have great responsibilities:

1. Encouraging and supporting efforts in Catholic education by fostering the distribution and implementation of both universal Church documents on education as well as related documents developed by the bishops.

2. Supporting educational efforts in the Church in India by developing policies, guidelines, and resources for use by bishops in their dioceses.

3. Providing consultation on educational issues when requested, including advising and representing the bishops.

4. Collaborating with the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis regarding evangelization and catechesis in Catholic schools and universities.

5. Providing support and advocacy in federal public policy on behalf of Catholic educational institutions from pre-school through high school levels.

6. Bringing to Catholic education the perspectives and concerns of other cultures and people with special pastoral needs through collaboration with other committees/offices.

Conclusion:

Our education is at the service of people. We move forward as a team to reach out the marginalized and serve the people in their need, imparting knowledge and spiritual service. The goals and objectives have helped us to achieve progress in spiritual and intellectual fields. We have obstacles on our path to progress and we have challenges to face. But the teachings of Jesus Christ are positive, to do well to others. We have to be persons with a mission, to form men and women for others.



Red Rose

A man stopped at a flower shop to order some flowers to be wired to his mother who lived two hundred miles away. As he got out of his car he noticed a young girl sitting on the curb sobbing. He asked her what was wrong and she replied, "I wanted to buy a red rose for my mother. But I only have seventy-five cents, and a rose costs two dollars."

The man smiled and said, "Come on in with me.. I'll buy you a rose." He bought the little girl her rose and ordered his own mother's flowers.

As they were leaving he offered the girl a ride home. She said, "Yes, please! You can take me to my mother." She directed him to a cemetery, where she placed the rose on a freshly dug grave.

The man returned to the flower shop, cancelled the wire order, picked up a bouquet and drove the two hundred miles to his mother's house. Mother is always a blessing, motivation and inspiration to all those who are having mother.

God Make me a TV

A teacher from Primary School asked her students to write an essay about what they would like God to do for them. At the end of the day, while marking the essays, she read one that made her very emotional. Her husband,

who had just walked in, saw her crying and asked her: - 'What happened?' She answered- 'Read this. It is one of my students' essay.'

'Oh God, tonight I ask you something very special: Make me into a television. I want to take its place and live like the TV in my house. Have my own special place, and have my family around ME. To be taken seriously when I talk.... I want to be the centre of attention and be heard without interruptions or questions. I want to receive the same special care that the TV receives even when it is not working. Have the company of my dad when he arrives home from work, even when he is tired. And I want my mom to want me when she is sad and upset, instead of ignoring me... And... I want my brothers to fight to be with me... I want to feel that family just leaves everything aside, every now and then, just to spend some time with me. And last but not least, ensure that I can make them all happy and entertain them... Lord I don't ask you for much... I just want to live like a TV.'

At that moment the husband said: - 'My God, poor kid. What horrible parents!' The wife looked up at him and said: - 'That essay is our son's!!!'

Fr. Eugene Lobo SJ, Secretary, Karnataka Regional Commission for Education

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