

**Report of the Meeting Province/Regional Coordinators of School Educations (PCEs/RCEs)
and Province/Regional Coordinators of Higher Education (PCHes/RCEs)
on National Education Policy 2020 and Our Jesuit Response**

at XIM University in Bhubaneswar from 28 June – 01 July 2023.

Province/Regional Coordinators of School Educations (PCEs/RCEs) and Province/Regional Coordinators of Higher Education (PCHes/RCEs) of Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) had a three-day meeting on 'National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) and Our Jesuit Response' at XIM University in Bhubaneswar from 28 June – 01 July 2023. It was organized by NEP Task Force of JCSA, Frs. Joe Arun (Convener), John Ravi, and Rohan Almeida.

The meeting aimed at finding ways and evolving strategies to face the challenges and make use of opportunities of NEP 2020. While being critical of the Policy in its approach to minority rights and our service to the people on the peripheries, the meeting made efforts to understand what the Policy says and what impact it would make if our schools and colleges start implementing in the coming days as statutory bodies of the Ministry of Education, Union Government have asked for reports of implementation, and in some states it is already implemented.

On the first day evening, in the dispositional prayer Fr Joe Arun, Convener of the Task Force and Secretary, JHEASA, explained dispositions that are required and Jesuit approach to be employed to look at and consider the Policy to draft guidelines for the Conference to respond to its challenges and opportunities. He also presented outcomes that would be achieved by the meeting. As directed by Fr POSA, Fr Joe Arun said, the response of the body of our education institutions of the Conference would be strategic and scientific. It should be strategic in the sense that every institution must respond to the Policy based on the ways in which each state of India looks at the Policy, some states implement it completely and some others have not been clear about the implementation. In few states, the Policy is opposed although the educational institutions have been asked for reports of implementation.

Second day was devoted to study of the Policy. Prof Thimme Gowda, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, and member of NEP implementation committee of Karnataka government explained in detail about the Policy and how it could be implemented. He also took questions and clarifications from the PCEs and PCHes and answered them elaboratively. The breadth and depth of his knowledge was a great help to clear grey areas of the Policy. In the afternoon, Frs John Ravi and Joe Arun presented the key features of the Policy for school and higher education. Later in the evening, the whole group was divided into smaller groups for Spiritual Conversation in which they were asked to discern and suggest a plan of action for the Conference.

The third day started with discernment in common in which the groups presented reports of their spiritual conversation. Key points of the reports of the discernment were:

1. Map/audit to understand the readiness of the schools and colleges.
2. Form Task Forces: Province and Institution
3. Focus on key thrust areas of the Policy for school and higher education

4. Train Province Task Forces, administrators, Jesuits (PCEs/PCHes) at zonal levels
5. Make all our institutions IT enabled learning centred and have proper and robust Learning Management System (LMS)
6. Prepare a common minimum programme for implementation of the Policy strategically and scientifically.
7. Create platforms to share information on implementation of NEP regularly.

Later, PCEs and PCHes went separately to discuss how schools and colleges would plan for implementation of the Policy and how they would respond to the challenges of it and what activities they would be engaged in to make use of opportunities available to enhance the quality of service in all the institutions. Before the coordinators of school education began their discernment, Ms. Ambika Roshan, who had been invited to provide inputs on NEP for schools. Fr John Ravi, Secretary, School Education coordinated and moderated the sessions. For PCHes, Fr Anthony Uvari, Vice Chancellor of XIM University, shared how he had faced the challenges in his journey of upgrading XIM-B into XIM University, which was indeed enlightening and instructive for all the coordinators. followed more elaborate discussion on how each PCE and PCH would respond to the Policy in his province.

On the final day, both Frs. John Ravi (Secretary, School Education) and Joe Arun (Secretary, JHEASA) presented plans of responding to NEP 2020 for schools and colleges respectively. Then all the PCEs and PCHes were divided into four zonal groups to decide exact dates and venues of Training of Trainers (ToT) for Province Task Forces (PTFs) and suggested dates are:

1. South Zone

Date: November first week, 2023

Venue: Bangalore/ Chennai / Kerala

Days: 2 1/2

2. North Zone

Date: May first week, 2024/January, 2024/February, 2024

Venue: NRC, Delhi/ ISI, Delhi/Atmadarshan, Patna

Days: 2 1/2

3. West Zone

Date: January 5-7, 2024/January 13-15, 2024

Venue: PG Block, Pune/Retreat House, Baga, Goa

Days: 2 1/2

4. Central Zone

Date: November 10-12, 2023/November 13-15, 2023

Venue: Spirituality Centre, Namukum, Ranchi

Days: 2 1/2

The Plan of Action:

1. PCEs and PCHes would meet up with their Provincials/Regional Superiors to finalise the NEP Province Task Forces in their provinces and they would also request Headmasters/Principals/Directors/Managers of all the institutions to form NEP Institutional Task Forces (ITFs).
2. After October 2023, NEP Task Force of JCSA (Frs. John Ravi, Joe Arun and Rohan Almeida) would train the Province Task Forces (PTFs) in the four zones by arranging to have a team of resource persons and deliver the modules on the thrust areas of NEP 2020. Zonal Coordinators of the school education and higher education would oversee and take care of logistics, board and lodging in all the venues of the four zones.
3. The PTFs would in turn train the ITFs in all the institutions in the Conference.
4. After the training of PTFs and ITFs was completed, it was suggested that all Headmasters/Principals/Directors and a select group of staff would go through a training on NEP 2020 at XIM University.

Joe Arun SJ

Convener, NEP Task Force of JCSA

NEP Task Force:

Fr Joe Arun SJ (Convener) – Secretary, JHEASA, Fr John Ravi SJ, (Secretary, Conference Secretariat for School Education), Fr Ajit Kumar Xess SJ (Provincial, Ranchi), Fr Felix Raj SJ, (Vice Chancellor, St Xavier’s University, Kolkata), Fr Rohan Almeida SJ, (Province Coordinator of School Education, Karnataka Province), Prof. Dr Rajkumar (Founding Vice Chancellor, O.P. Jindal Global University), Mr Shapath Shah (Former National President, JAAI), and Dr Devendra Singh, (Former National President, JAAI).



