



JHEASA
ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024
On
DISCERNMENT-NETWORKING-COLLABORATION (DNC)
Where the spirit is calling us?
26TH-28TH JANUARY 2024
ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA

THEME: **DISCERNMENT NETWORKING COLLABORATION: *Where the Spirit is Calling Us?***

The Proceedings of the Conference

Day One, 26th January: Hotel Kenilworth, Kolkata

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

On day one, informal welcoming of the Jesuit delegates of Conference was held around 6.30 p.m. at Hotel Kenilworth (Windsor Hall)), Kolkata where most of the delegates were accommodated. Alumni Association of St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata organized the warmup program. Mr.Senahasis Sur, on behalf of the Alumni, welcomed and briefed the delegates with a short audio-visual presentation on the strong bonding with which the Association serves the Alma Mater under the guidance and blessings of the college management.

Fr. Dominic Savio, the Principal and the President of St. Xavier's college and the President of Alumni Association, formally welcomed the Jesuit officials of the Assistancy (Fr. Stanislaus D'souza, President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA), Fr. Joseph Christie, Secretary Jesuit Education, Rome, Fr.C.Joe Arun, Secretary, (JHESA), Fr.Arjen Tete, Provincial of Calcutta, Fr.Felixraj, Vice-Chancellor of St.Xavier's University, Kolkata, Fr. Jeyaraj V, the Rector of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and Mr. F. Hasan, the Honorary Secretary of Alumni Association, Kolkata), delegates, friends and well-wishers.

After Fr.Dominic Savio's address, Mr. F.Hasan, the honorary Secretary of the St. Xavier's college Alumni Association, Kolkata, felicitated all the above mentioned officials on the dais with traditional Uttoriyo.

Fr.Arjen Tete, Provincial of Kolkata province then, welcomed the conference officials and the delegates. He stressed upon the core issue of Jesuit Higher Education institutions beyond securing ranking and national accreditations which was to make contributions towards social transformation of our country based on our constitutional values.

Fr. Joe Arun, Secretary, JHEASA, introduced the dynamics of the Conference in a typical Jesuit Spiritual Conversation mode by invoking and persisting with the promoting of the movement of the Holy Spirit. He explained the objectives of the Conference i. To discern the promptings of the Lord in the mission of Jesuit higher Education. ii. To network among the JHEASA institutions for a greater apostolic effectiveness, iii. To reimagine the mission of Jesuit higher education in South Asia to yield more universal good iv. To learn to collaborate among us with the Lord who is already in God's mission.

He also outlined the methodology to achieve these objectives by the ways of :-

- i. Sharing of Zonal Coordinators on initiatives taken in their respective zones in the areas of Discernment, Networking and Collaborations.
- ii. Discerning in common the Jesuit Legacy of the Higher Education.
- iii. Sharing of the best and most unique practices from the higher educational institutions of the Assitancy.
- iv. Celebrate the success of the Jesuit higher education so far achieved.

After the dynamics of the conference were explained, Mr. F. Hasan proposed the vote of thanks for the initial inaugural function of the Conference and invited all present for the Fellowship Dinner.



Day Two, 27th January, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata

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

First Session

Official inauguration of JHEASA was held at the Father Depelchin Auditorium with a short prayerful meditation led by Fr. Johnson Paddiyara, the Vice-Principal of St. Xavier' College, Ragaphur Campus. To add more fervor, the SADAAM troupe (Xavier Association for Dance, Art & Music) performed a Bengali traditional classical dance. Then followed the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the officials of the conference and felicitation of the officials by the college staff and students.

Fr. Jeyaraj V., the Rector of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, gave a welcome address first by highlighting some of the milestones that the College had crossed from its first inception way back in 1835 by the English Jesuits and the second in 1860 by the Belgium Jesuits and the founder being Fr. Depelchin who also founded the St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling and St. Xavier's College, Mumbai. Since then phenomenal growth has been witnessed besides imparting quality education that produced great statesmen like Rabindranath Tagore and Subash Jagadish Chandra Bose etc, rendering social service leading to the birth of a rural campus in Raghapur and a University in the New Town area in Kolkata.

Fr. Dominic Savio, the Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, and host of the conference on his part, welcomed the delegates highlighting the characteristics of the pedagogy that followed in the teaching and learning process – multiculturalism, rural outreach, mental health of the students and social-religious harmony.

Fr. Joe Arun, the JHEASA Secretary, besides welcoming the delegates introduced the objectives and the discerning process in the context of the global scenario – around 45 countries heading for general election and the possible emergence of dictatorial form of governing, the impending Presidential change of UNO, the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, the never ending conflicts between India and Pakistan and Nepal having no education board to regulate the spread of education in the region.

He made a special mention of the 30 governmental notifications binding the education scenario of the country under the ageis of NEP (New Education Policy 2020), which perpetuates the sectarian policy of depriving the marginalized to reap the full fruits of the educational opportunities. Hence he made a fervent call to embark on a serious discernment process to combat the challenges of NEP, to make visible the characteristics of Jesuit educational legacy by following the guidelines of the DDA, UAP, PAP which enjoins the following: -

Renewed mission with greater mission through Discernment, Networking and Collaboration.

Making all the Jesuit colleges and Universities and the Student movements (AICUF) to become the agents of social transformation.

Giving priority in educating the marginalized youth with the needed assistance.

Supporting and networking with the new colleges by sharing personnel and other resources.

Zonal level networking and collaboration wherever and whenever is needed including for the progress of the Jesuit institutions towards becoming torchbearers of establishing a humane society in the digital and artificial intelligence age.

Fr. Joseph Christie, the Secretary, Jesuit Higher Education, Rome, addressed the delegates on Global Perspectives of Jesuit Higher Education. At the outset, he conveyed to the delegates the greetings of Fr. Arturo Sosa, the Superior General of Society of Jesus. He called on the delegates to embark on the mission of: -

Making all the Jesuit Higher Education institutions of the Society of Jesus, to work together and to respond and to make an impact in the polarized environment.

To deliberate sincerely in order to set before us a clear and vision of Jesuit Higher Education in India.

To decide and formulate definite direction that we want to follow as a global body.

To maintain our Jesuit identity in our institution, in our operation and characteristics.

To define a plan to help students especially after the Covid-19 for their educational pursuit and to put an end to the number of suicide cases among the student community.

To develop a new pedagogy to introduce courses on Ignatian spirituality in our university and colleges.

To adopt the modern educational technologies to offer on diploma, degree online-courses in collaboration with various universities.

To introduce the modern technology such as Artificial Intelligence in the teaching-learning process by integrating it in the pedagogy.

To initiate among the Jesuit institutions collaborative researches in the area of democracy etc.

To revamp collaboration leading towards solidarity for sharing of personnel, knowledge and financial resources.

To make a token contribution to the Assistancy for the education of the youth from the poorer nations.

To integrate the positive aspects of NEP 2020, UAP and PAP in our vision of higher education.

To organize an International Conference in Columbia in the month of July, 2025 for greater networking and collaboration among Jesuit Higher education institutions on a global level.

Fr. Stanislaus D'Souza, President, Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) emphasized the following points in his address to the delegates of the conference:-

The annual conference is the time for fruitful sharing in order to give impetus for mutual deliberation, sharing and collaboration towards fulfilling the mission of the higher education in the Assistancy.

Creating the Zonal Divisions of Jesuit Higher education institutions for a better coordination, collaborations and networking is a notable effort by the Secretary JHEASA.

Sitting on the legacy of our forefathers, the Jesuit universities and colleges have to reinvent and reimagine our ministries.

To be present at this venue of the conference, Kolkata, a land which gave birth to eminent educationist such as Rabindranath Tagore, Aurobinda Ghosh and statesmen

like Jagadish Subash Chandra Bose is an opportunity for us to imbibe their spirit to set the Jesuit Higher Education on fire.

To combat the negative impact of the globalization and to boost our rural education towards achieving global standard.

To make the role of the Jesuit higher educational institution at the forefront of global education towards transforming the global society.

To explore new opportunity/new ways and means to make Jesuit higher education more meaningful.

To set up Jesuit Education Task Forces in the Assistency to reorient, envision, reimagine and redefine our Jesuit Education in order to emerge in order and to initiate a “kairo” moment.

JHEASA MAGIS Award Ceremony

JHEASA has introduced the MAGIS award for a Jesuit / lay person for making outstanding contribution in the area of Jesuit Higher Education. With the due consent of the POSA and Zonal Jesuit Higher Education Coordinators, the first MAGIS Medal with Citation was conferred on Fr.Felixraj, the Vice-Chancellor of St. Xavier’s University, Kolkata for his outstanding contribution spanning over three decades.

The due process of receiving nomination and selection will be followed for conferring the award in future.

Fr.Felixraj, in his acceptance speech thanked JHEASA for the honor in recognition of his service. In his speech on Collaboration and Networking, he outlined the following elements:-

The Jesuit institutions have been talking about networking among themselves for quite some TIME now but concrete actions were missing.

The first step towards networking and collaboration is discernment process at the individual, group and collective level. Such a model proved very effective in Kolkata. St. Xavier’s University is a tremendous success story as a result of the networking among St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, Alumni Associations and the Corporate houses. The Alumni Association initiated networking among the past students of the college settled in diverse parts of the globe. As a result many St. Xavier’s Alumni Chapters were set up to involve them in the expansion projects of the college.

The Chapters worked on the vision of 2020 for mustering financial resources for the new hostel buildings one for boys and another one for girls and set up a rural campus of the college in Raghapur to take the higher education to rural areas for the benefit of the rural student community.

St.Xavier’s College, Kolkata collaborated with St. Xavier’s College, Dumka in mentoring to help the college to obtain NAAC accreditation and the Alumni also was involved.

The vision 2030 is aimed at developing the infrastructure of the university towards attaining international academic standard.

Networking with the government agencies and other institutions to share the vision of UAP, PAP and DSS in the line of NEP which reflects certain characteristics and which have already been in practice in our Jesuit institutions.

To focus towards evolving a feasible and viable curriculum and syllabus with the public and private partnership.

To work towards an academic system which will enable students to begin their first year of academic study in Chennai and go on in completing the second and third year in Kolkata and Bombay respectively.

To make every Jesuit college in India an autonomous institution and energize our faculty and staff.

To network towards attaining state, national, international and global level recognition of the Jesuit Higher Education Institutions.

Mrs. Summona Gosh, a faculty of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, proposed the vote of thanks for the inaugural function of the conference.

Second Session

The Second session of the day was held at Xavier Hall after the tea break. Fr. Melyn D'Cunha moderated the keynote address by Dr. Anup Sinha, retired Professor of Economics, IIM, Kolkata on the topic: "*Re-imagining the Future of Higher Education.*" He outlined the following points:-

The Higher Education sector witnessed a sweeping change with the introduction of technology such as Digital Technology and Artificial Intelligence in the teaching-learning process.

Prior to this change, theosophical institutions aimed at propagating basic and general education which imparted notional knowledge and formation of the student for their human and spiritual growth.

The industrial revolution brought a change in the characteristics of education by making a demand for skilled laborers from the educational institutions in order to meet the requirements of industry to improve the economy of country and the world.

Thus tension brewed between what is imparted from the schools and colleges and what the industry needed. Public schools, ITI and Engineering, Polytechnic institutions sprang up to meet the industry need in the midst of having no clarity as to what types of skills were expected of the growing industry.

So even the so called 21st century teachers and educational institutions could not impart the needed skills for industry as well as they lacked the pedagogy to meet the requirements.

Hence the need to refine the purpose of education in the following ways:-

To become aware of the fact that the pupil has different ways of learning.

To guide the youth in knowing the contemporary world which offers lots of opportunities and challenges.

To enable the students to respond to the needs and challenges of the society as a responsible citizen.

Need to treat our students as collaborators not as consumers or products, to evolve a system of making them skillful which also fulfills the aspiration of their parents.

A new pattern of the curriculum is essential to achieve the real value of education and the best of the best minds not just bureaucrats should be entrusted with this responsibility.

Revision of the curriculum should be done once in 10 years to meet the emerging need of the society.

Teaching methodology should incorporate the educational technology such as Internet, YouTube, Wikipedia and Artificial Intelligence etc., and encourage students to learn from their peers.

Teachers should equip themselves to be the fire that ignites the students to invent new things.

Make arrangements and adjustments for the students to learn from other sources such as projects and group works etc.

The juggling of classes from one subject to another, a particular unit of the subject should be completed in one go so as to enable the students with a better comprehension rather than teaching bits of different subjects in a single day.

Work towards gaining freedom and autonomy to determine what we need to teach to open up our students' mind.

The Indian higher education should be relieved of the tension by bridging the knowledge and skill gap.

The 21st century educational institutions should offer opportunities for the students' enlightenment to lead a life of synthesizing productive skills and values.

Third Session:

The four Zonal coordinators presented their efforts and implementations of programmes in the areas of Networking and Collaboration according to decisions made in the previous annual conference. Fr.Pradeep Kerketta moderated the session.

(All the four PowerPoint presentations have been mailed to Fr.Joe Arun).

Fourth Session: Spiritual Conversation (Group Discussion)

The fourth session was a group discussion based on the spiritual conversation mode on the questions to seek the discernment of the delegates who were divided into eight groups to suggest three areas to collaborate and network among the Jesuit colleges till the next annual conference. Each group had a moderator and a secretary to take down the points.

After the first round of the deliberation, the points were presented to have a second round of deliberation to suggest three main areas for networking and collaboration.

The 24 recommendations, 3 from each group that emerged in these celebrations were sent to Fr. Joe Arun who would present them during the next day session.

The second day programme concluded with a visit to the newly established St. Xavier's University in the New Town area of Kolkata metropolitan city where the university officials hosted a fellowship dinner for the delegates.







Day three: 28th January, Xavier Hall

Grace: That we may have wisdom to reimagine a future for the Mission of Jesuit Higher Education

The third day's session began with prayerful meditation led by Fr. Mourlin Fernandez and the session moderated by Fr. Marianus Kujur. Fr. Joe Arun initiated the dynamics of the day:-

The venue for the next conference was mutually agreed upon by the central zone delegates to host it at Xavier's College, Ranchi. The other zonal delegates will jointly do the needful for the conference.

Fr. Joe Arun informed the delegate-assembly that he has received all the 24 recommendations of the previous day's spiritual conversation and that he would synthesize them to evolve three major areas of networking and cooperation for JHEASA member institutions to work on. The areas will be notified to the delegates in due course of time for their implementation and necessary actions. The action plan for the implementation will be in the line of:-

With the vision of making the Jesuit institution a discerning institution on the Ignatian model especially in the milieu of working with non-Christian staff and students.

Dividing the Assistancy Higher Education Sector in to four zones will give impetus to work together to realize our potential for a greater service in the changing scenario of our Assistancy.

To devise a plan for an effective most efficient way to network and collaborate among ourselves and with others.

To respond to the norms of the NEP 2020 and meet the challenges it poses to the minority institutions.

To initiate training programmes to develop Jesuit leadership based on Ignatian legacy and traditions.

Initiating Staff and Student exchange and sharing of resources.

Establishment of a national center for JHEASA for a better coordination of its activities.

The initiatives undertaken to make JHEASA more visible and to enable networking are: JHEASA Website, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram and other links.

AICUF Presentation

Fr. Benjamin, the National Adviser to the ALL India Catholic University Federation shared with the delegates the following information:-

AICUF has been brought under the preview of CBCI (Catholic Bishops' Conference of India) and has been recognized as a Catholic International Youth Federation.

Revive and start AICUF units and almost every province has AICUF unit in the Assistancy.

Fostering spiritual, intellectual and mental growth and instilling critical awareness in the minds of the AICUFers.

The State Advisers meet at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, was held to give new impetus to the AICUF and plan out for its centenary celebration in 2024-25. The next meet is planned at AICUF Ashram, Bhopal.

A Leadership training workshop is planned in Bhagalpur focusing on the spirituality, constitutionality and democracy.

The Inaugural programme of the Centenary celebration of AICUF in May and grand Finale in 2025 May, Chennai which would go along with making the needed amendments in the AICUF constitution.

Task Force On Democracy

Prof. Newman who attended a meeting in California shared the following points on establishing Task Force on Democracy in South Asia:-

All the 73 Jesuit institutions need to have Association of Democracy for enabling our students to make a better participation in the democratic process of our country.

In Karnataka, the students prepare a manifesto on Democracy according to their demands.

Choose zonal representatives to form a national commission on Democracy.

Training of teachers and students on democratic values.

Make our own representation when democracy is stifled.

Setting up of Task Force that will prepare their own agenda on Democratic principles.

Peace and Reconciliation

Fr. Binoy shared the following points with regard to the initiatives taken for Peace and Reconciliation:-

Our concern on peace and reconciliation is the reflection of the overall concern that prevails in our country.

Jesuit institutions are called to play a greater role in the area of peace and reconciliation.

Two day workshop for the South Zone staff on Peace and Reconciliation. The other zones also can initiate the processes.

Lumina, a journal on Peace and Reconciliation, is sent to all the provinces regularly and it can play the role of facilitating such programme.

Best Practices

Fr. Steven Almeida presented the reports received from the colleges of Assistancy on the best practices of their respective intuitions:-

Rector's meal for the less privileged students at St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, at lunchtime.

Industrial units visit for the students to get exposure to the industries and to secure an employment at St. Xavier's College, Ahmadabad.

Tech Talk for the Faculty members and teacher-student exchange programme at LICET.

50% reservation for the Christian students in admission at St. Xavier's College, Ranchi.

STAND – an out reach liberation programme at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkotai.

ARISE programme to empower people from drug addiction at John De Britto College, Karumathur.

School of Human Excellence and LSS – Social Work- at Loyola College, Chennai.

Learning without exam, full scholarship for Dalit students, Ignatian Leadership programme, MBA programme for Transgenders, Wall of Kindness, Honesty Shop and Wellbeing Centre at LIBA, Chennai.

Inter-Religious Dialogue at St. Vincent College, Pune

Tech Talk, Igniting Minds, Water Honesty, Inclusive Education for transgenders at St. Xavier's College, Jaipur.

Connect E-mail to the staff at St. Xavier's college Mumbai.

Compulsory Ph.D. coaching for the tribal students at Loyola College, Raipur.

Production of videos on voting, secularism and democracy at Vidya Joyti, Delhi.

Translate learning into service and staff self-reliance service at St. Xavier's College, Mohada.

A new unit on Peace and Reconciliation at ISI, Bangalore.

Electoral Literacy Club and organizing lectures on it by resource persons from Delhi.

Counseling and wellness center and gratitude session for the outgoing meritorious students at St. Joseph's College, Bangalore.

Legal Aid Centre for the Rural population at St. Xavier's University, Kolkata

Gratitude Session

Fr. Joe Arun expressed gratitude on behalf of JHEASA for the wonderful cooperation for the successful conduct of the Annual Conference in Kolkata. He felicitated each member of the organizing committee of the Alumni Association of Kolkata - St. Xavier's College and the College fathers and staff by way of offering an Uthariyo imprinted with JHEASA Logo and a specially prepared table calendar of LIBA.

Fr. Dominic Savio, the Principal of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata facilitated Fr. Joe Arun for meticulously organizing the Annual Conference of JHEASA in Kolkata.

The conference concluded with concelebrated Eucharist presided over by Fr. John Rose.

The lunch was served at the Gymnasium area followed by guided sightseeing coordinated by the Kolkata Alumni members.



