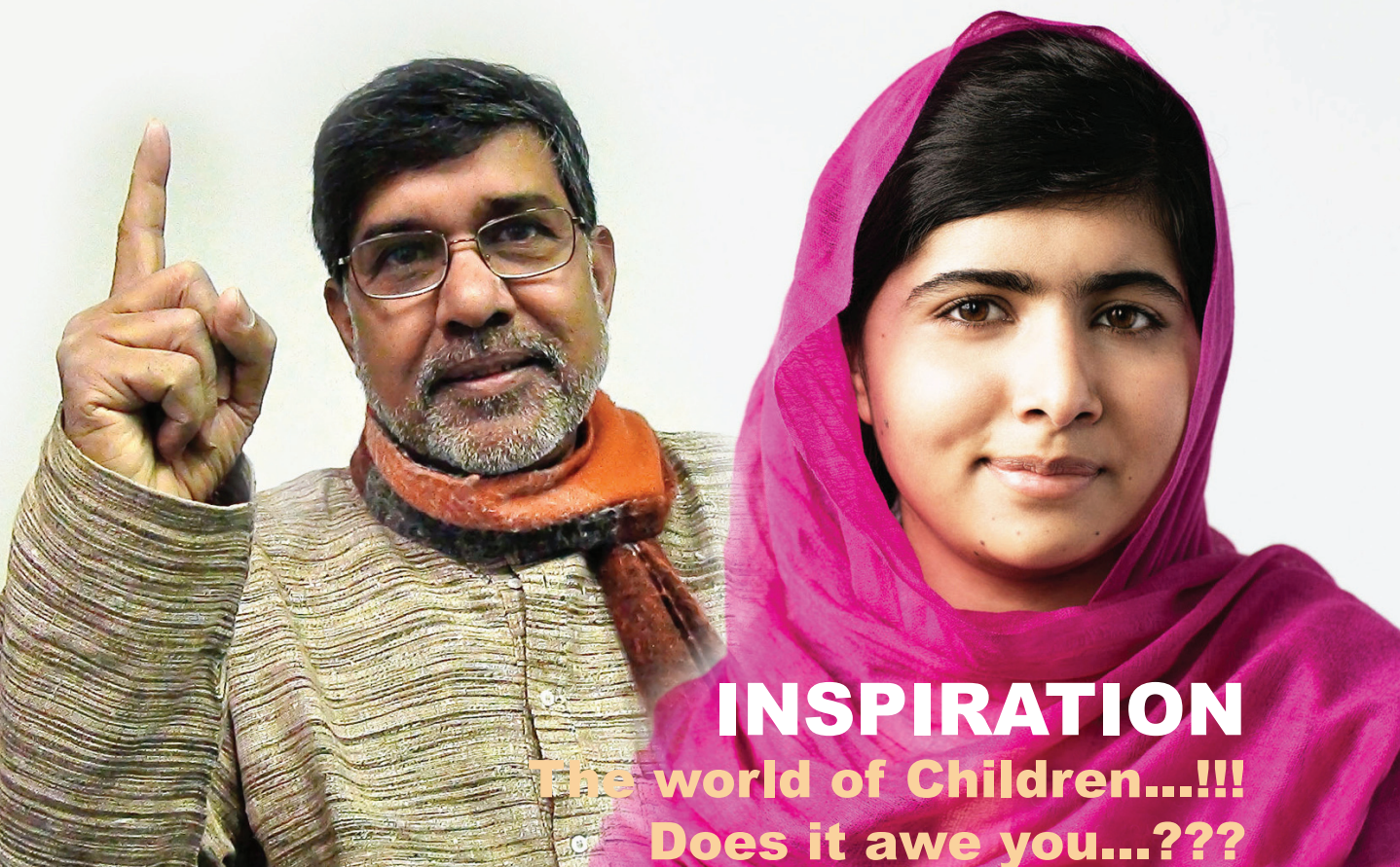


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INSPIRATION

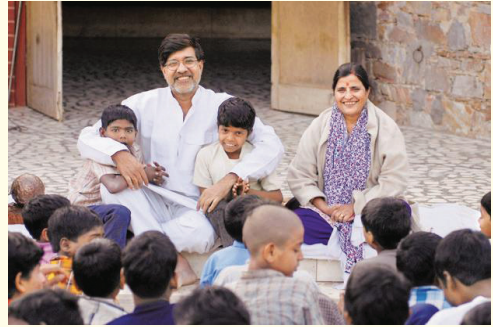
**The world of Children...!!!
Does it awe you...???**



“One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world” words of Nobel Peace Prize winner of 2014, Malala Yousufzai at The UN Assembly 2013.

Any child is a slave in any part of the world, it is a blot on humanity” says Child Rights Activist Kailash child of

today is deprived of conducive environment for physical, emotional, intellectual and social growth, a nation will be deprived of potential human resource for progress and development. Violation of child rights, destruction of their beautiful childhood and inhuman exploitation of children are the bitter realities in our country ...in our states ...and around us. If Nobel Peace Prize winners on 2014 Malala Yousufzai and Kailash Satyarthi could make a change, can I and readers of this article be a silver line for the unfortunate children? Can harrowing tales of these children leave indelible impression in our minds?



11 year old says “I work in a garment factory, and give all the money to my parents. They make all decisions, I don’t take decision. I also don’t need anything to spend money for....” a child being unaware of lack of autonomy and authority.

Kala a woman of 60 years says “our grand children are also mortgaged...we had mortgaged our utensils and jewellery. We don’t have any more but our children” – the harshest form of child right violation – bonded labour.

“How can I send my daughter to school anymore? She is 10 years old now” – Parent practicing a taboo against sending daughters to school.

“My mind never works when I read an Akshar (alphabet). I only have body (for manual work) but no mind (for studies)...Response of a 14 years boy, who was rescued from labour and undergoing rehabilitation.

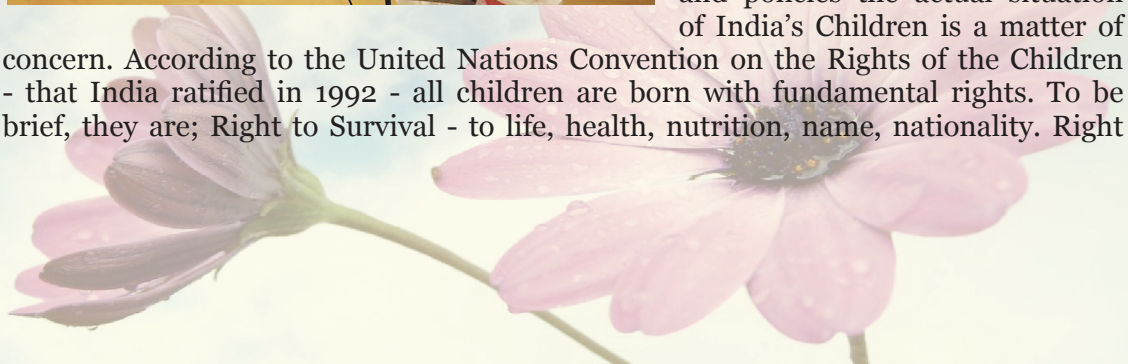
17 year old states “I work as a part timer in Bhai Saabhs house. My work comprises of washing clothes, cleaning the house and their car and taking care of his grandchild. I



work for 6 hours in a day during which my child of 6 months will be with my neighbour... A case of a child domestic married and attained motherhood at the age of 17 years - true example for lost innocence.

These are a very few examples for visible negative fallouts or tip of the ice berg. Despite all laws and policies the actual situation of India’s Children is a matter of

concern. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Children - that India ratified in 1992 - all children are born with fundamental rights. To be brief, they are; Right to Survival - to life, health, nutrition, name, nationality. Right



to Development - to education, care, leisure, recreation, cultural activities. Right to Protection - from exploitation, abuse, neglect; Right to Participation - to expression, information, thought, religion. Above all Right to attain all these rights. But one can see there is a conflict between the economic needs of families and the rights of children. Children's economic activity is believed to be a response to the basic family need. Children are dying of starvation; little children who are still in the formative years are married off. Little ones are sacrificed, trafficked and sold; as others are locked, abused. Even the basic right of birth registration that will assure them a nationality and identity remains unaddressed - the list is endless but we choose not to act. There is a need to recognise children as individuals with rights. Malala Yousufzai and Kailash Sathyarthi did the same.

Kailash Sathyarthi an Electrical Engineer by profession gave up his job in 1980's to end the exploitation of children in India. Having rescued 78,500 child labourers he linked his fight against child labour with "Education for All". Being never fully satisfied with his work he says "A lot of work still remains but I will see the end of child labour in my life time" He through his organisation " Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA)" – the save childhood movement has been instrumental in making the problem of child labour in India as an issue of human Rights.

The Youngest person ever to win the Nobel Peace prize is Malala Yousufzai, a youngest spokesperson for girl child education. Being born in Pakistan, at an early age of 11 years she became an activist writing blog to protest Taliban being against the education of Girls. As a result of her activism she was shot in the head by Taliban militants in an attempt of assassination. She says "nothing changed my life except this; weakness, fear, hopelessness died and strength, power, courage was born." Both these Nobel Laureates and many more child rights activists inspire us and enkindle a spark in our hearts and minds.

YCS/ YSM has always worked for the transformation of our society. Members are trained to take up the causes of the society through this movement. My memory goes back to 2002- 2003 when a largest rally of YCS/YSM Mangalore diocese was organised to create awareness and influence the policies on child rights. It was one among the Movements which pioneered the thought of the 'children as individuals with rights'. Credit goes to the Current National Chaplain Rev Fr Charles Menezes who was then the Director of YCS/YSM, Mangalore Diocese. Subsequently series of programmes have taken place on the issues of Child Rights and the state government worked on the demands made in that Rally.

Still incidents of child rights violation demands more concrete action. Education for all is yet a promise to be translated into reality. Our silence and tolerance condones violation of rights, and will make us guilty for ever. Can we promise them India that truly shines?

It is possible only when we believe in every child's right to childhood. Let Malala Yousufzai and Kailash Sathyarthi be our role models in our fight for child rights.

-Ms Shwetha Rasquinha, St. Aloysius College, Mangalore



SWATCH BHARATH :

Its myth personified



These days India is going through making a lot of noise and news. It's because the programs promulgated and executed in India by the new government. The Prime Minister has shown keen interest on some of the basic things of Indian scenario.

Swatch Bharath: By 2019 at the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, our PM dreams and wants our India to be a clean country like any other foreign developed country. The campaign has already begun with the Prime Minister taking up the broom to sweep and he has asked us to render 2 hours a week or 100 hours a year to clean up the dirt on the streets and our surroundings.



In my opinion it is not impossible. It should come from birth and it should flow in the veins of every individual that my country, neighborhood, surrounding and home should be clean. Each one should feel the dirt on the earth and abstain from throwing anything in the open lest it affect the general public. Each one should feel ashamed to be dirty in front of others. Then I think something can work. But firstly we need to be clean in mind and heart.

We can do it by force. If the bureaucrats and public servants are serious about it, this menace can be tackled. Unfortunately Indian mindset is not ready to accept it. I feel it is in the blood of each one of us that picking the dirt in front of others is an insult to us. Unless we feel courageous to do these kinds of chores we may not change the course of dirty India. We basically need to learn the civic sense.

I watched a video of a small boy of 4th std on his way to school picking the paper cups of tea and putting them in the dust bin which were thrown on the road by the public. He does it because his teacher had told him. Unmindful of people laughing at him he continues to pick the paper cups and puts them into the dustbin daily morning and slowly some students, youngsters and old as well join him. It continues for 5 days and automatically everyone uses the dustbin and no one throws anymore on the street. He teaches a lesson to the public by his little good deed.

Toilets: Not only Swatch Bharath; in India 46% households does not have toilets. People, even women have to go in public for defecation and other needs. It should be our effort to build a toilet in every household immediately and use it properly, i.e. to keep it clean and tidy. Government authorities should take urgent note of it. We also can play a very important role in it. PM need not tell it to us; we are equally responsible citizens of India to make India a clean place to live.

Bank account: PM calls for each individual to have a bank account by 26th Jan 2015. Many have responded positively to it. We students shall make our parents, especially, our mothers, sisters, women around us aware of the need of a bank account which will give them identity and

self respect. Let their salary directly go to their bank account and they will learn to use the money properly and save something for their future. Let every student also have a bank account. I have done it – you also should do it now.

Corruption: There is lot corruption in India. Every politician, bureaucrat and individual seems to be corrupt. It has gone into the blood and bone marrow of every Indian. How shall we change it? Without your help nothing can change India. Resolve not to be corrupt and fight corruption. We have a good judiciary now. Even the big fish are sent behind the bars. Let us make judiciary's hand strong by being a part of anti corruption movement.

Make in India: We crave for foreign goods because they are good and lasting. Unfortunately our own people have let us down. With the call by PM to have "Make in India", things should change. Gandhiji had started it but we have forgotten it. Let us be back to the roots of India. So far we have bought others' goods now let others buy our goods – Make in India

We every Indian basically need self respect and self discipline in our life. I was watching a small video of a child in England where her father teaches her to say SORRY when she does something wrong to her elder sister at the mall, as early as she is three years old. Until the child says SORRY her father keeps on insisting on it and explains her why she should say sorry. Finally she says SORRY and after a while when a young woman stamps on her feet by mistake, she insists that the woman say SORRY. She learnt a lesson as early as three year old child and taught that lady to say SORRY.



It has to come from WITHIN. We YCS/YSMers have to be a part of SWATCH BHARATH and all the good campaigns unmindful of anyone looking at us or praising or laughing at us. We can make a difference and it will pave way for a cleaner India, stronger India and MY INDIA as the PM dreams.

We the YCS/YSM ers have to follow the five path spirituality in word and deed; That is,

- a. **Pray daily for Peace** – Be an agent of peace
- b. **Skip a meal once a week** – Express solidarity with the poor
- c. **Do a good deed a day**- Develop concern for the nation
- d. **Honour parents, teachers and human beings** – See God in them
- e. **Respect the mother earth and save its resources** – Be sensitive to Mother earth.

Follow these five paths everyday and India will be different because you are not indifferent. Be MAD – **Make a Difference**

Write your stories about the difference you have made in the past few weeks at home, school, college, surroundings, neighbourhood and send them to us and we shall publish it in the Search to inspire others. Be the inspiration you ought to be.

.....

TEENAGE CRIMES: CAUSES AND SOLUTIONS

Media, both electronic and print, are full of negative and disgusting stories of violence against women, children and weaker sections of society. They do not hesitate in exposing details of the heinous crimes to make stories more sensational and provocative. The uproar and protests after the recent gang rape of the 23-year-old Delhi girl did not stop crimes against women taking place either in Delhi or other parts of the country. News papers take pleasure in publishing the stories on front pages. By the irresponsible and insensitive statements issued by politicians and god-men are worse than violence committed by rapists. Again the media give undue importance to them. The worst form of violence is the indifference of the large majority of the population who consider themselves righteous.



Violence is not a modern phenomenon. It existed in different forms from the very beginning of the world. The weaker sections of society such as women, minor girls, children, the poor and the minority were the victims. Rape first and last is violence against women, who are weak and helpless to defend themselves. Society calls it violation of women's dignity with reference to her genitals and virginity. This myth adds more suffering and humiliation to women. If society could see it as violence against a person, women and girls will have more strength and stamina to challenge society. Suicides of many rape victims could have been prevented if they were freed from this myth and stigma related to rape. Apart from the brutal nature of the violence committed to the young girl by six accused, in the moving bus on December 16, in Delhi, what shocked



everyone was the fact that a minor was involved in the gang rape and he was the cruelest of all. The police charge sheet has revealed that he "ripped the victim's intestines out with his hands". He also raped her twice, once when she was unconscious. Yet as per the existing law he will be getting the least punishment because the maximum punishment for the crimes committed by minors is imprisonment for a period of three years.

This is not the first time we hear about crimes committed by teenagers. The difference is that we took notice of it because of the nation-wide publicity the gang rape received since it happened in Delhi. Several cases of brutal murder by the teenagers were reported from different parts of the country in the past also. However, society treated them as

routine news and the concerned youngsters escaped with the excuse of being minors. The brutality of the crime committed by the minor in the present rape and murder case has generated debates and discussions to renew the existing law regarding juvenile delinquency. Let us look into a few crimes committed by teenagers in the past few years: A sixteen-year school boy Vijay Sharma in Mumbai who stabbed to death his mother showed no signs of remorse when he was arrested. He made a shocking statement that he wanted to kill the entire family and enjoy life with all the money.

A few months ago a ninth standard boy of a Catholic school in Chennai stabbed his teacher to death in the class room because she had admonished him to improve his studies. Another ninth standard boy in a convent school slapped the principal in public. A Class X boy threw acid on the face of a lady teacher while she was taking class.

A five –year –old child was abducted from his school by a senior student. He asked for a ransom of Rs.40,000 for the child’s release. The parents of the child laid a trap with the help of friends and caught the kidnapper when he came to collect the ransom. A tax consultants’ son, the senior student wanted the money to buy a rifle.

A teenager stabbed his sister-in-law to death because he did not like her cooking. We have also witnessed school children carrying guns to schools and shooting at their companions as it often happens in America. Children of rich parents bring guns in the school bag which belongs to their parents. They also learn to operate the gun from their parents. The father of one of the two teenagers who shot dead a class mate in an international school in Gurgaon, confessed in a city court that he taught the boy how to operate and fire the gun. In fact, the father is more responsible for the crime than the child.

There are also cases when some senior students of high school attempted to molest a lady teacher when they were in a drunken state. More and more stories are reported in the media where students raped children and women who were older than them.

There are reports from different states about the increasing number of crimes committed by teenagers. Youngsters between the age of 16 to 18 were caught for serious crimes like rape, murder and theft. As per the existing law they were tried in the juvenile courts and awarded lighter punishments for shorter periods. The increasing crimes and their brutal nature have raised demands for revival of the existing law dealing with minors and make laws which can give more serious punishments to them.

Root causes for teenage crimes

A serious study and analysis will provide innumerable causes for the growing teenage violence.

1. Too much is given too early without any control: Unlike in the past, the faculties of modern generation develop much faster. They receive too much,



too early, without proper guidance to use their resources and talents. They are exposed to everything in the world without proper training. Internet, expensive mobiles, iPods and I phones are at their disposal. Parents do not refuse anything their children demand. They spent long hours with video games and face book. They explore everything at a tender age without knowing the dangers hidden in them. Even KG children know to browse through Google and learn about anything under the sun including violence and sex. Parents provide all these because of their obsession to make their children smart overnight. Gradually, they want to experiment what they have seen on the Internet and video games. Many parents who provide all these gadgets and facilities do not know how to use them. Hence they do not know the dangers their children will be facing.

A vast majority of teachers are not able to compensate what is lacking in the parents. Whenever I enquired during the orientation programs for the teachers I was wonderstruck to know that more than 70 percent of teachers do not know to operate computer and internet. Not even 18 per cent of them read the newspaper daily without fail. How will they fill the vacuum in the formation of the children and compensate for the failures of parents?

2. The negative role of the media : The films and Doordarshan prior to globalization were educative both in their content and presentation. After globalization the innumerable TV channels changed the whole scenario. With the cut-throat competition and greed for profit, they started playing with the emotions and intelligence of people. The traditional ethos and noble practices disappeared. Dinner which was a family affair has been converted to 'eating in front of TV'. There is hardly any time for personal conversation. Children suffer the most when parents are obsessed with their own favorite serials depicting infidelity and extramarital affairs.

3. Ignorance of social realities and lack of good role models: Neither the parents nor the teachers make any effort to inculcate the habit of reading good books in the children. When they themselves never open a book nor read the daily newspaper, how will they motivate their children? Though there are many good films available on the lives of great women and men they never take time to watch them with children and motivate them.

When role models and noble values are not given to children they pick up what is easily available from the media and Internet. When parents do not have time to spend with their children they will look for friends in the face book and make connections with strangers who will only cheat them.

4. Peer group pressure, consumerist life style, blind imitation and false ego : When parents neglect or become indifferent to their growing children they attach themselves to their friends. Always everyone is not lucky to get good friends. Very often friends maybe victims of broken families and puppets of anti-social elements. These 'wrong' people misuse teenagers for all kinds of anti-social activities such as drugs, thefts, rapes and murder.



Teenagers become victims of the consumerist culture. The increasing number of shopping malls, restaurants and modern life style force young people to put on a mask of false ego . They want a lot of money to maintain their style to be part of everyone. Rich parents provide unlimited money to their children. The problem is with the children from the middle class and lower sections. When their parents cannot afford these luxuries children indulge in theft and violence to raise money. There are cases of girls acting as call girls to earn money for fashionable clothes and other luxury items. The number of teenage girls who adopt this Page 3 culture are increasing. They get trapped in to anti-social groups from which they are not able to get out.

5. Failed parents, failed families and failed schools : Teenage violence is due to the failure of parents and family to inculcate values in their children both by their example and teaching. A boy who has seen his father beating and insulting his mother will do the same way to any woman in society. A boy who has seen a cordial atmosphere between his parents and neighbours will always look at women and girls with respect. He will be cordial to everyone in society.

Similarly, children who are disturbed at home need to get attention and guidance in school. Teachers should act as their mentors and inspire them to face the world with patience and perseverance. Often the atmosphere in the school and attitude of teachers fail to do this sacred mission.

Deprived of love, affection and timely guidance, children indulge in violence and all kinds of destructive activities. The indifference and insults from society lead many young people to rebellion and destruction. Schools and families do not have any constructive program to utilize the abundance of energy and talents of the modern children. Parents and teachers are unequipped to deal with the modern generation of children and teenagers. Two thousand years ago, Jesus had warned of the dangers of “putting new wine in old wineskins”. Wineskins will burst and the precious wine will be wasted.

6. Absence of a vision of life : Teenagers are disturbed and confused because of the rat race in society. Blind imitation of Western life style and following the crowd eyes closed do not give space and time for teenagers to formulate the purpose of their lives. They lack a vision of life and focus. Since they do not have a vision and focus in life they are led by the immediate pleasures of life. When they fail to design their future someone else will design and dictate their lives. They become puppets in their hands. Some get trapped by religious fundamentalists while others are controlled by selfish politicians. Some others fall in to the company of gangsters and terrorists, only to destroy their lives.

Positive steps to change the situation

1. First responsibility with parents and family : The family is the first school of the children and parents are their first teachers. Hence children should have a suitable atmosphere in the family. Parents need to make cordial atmosphere with mutual respect and affection towards every one. They need to teach the primary lessons of life to their children. Their teaching will be effective as long as they practice what they preach. Children who live in an atmosphere of violence, disrespect, abusive language and negative conversation will

usually turn to become violent. Greater emphasis should be given to form the character of the boys.

2. Understanding the purpose of education:

Parents and teachers should realize that the purpose of education is not just earning a livelihood. What Swami Vivekanand said over a hundred years ago should be our guideline. Defining the purpose of education he said, “we need an education which builds CHARACTER, increases WILL POWER and expands INTELLECT so that a person can stand on his feet”. Understanding the purpose of education and enabling students



to imbibe these values is important. Unfortunately, the rat race of competition does not provide time and space for teachers and students to contemplate on the purpose of education and ultimately the purpose of one’s life on earth.

A person of character will always speak the truth, do only what is righteous even if the whole world does not accept this view. A person of character does not follow the crowd, instead, stands differently on account of principles. Together with formation of strong character, education should provide will power, i.e, stamina to face challenges and adverse situations. A person’s character and intelligence are proved when he makes intelligent decisions with critical thinking. He will not be blind due to caste, religion, language and other diversities.

Purpose of education provides a vision of life. Once students formulate a vision of life they live with focus and use their energies for productive purposes. They will not be wasting time over the Internet, mobile and other devices.

3. Value education be made practical and attractive: School should give top priority for value education. It should not be a routine obligation of reading from a book. It has to be practical based on spiritual values. Indore based Universal Solidarity Movement has been experimenting practical value education over the last 20 years quite successfully. The program does not have any text books. In this program, along with students, entire teachers of the school and parents are involved. Before giving any orientation to students, teachers are motivated. It consists also conducting orientation for parents to make them partners of value education. The successful experiment of USM is the only example of its kind in the country where the principal of the school, teachers and parents are made partners of value education. The impact of this value education is miraculous. It is a long term project to rebuild society through the young students. The success of this program depends very much on the seriousness with which principal and teachers follow up the program. The pre- requisite of practising the values first by the

principal of the school and teachers, before they are taught to the students, makes the program very demanding. The fundamental principle of the program is ‘transform the world by transforming oneself’. Teachers are told to practice before preaching.

4. Inculcate love for books and taste for reading : To counter the perversion presented in the media, parents and teachers should make sure to provide a good library at home and schools with inspiring life stories of great men and women. Children should be encouraged to study and reflect on these books. These trend-setters not only will become their role models but also will help the children to formulate a broad and lasting vision. Once children get the taste for reading good books, they will not waste time in useless things. Books will be their constant companions and guide in difficult times.

As books are provided to children, both parents and teachers should make time to show good films based on the life of great persons. Parents and teachers should make time to watch the films with the children, guiding them to draw out insights and apply them to their context and, at the end, make definite policies to make one’s life more fruitful.

5. Correct and confront with respect : Parents are afraid of correcting their children because they threaten and blackmail them. They are afraid of children committing suicide and indulging in other destructive acts. Hence they accept all their demands, such as expensive mobile phones, allowing them to drive before getting a license, or giving any amount of money for their personal use. When children make mistakes parents justify them saying, ‘after all they are children’. It is important to correct the children at the right time and the right manner. It should be done with respect and patience because today even a little child demands respect.

6. Importance of Sex education: As the children grow in age, parents and schools should provide sex education. If they fail to provide it children will learn from their friends and the Internet and try to experiment in a wrong way. There is no reason for being hesitant in this matter. Both boys and girls should be given proper orientation to make friendship with respect and reverence for each other. Every teacher should be equipped to handle this important and sensitive subject according to the age of the children. This education should also include the dangers involved in trafficking of children through face book and telephone.

7. Urgent need of media education: As the children are influenced by the media and Internet it is urgent to provide holistic media education. Children should be trained to watch films with a critical mind and draw out insights. Similarly, they should be guided for matured and moderate use of internet and face book. Schools should train their personnel for this important work. Films are used extensively in the training sessions of value education organized by the Universal Solidarity Movement. The result has always been very productive.



8. Careful choice of toys and gifts for the children

The market is flooded with toys and other gift items for children. Many parents gift toy guns and video games to their children. Little children use the artificial guns to shoot their parents and others in the family. During this time parents and others laugh and clap to encourage the child. These are the children, who later as teenagers and adults use real guns to shoot at people. Children who use video games later experiment with murder and rape in real life. Why don't we start giving musical instruments, painting, inspiring and interesting books, toys of animals as gifts to children? Through such gifts they get the right message in childhood and they carry that legacy in their life.

9. Example is the best role model: Values are caught, not taught. Children pick up values from the example of parents and teachers. Once children catch values from their parents and teachers no power on earth will be able to change their values and attitudes. In no circumstance they will sell their values. It is a great heritage to have honest parents whom children take as role models for their lives.

10. Teach spiritual values instead of rituals: Many governments in the country are serious about giving value education to children. Yet, value degradation has not stopped. Religious communities also organize classes based on their religion. Religious education is not the same as value education. History is a witness to many wars waged in the name of religion, causing much violence and bloodshed. The basis of all value education should be spirituality founded on the noble values which are common to all religions, not rituals which are particular to a religion.

From several years we are seeing and hearing about unrest among young people and many heinous crimes they commit. Such crimes were taking place often and yet society did not take any action to prevent the trend. Now we are becoming aware of the seriousness of the problem. Do we choose to continue reading stories in newspapers or are we willing to apply them in our context and look for alternatives to stop this destructive trend? Whenever a teenager turns a criminal, the nation suffers; nation is deprived of the great service from his part. Educationists, social activists and religious leaders should take up the mission of protecting the precious wealth of the teenagers. It is a tough and challenging mission which should be, become the first priority of parents, teachers, social workers and religious preachers.

Fr. Varghese Alengaden, USM, Indore

He who does not prevent a crime when he can, encourages it.

If you share your friend's crime, you make it your own.

- Latin proverbs

It is important that those engaged in terrorism realise that our determination to defend our values and our way of life is greater than their determination to cause death and destruction to innocent people in a desire to impose extremism on the world.

-Anthony Charles Lynton Blair

REPORTS

CHENNAI

EX - YCS/YSM'ers Meeting – Madras Mylapore Archdiocese

24th August 2014, Indeed a memorable day, where the Reunion of EX YCS/YSM 'ers took place at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre organized by the YCS/YSM of Archdiocese of Madras – Mylapore in which 15 former members of YCS/YSM participated. The day began with a short prayer led by Ms. Mary Pauline, followed by the words of welcome by Mr. Kamal Francis, coordinator of YCS/YSM Chennai who spoke how important it is to be united and relive those memorable days.

Then all introduced each other. Then Kamal Francis put forth the present scenario of the movement showing the drawbacks of the diocese facing and why there is less participation on the part of student context-amidst all challenges. The statistics shows why a downfall among the students number these days, where by the need of an Alumni was brought out to tackle this problem which was followed by a small break.



Then the sharing of members was moderated by Mr. Leo Joseph, memorable events, values they have gained, the inspiration which made them stay for life, those days of the search and finally was a group discussion of what is lacking with the present YCS/YSM'ers, where many shared of taking ROL to the present day society, matching their ideologies to what YCS wants from them.

Then future ideas were pooled together where they could contribute themselves back to the movement, which was moderated by Mr. Deepak Raj. Some suggested as to rendering themselves as a Resource Person, starting YCS in all their Parishes and making contribution to the Search Magazine thus becoming a subscriber to the same. The final words were spoken by Fr. Varghese Rozario, the Diocesan Chaplain thanking all who made if for the Re-union and the next meeting was proposed to be on 28th September 2014.

-Fr. Varghese Rozario, Director, YCS/YSM, Chennai

PATNA

Animators and Office bearers training – Patna

On 11th October the Animators and office bearers training took place at Chakkaram at Patna. 23 student leaders and 8 animators took part in it. Priyanka welcomed the gathering and the program was led by Fr. Charles the resource person. Fr. Sabu gave an introductory message saying that it would be very beneficial for all of us to know in depth the movement methodology and spirituality which will help us to cater to the student community better. First part was group dynamics. Fr. Charles led the group into motion by some action songs and activities where all took part with lot of fun and frolic.

Then he explained aim and objectives of the movement in detail and clarified the methodology by giving them a cell meeting. All actively took part in it and then they

were introduced to use the methodology in all the cell meetings. In all he explained what is YCS, why is YCS and how is YCS. He said, the cell meeting in YCS methodology is the core of the movement and all agreed to lead the students into this methodology which would make meaning for their life. Finally Fr. Charles explained the meaning of Animation and thanked all the animators for taking up this mantle and doing a lot of sacrifice for the sake of student community.



As per the action plan the cells will be formed in the units soon and Fr. Augustine will visit all the units and take steps to form new units in many other schools. A student each was chosen to be the representative of school unit who will help the director for the forthcoming NSLTP which will be taking place at Seva Kendra, Patna. Some participants shared their experience of the day and all thanked Fr. Sabu for organizing this training and Fr. Sabu in turn thanked all for showing interest and participating in this program. Ms. Angela Antony compered the program of the day.

SHIMOGA

YOUTH CONVENTION

The Yuvamitra – The Youth Commission of the Diocese of Shimoga had organized Diocesan Youth Convention – “Yuvajanotsava” from 09th to 11th May, 2014 at Immaculate College Hall, Shimoga. There were 457 participants from 15 Parishes, 1 Nursing College and 3 Educational Institutions of the diocese. The Theme of the Convention was “Healthy Families towards Healthy Society in the foot steps of Jesus”. The program Highlights were 1). Teachings of the Church.2) Interactive Workshops 3) Youth Masses and Mediations 4) Awesome Music 5) Taize Worship 6) Group Dynamics 7) Cultural Evening 8) Friendship and Fellowship.

The Objectives of the Convention were 1) To bring all the youth of the diocese between 14 to 30 years under one platform 2) To make the young ambassadors of Evangelization 3) To bring to light the talents and creativity 4) To prepare the young in forming healthy families in the society 5) To bring awareness about various employment opportunities.



The three days convention was officially inaugurated by the newly ordained bishop of Shimoga Most. Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao. In his keynote address the bishop called upon the youth in a parabolic language, giving an example of a cat in a village house oven, always looking for a place to sleep in the cool ashes, warned the young to rise

from the slumber and to be aware of the happenings round them. He challenged them to look for opportunities in the challenging society to build one self, so as to build a healthy society.

Rev. Fr. Ronald Cardoza as a resource person in his first session reminded the youth of their baptismal duty and Christian responsibility to be witnesses to the Risen Lord and to be Ambassadors of evangelization. He emphasized the catechetical role of the Youth Ministry in the Catholic Church. This session was moderated by Fr. Franklin D'Souza.

Most Rev. Henry D'Souza, the Chairman of KRCBC Youth Commission and Bishop of Bellary addressing the youth during homily said that there are three types of personalities in the society 1. Destroyers' 2) Aspirers and 3) Inspirers. He invited the young to take life seriously, to be champions of life and builders of a new society. He called upon the youth to take up civil service examinations and avail the opportunity given the Church at Regional and National level.



The National Chaplain of YCS/YSM Rev. Fr. Charles Menezes was the esteemed guest and resource person addressing the YCS/YSM students explained the realities of the society and asked the students to be people of Awareness, Reflection and Action. Dr. Norbert Lobo lecturer from Udipi dealt with issues of employment opportunities. Mr. Raymond D'Souza, ICYM National adviser and member of the Ministry of Minority Commission, Govt, of India spoke on aid and support available from Minority Commission of India and Mr. Dennis D'Silva Former Youth President of Mangalore and Member of Youth Congress spoke about the need and opportunities to be leaders in the society today. Fr. Charles Moderated the session. Fr. Roman Pinto and Fr. Paul D'Souza presented the teachings of the Church on family and guided the youth how to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. Dr. Alwyn Serrao Moderated the session.

Peace rally was one of the beautiful moments of the convention. Firm steps and deep conviction in which the entire youth community walked around the city was amazing. The police officers and the civilians too were very much appreciative of the discipline and the serenity the youth upheld. The cultural evening celebrated by the different parish units only speaks of the hidden talents of our young ones. The energy, talents and creativity synchronized with due practice was the hallmark of the eventful cultural evening.

Fr. Marie Joseph the Karnataka Regional Youth Director in his sermon stressed the need of discipline and dangers of the means of modern mass communication. The session on Time Management was dealt by Prof. William D'Souza and it was moderated by Fr. Marie Joseph. Taize prayer service was conducted in a very devout way by Mr. Nishan D'Souza and Miss. Jovita D'Souza and they were accompanied by the Youth of Ragigudda parish for preparation. The melodious singing and awesome music by the Youth Band of Chikmagalore kept the spirits alive all throughout the convention. Launching of the new website of Youth Commission – [www. Yuvamitra.net](http://www.Yuvamitra.net) and releasing of the ever first

News Letter cum Souvenir “Yuvamitra” was a historic and memorable event for the Youth Commission of the diocese.

At the end the diocesan director thanked the bishops, priests, sisters, all the youth, specially the DEXCO’s of ICYM and YCS/YSM, donors, animators and all those who helped to make the DYC a reality and a grand success.

BONGAIGAON

YCS YSM TALENTS EXPOSURE, 6th October 2014

YCS YSM students of Bongaigaon diocese gathered for the first time on 6th October 2014. We were given a warm welcome by DYD and his team. In spite of the heat and hot weather, over 200 students participated actively and involved in the programme organized by the DYD & ICYM DEXCOs. They took part in various sessions given by different resource persons. We were surprised that many students have responded to the call and committed to change their personal lives and the society we live in through YCS YSM way of life. Ms. Helen NERYC President and I taught some action songs and YCS YSM clap to keep up students free from their tiredness. YCS YSM Anthem was sung led by Sr. Agnes Sanihe MSMHC, Regional Coordinator. Then she continued with session which captured the attention of all. They exposed their talents of speaking and their courage to stand and shared the answers of questions asked by Sr. Agnes without fear and shyness. Students were divided into 21 cells, and they had cell meetings on different topics. Though majority of them were new to the movement, many of them have the ability and quality of a leader and actively taken part whole heartedly as if they had been many years experienced in the movement. Their own determinations to become leaders help them to get more and more ideas by getting to know each other better and interacting with one another during their free time. The students’ behavior and being friendly to one another make us enjoyed the time in Bongaigaon Diocese.



-Mr. Jimmy Pdang, NTA/EXCOs President

GUWAHATI

YCS/YSM Orientation Program – Guwahati Archdiocese, Assam

On 16th October, YCS/YSM Orientation Program was organized in Bethany School, Gorchuk. 153 students participated for the program. Sr. Christina Sangma MSMHC, DYD and Sr. Agnes Sanihe MSMHC, RC animated the session. Enlivening techniques were animated by Ms. Helen, NERYC President. The sessions were imparted with the help of the power point presentation on what is all about YCS/YSM movement. Then students were divided into 15 cells with president, secretary & treasurer in each cell, followed by choosing of unit leaders – President, Secretary & Treasurer. Different Topics were given on students’ related issues for the cell meetings. The report presentation was surprisingly interesting with lovely intellectual points as every individual contributed their reasons. The Principal sent good number of teachers to be animators. After the program, students and teachers expressed great joy and satisfaction for having introduced YCS/YSM movement and its way of life. Principal thanked and assured to take care for the growth of the movement.

- Ms. Kasazhiini Helen, President NERYC

The Young Catholic Students/ Young students Movement of Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore had organized its Diocesan Council cum Leaders Training on 17th October 2014 Friday at Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Santhome, chennai-600004. There were office bearers from various units accompanied by their Animators for the training. The day began with the Prayer Service followed by the welcome address by Mr. Kamal Francis, Coordinator-YCSYSM, who welcomed all the participants and stressed the significance on why today's leaders are tomorrow's change makers.



The 1st Session was on who is YCS/YSM? In which Mr. Rajesh Chacko was invited to officiate where the importance of a self- change from within was spoken quoting on Nobel prize Winner Yousuf Malala's life Experiences after which the students had broken down for a small break.

The Next Session there were group dynamics, with value housie bringing out the importance of team building and after the History, Structure along the experiences of how YCS can change life were spoken and ending up with comparison made on the structured and centric filled student competitive world and how YCS imparts to make a self change in them was left to ponder upon with the sharing of the speaker on how YCS/YSM had been a life with him till today. Then the students had broken down for lunch.

In the afternoon session, the Roles and Responsibilities of DEXCO were spoken in which Mr. Leo Joseph form YCSYSM India was invited to officiate as a Resource Person for the Session. The roles and responsibilities of DEXCO were explained to the leaders in detail along with the election procedure after which the council took up on a silent note to decide the method of election which was followed by the elections and the new team was elected.

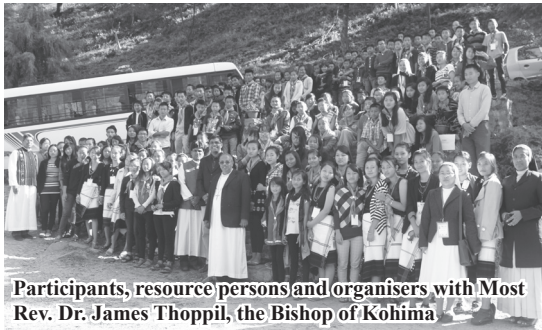
PRESIDENT: RACHAEL LOUIS PATRICIA XI
VICE PRESIDENT: V.REBECCA NGAIPARTE VIII
SECRETARY: ABITHA. P IX
J.SECRETARY: L.SANDEEP MARIA ROSHAN IX
TREASURER: CYRIL.C.KOLAITH XI

The Newly Elected Members took up their oath and the vote of thanks was given by Fr. Varghese Rozario, the Diocesan Chaplain of YCS/YSM thanking all the leaders and animators who made it for the event. Big thanks to Fr. Director, Pastoral Centre, and to Mr. Rajiv, full timer of ICYM, Mr. Kamal Francis, Coordinator-YCS/YSM, and Mr. Ebin Navis the National EXCO for his help. Sincere thanks to the Resource Persons who inspired our leaders for tomorrow.

The Curtains were brought down with the YCS/YSM Anthem

- Kamal Francis, Coordinator-YCSYSM

3-6 October 2014: Khonoma, India's first green village welcomed 163 students, 12 animators and 10 organisers across Nagaland for the first YCS Kohima Convention. Khonoma village situated 20 km from Kohima is endowed with rich forest cover and rare biodiversity. This picturesque village is also known for its bravery in fighting the British troops before Indian independence, and later against Indian forces.



Participants, resource persons and organisers with Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima

The convention was made possible by the enthusiastic efforts of Ms Neisevonuo Anna, YCS Coordinator & her team with the support of Fr (Dr) Sojan Xavier Puthankudy, Chancellor and Youth Director, Diocese of Kohima and leaders of Nagaland Catholic Youth Movement. The villagers and Catholic parishioners in Khonoma were extremely hospitable.

Convention was graced by the presence of Mr Jimmy P dang: President of YCS/YSM India, Sr Agnes Sanihe MSMHC: Regional

Coordinator of YCS/YSM North East, Ms Kasazhini Helen: Youth President of North Eastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC) and Mr Manoj Mathew: Advisor, International YCS.

The YCS' Newsletter was released during the convention which will be a tool of communication among the 24 school units were the YCS currently present in Nagaland. There were various sessions conducted: Building Confidence by Fr Sojan, Introduction to YCS by Sr Agnes, Attack on Christian beliefs and values by Sr Lucy FMA, Young and Beautiful by Mr Teisovi Gerard Meyase, , Debate competition on 'Mobile Phone a boon or a curse' moderated by Ruth Vizo, Review of Life: YCS Spirituality & World Café by Manoj Mathew. A special walk to the green village was organised followed by mass with villagers in the church. There were various activities & games conducted by Tosovi Philip Khale & Jeivitho Augustine.

Manoj shared and guided the participants in reflection in cell groups to understand the roots of the YCS spirituality promoted by Joseph Cardijn (Founder of Young Christian Workers) in the three truths (See-Truth of Life, Judge-Truth of Faith & Act-Truth of Method). Cardijn promoted the See Judge Act method as his answer to the search for an effective pedagogy of evangelization – of bringing Good News to the world by reducing the contradiction between life and faith. We as YCS members are called to be ambassadors of Christ in the modern world by developing a spirituality of Action.

There were documentary screenings, cultural dance, music, variety show and birthday celebration of Manoj. The convention concluded with mass presided by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima for the participants who lived together in the grounds of St John Bosco School, Khonoma. Journey has begun after experiencing fellowship that strengthened their commitment with the deeper understanding of the YCS movement and the role of the members in society and church.

- Noel Chase

Gratitude to the Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians

8-9 October 2014: After YCS Kohima Convention, Manoj Mathew, International YCS Advisory Board member met with members of the Generalate of Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC) in Guwahati. He expressed gratitude on behalf of the movement for their support in promoting YCS in North East. He reminded that methodology (See-Judge-Act) of the YCS helps students to be faithful Christians and responsible citizens. Manoj stressed on the importance of training animators so that they can accompany YCS members in the school campus beyond classroom teaching.

The Congregation of Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians, the first indigenous Congregation in North East India was founded on October 24, 1942, in Guwahati, Assam by Stephen Ferrando, SDB, the then Bishop of Shillong.

Many members of the congregation were pioneers in promoting YCS movement and youth ministry. The current North East Regional Youth Commission (NERYC) with Sr. Regina Marim as Regional Youth Director, Sr. Agnes Sanihe as YCS/YSM North East Regional Coordinator and Christina Sangma as Youth Coordinator of Guwahati are from the congregation.

“As animators in YCS movement, according to what I find in day to day life, the animator must be dedicated and committed. He or she has to live and be a witness to faith. The students look at their animators as model of faith & value” says Sr. Mary Concepta Dkhar, MSMHC Provincial Superior of Shillong recollecting fond memories of her involvement in the 80 and 90s with the Salesians to promote the movement in Shillong.

- Kasazhini Helen

Orientation on YCS Spirituality: Review of Life for YCS Shillong, Meghalaya

9 Oct 2014: The day began with mass celebrated by Fr. Jameris Shylla, Youth Director of Shillong Archdiocese. He encouraged the students to develop the Stephen Covey’s 7 habits of highly effective people.

Habit 1 : BE PROACTIVE

Habit 2: BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND

Habit 3: PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST

Habit 4: THINK WIN-WIN

Habit 5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD

Habit 6: SYNERGIZE

Habit 7: SHARPEN THE SAW



Total of 51 YCS office bearers and animators from 7 schools gathered at Don Bosco School, Shillong for a day orientation. Sr Agnes Sanihe MSMHC, YCS/YSM Coordinator introduced YCS/YSM movement followed by session on ‘YCS Spirituality: See-Judge-Act’ by Manoj Mathew, member of International YCS Advisory Board.

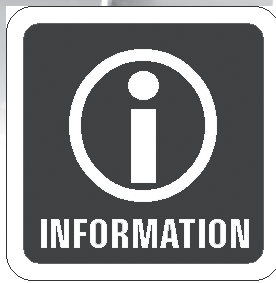
Mr. Manoj emphasized that YCS Spirituality as an integral spirituality of reflection and action, which YCS members call the “Review of Life”, is a process

with a continual focus on reality, the gospel, and action.

YCS movement in Shillong is traditionally coordinated by a team of brothers of Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong since its introduction. Br Viraj Chamara, student from the Salesians of Don Bosco Sri Lanka from the college is currently in-charge of the YCS ministry.

- Jimmy Pdang

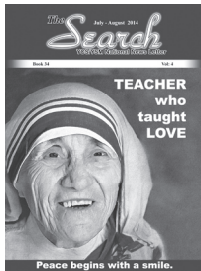
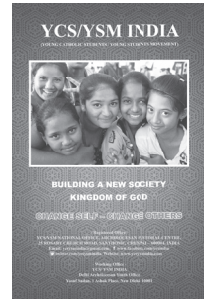
Search



YES/YSM INFORMATION

YCS/YSM Resource Book: The second edition of the Resource book is ready. You can purchase this book for Rs 50 from the National working office at Delhi. The first edition is sold out. Thank you for promoting this book which is very useful to follow the movement methodology and spirituality. Each member need to possess a copy of this book which will help you follow the constitution and set things in order in your unit, diocese and region. Kindly put an order with the National Director. (PH: 9448331894)

The Search: The national news letter is the face of our movement. It is published bi-monthly. So far each unit was sent a copy for the last one year. Some have subscribed a copy and in some units many members have subscribed to this news letter. It contains articles which has a lot of information and knowledge. Henceforth, it will be sent only to the subscribers and if anyone wants a copy kindly send the subscription to the National working office by cheque or DD in favour of: YCS/YSM-The Search, Delhi Archdiocesan Youth Office, Yusuf Sadan, 1 Ashok Place, Gole Dak Khana, New Delhi – 110001



Call for Asian Coordinator: The Asian office has called for volunteers to work with Asian office for the next three years. It will be a beautiful opportunity to serve the movement and get a wonderful exposure all over Asia and the world. If anyone is willing to be a part of the Asian office kindly let us know at the earliest. You may have to undergo 2 months of internship at Manila before you could be selected.

Make up your mind to be a volunteer for YCS/YSM Asia.

Call for International Chaplain: Fr. Paul Tiga Zangre is completing his two terms as International Chaplain by the end of this year and a new Chaplain will be elected before the next IYCS International Council which will take place in Nigeria in August 2015. While thanking Fr. Paul for his selfless service, international committee has called for applications for International Chaplain and the last date to apply is Dec 10, 2014.

Call for National Coordinator: National office needs the services of a part time or full time coordinator. So far many lay people and religious sisters have given their selfless service to the movement. At this juncture we are very much in need of a sister coordinator who would help us expand this movement and get a life changing experience in the movement. There are thousands of religious all over India working as teachers, social workers, vocation promoters etc. This will be very good chance for evangelization and vocation promotion. If anyone is willing to be a part of this movement and serve the young student community, kindly contact the National Director immediately.

Call of National Office Volunteer: The National office needs a part time volunteer to work for the movement. There are a number of members who have passed out of this

movement. Now this is an opportunity for you to serve the movement and give back to the society for what you have received. If someone is willing to render your services kindly contact the National Director.

Working office address: YCS/YSM India, C/O Delhi Archdiocesan Youth Office, Yusuf Sadan, 1 Ashok Place, Gole Dak Khana, New Delhi – 110001- (Its official)



FUND RAISING FOR SERVICE OF THE POOR

Fund raising for the formation activities and to help the needy is an important part of any movement. When we make efforts to be self reliant through fund raising:

- It gives us a sense of belongingness and it makes us own the movement
- It gives us a sense of responsibility and it gives us great satisfaction
- It enhances self-esteem and dignity and it promotes us to be self reliant
- It gives us a chance to make sacrifices and we contribute towards nation building
- It gives us opportunity towards effective teamwork and it breeds family spirit
- It helps us plan our personal expenditure and it drives away our selfishness
- It helps us habit of saving and it helps us to be more accountable
- It helps us organize programs of our choices and it teaches us to come out of struggles and crisis
- It teaches us creativity in raising funds and it helps us to be mature in our thinking and dealings
- It inspires other people, organizations and movements and it helps us adapt simple living

**MONEY
MATTERS**
make it count 

How to make the movement Self reliant –

- Through contribution of membership and secret collection during the cell meetings.
- Fund raising through various programs and getting sponsors for training programs
- Diocesan contribution to the Regional/ National movement
- Subscribe the Search and collect advertisements for the news letter
- Contribute your saving from skipping a meal and pocket money
- Bear one way T.A when you attend any program.

Ask yourself – Does your group need money, for what? Do the Diocesan, Regional and National structures need money, for what? Suppose people stop donations, what happens? Are you capable of thinking about finances and contribution? Can you speak to your parents, teachers and head of the institution to make this movement an integral part of the wholesome growth of individual personality? Can we be self reliant?

REPORT

National Chaplain's activities

Search

1. The Search work at Delhi from 1-5 Sept 2014
2. Visit to Mangalore for Nativity from 6-12 Sept
3. Participated in ICYM Council meeting at Varanasi from 14-18 Sept. 50 participants
4. Training program at Gorakhpur for youth of Diocese from 26-29 Sept. 90 participants
5. Visit to Kalasa from 2-4 Oct 2014
6. Visit to Mangalore Diocesan Youth Convention on 4th Oct.
7. Visit to Udupi diocesan youth training program on Konkani culture and traditions at Kuntalnagar on 4th Oct. 40 participants
8. First Mass of Fr. Prakash Menezes at Shirva on 5th Oct
9. Talk to Jeevan Jyothi delegates on Church and YCS at Bajpe on 7th Oct. 150 participants
10. Animators and Student leaders training at Patna on 11th Oct. 35 participants
11. YCS/YSM Winter camp at Hyderabad from 17-19 Oct. 80 participants
12. Animators training at Delhi on 21st Oct. 40 participants
13. Participated in M.P. Regional Youth Convention at Ujjain from 22-25 Oct.
14. Visit to MILAN of Delhi archdiocesan youth meet on 26th Oct.
15. Participated in Christocentric Training at USM, Indore from 29 Oct- 3rd Nov. 27 participants.

Forthcoming programs:

1. NSLTP at Mangalore from 5-9 Nov
2. CCBI Convention at Bangalore on 14-15 Nov
3. NTA/EXCO meeting at Bangalore on 15-16 Nov
4. NSLTP at Patna from 19-13 Nov
5. Christocentric Leadership Training at USM Indore from 23-30 Nov



Christocentric Animation Training at USM, Indore

I am very happy to say that I am now part of the Universal Solidarity Movement. To be honest, I went for this programme to relax and to learn something new because past few months had been hectic. I thought it is going to be another programme that we normally attend but it was not so. It was a beautiful journey. A journey where I discovered a lot of things which were hidden all these years.

A warm welcome by the Director, excellent hospitality by every member of the community, positive atmosphere and the time management gave me a new understanding that things can be done differently. A well guided pilgrimage with Jesus of Nazareth made me to reflect deeper into christianity and understand personality of Jesus. I understood basics of my religion which is a spiritual movement. Sessions by Fr. Varghese and Fr. Jacob were thought provoking and made me to change my way of understanding various issues. Every session was new and original including testimonies by children and video clips. Teaching through movies was a great experience where I clarified issues on religiosity, spirituality and animation.

During these days a lot of thoughts came to my mind. I felt the need to change my life. What I saw and experienced at USM also made me to think "why cant I bring a change?. As a youth animator this programme has brought new ideas/understanding in me. I can proudly say that USM has brought newness in my life. I have become a better animator/human being now. My stay at USM was fruitful. All of you at USM taught me a beautiful lesson. Thank you USM.

- Fr. Chetan Machado, Archdiocese of Delhi

YCS/YSM India Regional-Diocesan activities



YCS/YSM Resource Book - Second Edition is ready

YCS/YSM INDIA

(YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS / YOUNG STUDENTS MOVEMENT)



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KINGDOM OF GOD**

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Email: yccsysmindia@gmail.com, www.facebook.com/yccsindia

twitter.com/yccsysmindia, Website: www.yccsysmindia.com

- Working Office -

YCS/YSM INDIA

Delhi Archdiocesan Youth Office

Yusuf Sadan, 1 Ashok Place, New Dlehi 110001

Rs. 50

Young Christian Students/Young Students Movement, (An Unit of CBCI - Office for Youth)
YCS/YSM National Office, Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, 25 Rosary Church Road, Santhome, Chennai - 600 004
Ph : 044 - 24641737, e-mail : yccsysmindia@gmail.com; website : www.yccsysmindia.com

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