



**The Annual JHEASA Conference on
NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY-2020 AND JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION**

Challenges We Face and Opportunities We Have

| The Need for *Collaboration & Networking* |

Held at

St Aloysius College, Mangaluru

26th January evening – 28th January noon, 2023

The Annual JHEASA Conference was held in St Aloysius College, Mangaluru from 26th January evening to 28th January noon, 2023. Eighty-Nine participants: Jesuits from Higher Education Institutes (HEI's) (Rectors, Principals, Directors of Affiliated Colleges, Universities, Autonomous Colleges, etc.) attended this Conference. The theme of the conference was "National Education Policy-2020 And Jesuit Higher Education: *Challenges We Face, and Opportunities We Have*". The objectives of the Conference were:

1. To gain required knowledge and understanding of the education policy
2. To discern directions and guidelines for higher education in JCSA to be apostolically effective
3. To plan for implementation of JHEASA Apostolic Plan
4. To finalise activities for zonal networking and collaboration

DAY ONE 26 January 2023

Grace: That we have appropriate dispositions of openness and inner freedom for the proceedings of the Conference

On the 26th evening, Fr Joe Arun, *Secretary JHEASA*, conducted the dispositional prayer and welcomed the delegates from all the HEIs of the Conference. He gave an understanding of objectives of the conference and set the expectations for the progress and outcomes to be achieved. He thanked all the organizing committee members especially Fr. Rector, Fr. Praveen Martis, Principal, St. Aloysius College, and the community of students and staff of St. Aloysius for making all arrangements. A special thanks was given to the four zonal coordinators who would be the consulters to the POSA for their support and willingness to accept the responsibility.

DAY TWO 27 January 2023

Grace: That the Lord may help us discern the will of God in the context of challenges and opportunities

On day two a Holy Eucharistic ceremony concelebrated by Fr. Melvin Pinto, Fr. Joe Arun and Fr. Praveen Martis, set the tone for the day's meaningful sessions. The first session began with an inaugural ceremony and welcome by Fr. Joe Arun who introduced the guests on the dais: Dr. Valsan Tambu, Fr. Praveen Martis, Fr Melvin Pinto. In his welcome address, he mentioned the pros and cons of the NEP policy, the challenges that we face and are going to face in our missions. Fr. Stany D'Souza, SJ - President JHEASA, inaugurated the meeting and encouraged the Jesuits in higher education to make use of the NEP to build our institutions for the welfare of the marginalized in society without compromising academic excellence or character formation. The keynote speaker Dr. Valsan Thambu, former Principal of St Stephen's College spoke on "How to respond to challenges" particularly those posed by the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). He said, "*Our Christian faith impels us to look beyond the night. Work today keeping the dawn in the mind not the darkness. Life is full of challenges and therefore it is beautiful. Looking at history, everything has been achieved against resistance.*" This was followed by Spiritual Conversation in groups. The ten groups discussed the 14 strategies for responding to the challenges of NEP 2020. Later the entire group of participants were divided into four zones of Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) to evolve plans for collaboration and networking in each zone.

Each zone came up with a plan of activities, seminars, workshops, training, which would be implemented during the year. Finally, all the participants went into their own domain areas of Affiliated Colleges, Autonomous Colleges, B.Schools etc. to plan for the entire year.

DAY THREE 28 January 2023

Grace: That we may have generosity to recognise graces and blessings of God in the mission of education

On the third day a holy Eucharist ceremony was celebrated by Fr. Antony Uvari and concelebrated by Fr. Victor Lobo, Fr. Maria Joseph, Fr. Pradeep Kerketta, Fr. John Rose and Fr. Domnic Savio. Following this, Fr Joye James, the former JHEASA secretary explained about *Implementing JHEASA Conference Apostolic Plan*. There was also discussion among the various institutions of higher education (Group 1: Colleges/Universities Group 2: Colleges of Education Group 3: Engineering Colleges Group 4: Business Schools) on domain Areas for Collaboration. Sharing of Best Practices in JHEASA Institutions has helped to enrich our own institutions in the management of energy, waste, water, biodiversity etc.

The conference came to an end with an evaluation, after which Fr. Joe Arun, thanked Fr. Rector, Fr. Principal, and the team at St. Aloysius College for hosting the Conference efficiently. The conference ended with gathering of fruits and recognizing graces. St. Xavier's College, Calcutta was chosen as the next venue for the next annual JHEASA conference. The JHEASA conference helped participants to see the scope of our institutions in the current scenario and inspired a greater desire to do good with mutual collaboration and networking within the province/zones.