

The Search

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NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY



Inside this issue

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NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

What are the highlights of National Education Policy 2020

The Union Cabinet has approved the new National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 with an aim to introduce several changes in the Indian education system - from the school to college level. The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education. This is the third major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence. The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986.

Major Key Points on School Education:

- Universalization of education from preschool to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- To bring 2 crore out of school children back into the mainstream through an open schooling system.
- The current 10+2 system to be replaced by a new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- It will bring the uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child.
- It will also have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.
- Class 10 and 12 board examinations to be made easier, to test core competencies rather than memorised facts, with all students allowed to take the exam twice.
- Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools.
- Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships.
- Teaching up to at least Grade 5 to be in mother tongue/regional language. No language will be imposed on any student.
- Assessment reforms with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.

Higher Education:

- Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50% by 2035. Also, 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- The current Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 26.3%.
- Holistic Undergraduate education with a flexible curriculum can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period.
- M.Phil courses will be discontinued and all the courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level will now be interdisciplinary.
- Academic Bank of Credits to be established to facilitate Transfer of Credits.
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.

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EDITORIAL



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

Welcome to a period where everything is going to be online! As we all are aware, schools and colleges have been shut down, but did education stop? Did learning stop? Did our studies stop? Well, no. Almost everything now is online, online classes, online exams and so on. To be frank, actual learnings happen in school only where teachers have an eye on you, where you get good punishments, where you laugh and play with your friends.

How did you all react to this lockdown and online classes? I was in the middle of my examinations when I heard about this virus. I was literally happy that this lockdown started after my exams, but it also made me a little sad and worried. I was stressed and worried about my results. I was not sure when will they declare results and most importantly when schools are going to reopen and also how will I spend my vacations now. While I was giving 10th board examination, I had planned everything about things I am going to do in 11th Standard and had plan to contest for student council. Now when I think about schools reopening, I am imagining how is it going to be like, how would be seating arrangement? How would we meet each other? Everything is going to change!

The turning point of every student's life in 2020 is ONLINE CLASSES! I must say this has affected every student and teacher in different ways. Some are enjoying online classes, while some are not happy about it. I feel more than students, teachers are the ones who are enduring the hardships of this sudden change. Students have a choice whether to attend or not. But teachers have to teach the students always. Whether it's a network issue or any kind of problem they can't take a break from it.

As a student, I also saw some demerits of online classes especially internet connection. While having online classes, we often get distracted because of other social media apps or other notifications. And there is no one to monitor us. On the other hand the merit of online classes is that, we haven't stopped our learning and it still continues in some way or the other.

At last I would like to appreciate the efforts of our teachers for teaching us in an online platform even though many of them are not used to this new system. I appreciate all the parents for providing their children with things they require such as mobile, laptops, computers in this journey of online education.

"Education is one thing no one can take away from you."—Elin Nordegren

Ashita Jimmy
Editor - The Search

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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LET'S BE UNITED AND DEFEAT CORONA



Greetings to all!

Thinking about the deadly novel Corona virus, I'm just reminded of how unpredictable and uncertain human life is! The world was happy, but nature had other plans. In the past, human being dominated the nature and acted in various ways trying to show his power, but now it's time to pay back. I believe, this pandemic, cyclone, locusts attack, earthquake, etc, are the fruits of our harmful deeds towards nature. Talking about Covid-19, I still remember on the evening of 15th March, when the state lockdown was announced, many of us were happy that we got a break from our daily schedule but, deep down all of us knew that this was going to be a tough time. The long vacation or aa long lockdown wasn't an easy thing to cope up with, missing our college fun, lectures, teachers was difficult. But as the days passed, all of us got used to the situation because we were left with no other option.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the whole world and its activities. Governments around the world have temporarily closed the educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread. Schools/Colleges that are closed in response to the pandemic have begun digital learning, zoom classes and other online social media platforms. In one way, it is a blessing that even during the time of pandemic, we are able to learn and gain knowledge through computers and technologies. On the other hand, this has a great and severe impact on us and our families who cannot afford modern gadgets like smart phone, laptop, and most importantly high speed internet connection. A sudden change in teaching techniques had a negative impact on students in understanding lessons. This also applies to me. Using YouTube, whatsapp, Instagram and social media's notifications, prop ups disturb and divert our minds from the lesson taught in an online classroom. Moreover, the advancement of teaching techniques don't help me and some students for sure.

Due to this pandemic, many colleges, schools are conducting online classes to keep the minds of young students occupied with learnings. But what I strongly feel is, classroom classes are more of involvement and fun where we could clear our doubt and confusion. I believe, advancement is needed but to a certain extent and once this situation gets better, I hope no online classes are held for at least core subjects. With all the disadvantages of online classes, I must also appreciate the hard work and dedication of teachers who are always there to guide and help us through telephone calls or text messages. Creating videos, audios about lessons and circulating them wasn't an easy job, but they have done it wonderfully and for that teachers and institutions are worth for appreciation.

With this I would like to conclude with a quotation, "We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope." We are all in this together and we'll get out of this together,

Let's be united and defeat Corona virus. I would like to appreciate and thank the doctors, nurses, health care professionals, sanitary workers, policemen and all the people who are rendering their selfless services during the time of pandemic.

Long live YCS\YSM
- Deril Dsa
National President

Dear Readers of The Search!

We are grateful to you for subscribing to the Search. We thank you for your constant support. This bimonthly newsletter is published by YCS/YSM India. Articles are written by the students. The editorial team allows students to voice their opinion on given topics. We publish articles as we receive and do very basic editing of language and other errors and not the thoughts of our students. This is a platform provided to our budding writers to publish their articles, poems and even art work.

We request all the students who are members to contribute in terms of reports, poems, articles, jokes. We request you to send original articles. If you are sharing an article from the internet or from other people, kindly acknowledge.

- Editorial Team

Congratulations!

Winners of the online Essay and Poetry Competition organised by YCS/YSM India

Essay Competition:

- I Solita Rodrigues
- II Akash Shaji
- III Felicita Almeida
- IV Lizan
- V Anjali Tirkey

Poetry (English)

- I Elika D'Souza

- II Sandra Castelino
- III Royston D'Souza
- IV C.R. Nithya Shree
- V Antonio M D R Pinto

Poetry (Hindi)

- I Joysi John
- II Gracy Tudu
- III John Mantu Marandi

We thank all the participants and congratulate the winners. We are grateful to the evaluators (judges) for evaluating poetry and essay competition.



DON'T GET TIED UP WITH SOME FALSE BELIEFS

Year 2020 will be remembered for a long time for many reasons. The pandemic has disturbed all our plans and till date we are not sure of what is going to happen in the near future. This pandemic will definitely affect the results of the elections in the US and Bihar. This is affecting our economy and our life. For students, it looks like a year wasted! Some students didn't have exams, regular classes etc. Some have missed their semesters and many in the rural areas couldn't attend online classes.

When the year began, we were not prepared for the lockdown. We didn't know that it will continue for a long time, some of us didn't even know the seriousness. Like many other countries, India was also affected badly and lockdown continued for months. Now that unlock process is on and most of the services and institutions have started functioning with caution and proper guidelines, schools and colleges have not yet opened. There is an attempt by the state governments to open schools phase by phase but parents and students are not ready for this.

When we have a situation like this, what do we do? Whom do we blame? Can we make someone responsible? Can we afford to waste more time? These are some of the questions we need to ask and find answers. I don't think that someone can be held fully responsible for this situation. Though governments could have handled this in a better way, they too were caught unawares. Some students thought it is a long holiday and some made use of this time to learn new things and explore new ideas while some others looked into successful persons around them and got self-motivated to learn hard. There is no point in blaming someone when such a situation arises instead one should become proactive and see how can to make use of this time.

Education is not all about what we learn in a classroom from some text books. It is about learning many other things that life teaches us. This pandemic has taught many lessons and has prepared for such eventualities in the future. During these days you may have attended many webinars, online classes and explored many new things on the internet. I followed some on Instagram and saw how students were spending time in learning a new skill like cooking, craft work, making decorative items, reading biographies of great personalities, learning coding and many such things. However, this is not the case for all students and many of them needed immense motivation and inspiration from teachers and parents to work hard.



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COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruption but it has not closed our minds, our creative thinking and desire to learn new things. One shouldn't get discouraged or lethargic when due to pandemic you think there is nothing to do and waste time. One shouldn't get demoralized or put off and give up. In the history we have examples of great people who made it from 'rags to riches' There are many common folk stories with a good moral at the end, real-life examples of successful persons and simple stories of normal people who have been part of their life journey. These stories should inspire students to work hard and lay a solid foundation for a successful life.

The Elephant Rope: A man was walking nearby to a group of elephants that was halted by a small rope tied to their front leg. He was amazed by the fact that the huge elephants are not even making an attempt to break the rope and set themselves free. He saw an elephant trainer standing beside them and he expressed his puzzled state of mind. The trainer said "when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it's enough to hold them. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to break free."

It is the false belief of the elephants that denied their freedom for life time. Likewise, many students are not trying to work towards success in their life just because they failed once before or something has caused disruption or they run out of ideas. So keep on trying and don't get tied up with some false beliefs of failure.

Kentucky Fried Chicken: Colonel Sanders the founder of KFC brand failed many times in his life and still made his dream come true late in his life. He was a seventh grade drop out who tried many ventures in life but tasted bitter every time. He started selling chicken at his age of 40 but his dream of a restaurant was turned down many times due to conflicts and wars. Later he attempted to franchise his restaurant. His recipe got rejected 1,009 times before the final approval. And soon the secret recipe, "Kentucky Fried Chicken" became a huge hit worldwide. KFC was expanded globally and the company was sold for 2 million dollars and his face is still celebrated in the logos.

Have you stopped thinking positively due to the pandemic? Have you given up on your dreams at a young age because you failed a few times? Can you even accept a failure of 1009 times? This story inspires everyone to try hard and believe in yourself until you see success despite how many times you have failed.

Dear YCS/YSMers, we do not know what holds for us in future. We are not sure whether our schools and colleges are going to reopen soon. Even if they open, it will not be the same anymore. The government of India has announced changes in the education policy. We need to adapt to these changes and the situation that we are facing. Let us not give up and relax. Let's learn new skills and equip ourselves to build our future.

-Fr. Chetan Machado
National Chaplain

**SOMEDAY YOU'RE
GOING TO LOOK
BACK ON ALL THE
PROGRESS YOU'VE
MADE & BE GLAD
YOU DIDN'T QUIT**

ALL MY PLANS WERE RUINED BY CORONAVIRUS



School is the place where they want us to get a broad range of experiences and help us to make most of our years together to interact with one another and form strong friendships in life. Being an average student who scored average marks, I've always wished that our performance is not solely judged by our written exams. I'm glad that our new system besides judging the students' performance through examination, also look at the other broader measures of how well students are actually doing in their lives and their extracurricular activities.

Pandemic has ruined all our plans of sleeping during boring lectures, telling new innovative reason to bunk classes and new technique of asking money from juniors because we were experts in finishing our tiffin before break time. I know it's an emotional torture that we are unable to do all these stuffs now, especially for those who are in their last year in school.

All of us should be grateful for having technology alongside with us because it has drawn all of us nearer to each other. Online classes are part of our lives now. Personally, I don't enjoy it much because it's mentally tiring. However, Let's appreciate the efforts teachers are putting because for many of them, online classes are also new. Every teacher joyfully took up the responsibility to teach us online adapting to new technologies, apps and many more new things on the internet. They've agreed to bring out the best in us. **THREE CHEERS TO OUR TEACHERS.**

I find online classes very boring because it's not same as inside the classroom in school and I know it's same for many other students. In the beginning itself, I was lost because I couldn't control myself not to go through all my social media accounts during classes. However, lately I've much control on myself. I have certain techniques which improves my concentration and I would love to share with all the readers. They are: -

- a) Reschedule your sleeping time. So that you don't feel sleepy during classes.
- b) Try referring to the hardcopies of books rather than softcopy.
- c) Remember to give yourself a break. Take a walk or stretch your body rather than scrolling through your mobile phone.
- d) Make sure you have properseatingarrangements during study.
- e) Most importantly treat yourself at your best (in my case I treat myself with delicious foods).

I hope the above techniques will help you up to some extent. Now, it

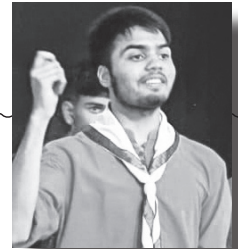


is predominantly a popular culture of media, music and schools from which young people can learn about what it means to be more human. Schools give us the skills set that would help us to climb up the ladder of success through learning and growing upon, this trip is called "LIFE". To enjoy "the good life" we have to get a head to enjoy "a good life", we have to make the trip worthwhile. I am ready to accept the change and make my last trip of this phase most amazing and unique trip. Are you?

*-Angalina Ekka
NEXCO, Northern region*

GONE ARE THE DAYS

I could not believe I have to say this, but gone are the days we all can just go out and play! Gone are the days when we could talk normally face to face! And gone are the days when we could roam around without any reason! I remember in February 2020, it was announced at my parish through a notice from the Archdiocese requesting people not to shake hands when they meet but, to greet everyone either by waving hands or an Indian style Namaste. On hearing this announcement, people seemed to be laughing and did not take it seriously. When lockdown was imposed by the Government of India, I found it funny and ironical that a tiny virus which was not taken seriously has slapped all our faces and made us all sit at home for almost 5 months now. The virus has raised the walls of discrimination and the heat of hatred among people.



There are many myths and superstitions about COVID-19. Some said, it's the end of the earth whereas, some try to connect it with the re-occurring life threat mankind have been facing in 1720 Plague, 1820 Cholera pandemic or 1920 Spanish Flu and presently Corona-virus. I am not a myth believer but, I can assure that it's a result of continuous over exploitation of resources in different names whether economic development or public welfare. It's the alarm for all of us to take the environment, our mother earth seriously, or else, the day is not far for human to go extinct.

We cannot also deny the fact that Corona virus has revolutionised the whole human race that are so enthusiastic with all their technological advancements. Masks and sanitizer have become a daily necessary. Less locomotion has caused a downfall in pollution rates, and many of us have got an opportunity to spend time with our loved ones. I would suggest that if you have not worked on any of your hobbies, it's high time now to discover and work on your hobbies because this lockdown is never going to return. Lastly, I would like to say 'Let's have physical distancing, and not Social distancing'. Technology has brought us all near from far distances. Let us not forget to call our loved ones and keep a check on them. It's just a matter of some finger movements.

*-Andy Fernandez
Bhopal diocese, Madhya Pradesh Region*



“CHALLENGE IS AN OPPORTUNITY”

Greetings to all my fellow WARRIORS. “Every Challenge is an Opportunity” and currently we are facing this challenge together and so, I think we are ‘The Warriors’ fighting against this global pandemic which has made our lives miserable. As we know, this pandemic has affected most of the sectors very badly and one among them is EDUCATION, which we are related to. All of us are used to the ‘traditional’ or the ‘classroom’ method of learning, which is now impossible. Indeed, we missed going to our schools, colleges and have fun filled interaction with our friends and teachers. We do miss running around the campus for various activities. We are all disappointed that we cannot continue such adventures anytime soon. But it doesn’t mean we should sit idle to blame and complain. We have to remain positive and try to connect and learn in the best ways possible. Unable to have physical classes should not be a reason for the discontinuation or barrier for our learning. It shouldn’t break the bridge between us and our education. This also means that the bridge between our present and future connected via Education mustn’t be destroyed!

The situation might get worse or might get better. We will have to adjust ourselves to the new systems of learning. The question arises is how prepared are we? “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” As the quote suggests Change is the rule of the Universe! So, we should embrace the situation put on our way and make the path clear for us. In this technology-based era, virtual classes are beneficial. Online mode classes help us to stay in track and engage ourselves in learning and the roots of the purpose of education won’t be lost amongst us.

Let me try to throw some light on a few things that I feel are important. Firstly, “Completion of Syllabus” should not be the sole purpose of conducting online classes, but it should be a platform to connect, interact, share each other’s views and engage ourselves in education so that we know what is going on! Speaking of exams, I think they shouldn’t be conducted. It is risky to make it offline and highly unfair to make it online. Health is above everything. Also “no one should feel their dreams are limited because of their circumstances” so making exams online is highly unfair to students residing in rural areas where network and connectivity is very poor. I do agree that online education has its own limitations. For example, we are



not able to connect like we used to inside our physical class rooms, we are missing one another's company, the actual interaction with our lecturers and the warmth of people around us. There are also possibilities that a person feels very lonely while having online classes. But, can we think of any other alternative other than online classes to continue our learning? I agree with the fact that many students due to the poor internet connectivity are not able to access the live classes. The best alternative could be uploading recorded classes and making available certain notes so that such students can access them in their own time when their connectivity improves. Colleges can short list the students residing in rural areas or having poor internet connectivity and try to help them in different ways. Government can come up with certain policies that might help so that 'no child thinks of blaming his circumstances but will embrace the challenges put forth'.

We should not forget that every situation we are in is believed to be a part of our destiny. We may or may not be proud of what we've come across but, if we have overcome hard times, it will definitely encourage us to strive for the best in our life's journey ahead. This pandemic has also given us plenty of time to unleash our potential. It's high time we realise the importance of this time, learn new things, develop basic skills (Like soft skills), and giving lives to our long-lost hobbies and interests. It is high time we learn to co-exist with the nature. Let us have hope and pray to the Lord to heal the world! until then let's prepare ourselves to the new normal.

-Lizan Pereira, Udupi diocese

EDUCATION IN THE POST COVID-19

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows"
-Sydney D. Happis



Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. The purpose of education is to open the window of the mind. It is the most power full weapon for a student. It is not only for gaining knowledge, but also guides a student in a right way. It is rather sad to see that schools and colleges are closed due to Covid-19. This crisis not only affected human lives negatively but it has also affected the education of thousands of students. The government has taken a lot of measures to promote education through online classes and providing separate channels in TV for students to continue learning. After Covid-19 era, students might face a lot of problems when schools and colleges reopen. Not only students but teachers will have to work even harder to complete pending syllabus.

As students, we must stop wasting our time and start utilising it through reading books, participating in some informative courses. If we keep on reading our study materials, it will surely help us once schools and colleges reopen. This lockdown is the precious time to learn and gain a lot of knowledge and skills. So, I urge you to engage yourself in some useful activities. Let's learn something new and have a bright future!

-Tony, NEXCO, Tamil Nadu Region

DRAWBACKS

New Education Policy 2020



Can we celebrate the new education policy? National Education Policy or simply NEP states what is to be done but fails to point out 'how'. A clear plan to implement this vision seems to be missing. Here I would like to point out a few drawbacks that I find in the policy.

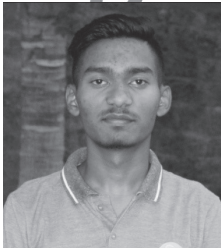
The NEP states that students until class 5 should be taught in their mother tongue or regional languages. Policy makers have kept in mind the multi-language culture of our country and gives recognition to local languages but will that be possible to function in a diverse country? Students having parents with transferable jobs and bilingual/multilingual families will find it very difficult to cope up with these changes and moreover the growing intensity of intrastate migration will affect the lessons of children. The teacher- students ratio being 1:50 in most of the schools will create a roadblock in giving equal attention to the development of each child. Students have been taking coaching for IELTS exam although English has been their compulsory language, and by not making it mandatory at preliminary stage as a mode of instruction, collaboration with foreign institutions is going to be difficult.

In the past few years, the expenditure on education has been depleted and with the present economy of our country an increase of expenditure in educational sector sounds unreal. To add on our economy is under huge crisis and covid-19 pandemic is digging the grave deeper. An initiative towards digital learning is necessary in this era and this policy would do wonders if implemented at the earliest. But when many parents are unable to provide devices and smartphones to their children and the failure of the government in providing facilities leads to a big question on how will the students make use of digital education? Online classes during lockdown has already shown us a glimpse that 70% of the students are not having access to the digital education. Flexibility in choosing any subject from any stream is a dream come true to most of them. I'm not here to burst that bubble, but I don't remember reading about the plans on recruiting staff and also the idea of arranging classes in a way that wouldn't bring clashes to the subjects chosen.

I don't intend to criticize NEP and the policy makers. There have been major decisions taken that are worthy of appreciation like vocational training, internship opportunities at a very young age, holistic development, multiple exit option, 4 years bachelor course with research studies, more practical knowledge and so on. But we do have to address the flaws and think about how to eradicate them to achieve the vision it has set. Although, it took 34 years to implement a new policy, but it is a good start as the system is finally going to bring changes. As it is said 'every noble work at first is impossible', let us have faith and keep our hopes high for the changes that it brings.

-Vinora Saldanha

STUDENTS Speak Out



Education in post COVID era

A few months ago, there was a time when students and teachers never had an online interaction with each other. Many students never tried sending an Instagram follow request or add their teachers as Facebook friends. Students always hesitated to connect with their teachers.

Before the lockdown began, students never used to visit their school website. But now things are totally different. Now a student has to stay connected with the school and the teachers through online platforms. No one ever thought that a teacher who is weak in handling technology would teach children who are fully updated with technology. Teachers were quick to learn the technology to teach students. It is quite strange but this is the reality. There are many questions which are difficult to answer. Are all students financially stable to afford or to be a part of this online education system? or is it worth for a below average middle-class family to invest their savings to afford this type of education system? Is this education system effective for the poor families? Many people have the same question in their mind. Until now, we don't have any other alternative for the education of the students in this Covid-19 era.

The answer for the above questions depends on the students. For many, it is just a duty to attend online class because not attending the class can somehow affect their yearly attendance, but for some this is the most important daily learning activity. If Covid-19 crisis continues for a longer time, we may have to think and come up with new and creative ideas to improve online learning system. We need to adjust and adapt ourselves with the present situation and online learning system for a better future.

-Oscar Martin, NEXCO Agra region

THANK YOU TO ALL MY LOVING TEACHERS!

During this time of Covid-19 crisis, schools and colleges have shifted the mode of learning into online classrooms and online classes. Our teachers send us pre-recorded videos of their lectures and it is helpful because we can repeatedly play the video until we understand the subject. Sufficient time was given to us during our online interaction with our teachers to ask our doubts and queries based on the video or on any topics. In reply, teachers cleared our doubts through video talks and most of the time during online classes. I am very grateful about the hard work of our teachers, helping us to learn amid this pandemic. I appreciate their concern and loving nature towards their students. Thank you to you all my loving teachers

*-Kamir Chinthongpi
Sacred Heart School*

STUDENTS Speak Out

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EDUCATION IN POST COVID ERA

As Peter Kline said “School should be the party in town”. Education is an important tool which is very useful in everybody’s life. It is the most significant tool in eliminating poverty and unemployment.

The experience we get and the memories we make in school will be remembered and cherished for life. In school, there is fun because we can interact with students and learn the values of life which is extremely an important aspect of education. Only when the people realize what significance it holds, can they consider it a necessity for a good life. Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented upheaval across all industries, with the education sector being no exception. The students of 21st century are blessed with modern technologies that helps us to communicate and interact not physically but virtually across the globe. Covid-19 make us feel the significance of technologies in the education sector as we move towards digital learning which can be also called as “E-education”. However, this seems to be a privilege for upper class and middle-class groups. The lower-class cannot afford this type of education. Hence, governments should take the responsibility to see that every village and town in India be digitally connected for better interaction between the students and teachers.

Post Covid-19 is an opportunity to transform the higher education system. Institutes/universities should utilize this opportunity to transform itself. In conclusion, education makes you a better person and teaches you various skills. It enhances your intellect and the ability to make rational decisions. It enhances the individual growth of a person. So, it doesn’t matter whether you learn in school or college or through online, the only thing matters is the way you take or grasp the knowledge and understand in a better way.

-Sooraj Noronha, Mangalore Diocese

THE GREAT VALUES OF YOUTH

Society, all over the world has undergone a rapid change. The generations which preceded us lived in well-defined customs, cultures differing according to the nations, where they were born. Even today, certain tribes do not give up old customs and ways of life so easily. There are lasting convictions and certainties in social life. New generations are placed in an uncertain complex and undefined pluralism. The youth of today are not only dwellers of village or town or members of a family: they move in a scholastic atmosphere as they pursue their studies; they pass to commercial entities and find themselves involved in sports and enjoyments. To these ambient activities add the T.V programs, mobiles, computers, more open religious connections, influencing political, moral and social modes of living. This pluralism does not offer steady experience and values to youth formation. Common consensus of values cannot be attained by a young person today



as it was possible in the past. Parents find it more difficult in the present times to fulfill their education duties, being challenged by T.V, school, social media, public opinion, which they cannot ignore. However, such condition should not make parents give up their efforts to transfer real values to their children. The contagion of disruptive society must be opposed. Parents, by their life example and prudent approach must witness to what is right, just, moral and good. After all, even nowadays youth give credit to the virtue of coherence, not-withstanding lapses. Grand-parents and parents must communicate their experiences to adolescents; they should demonstrate that lasting happiness is possible only in truth and justice without suppressing the dictates of conscience and the wisdom of judgment.

*-Alva V. khyriem
Shillong Archdiocese, North-east region*

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POLICY FOR ENDURING LEARNING EXPERIENCE



The world has become competitive therefore, demands proficiency in all our knowledge, skills and capabilities. For thousands of generations, all the living things have utilized the tool “learning” for survival and adaptation so do you and me. Modern Institutions direct how our learning process should be and come up with an agenda that is popularly known as “policy” which contains constructive guidelines for the educational institutions. Recently our country has delivered a policy that has been in the process for a couple of decades to boost students’ ability to build a better range of skills with technology readily available yet not sufficient enough.

“Where there are gaps in knowledge, fear fills the void.” Immeasurable complexity of precious individual different or I would say diversity in individual abilities has made all the policy to stumble with regards to excavating one’s naturally gifted talent. When various institutions write policies for their operation to bring their best result,

have you and me written a self-learning policy for better self as well as a better learning experience which will possibly result in an ultimate better life in the long run? Yes, after a thought like this who wouldn’t write a self-learning policy for themselves?

After a week, I ended up finishing one exclusive self-learning policy. To cut the long story short: It had areas for learning, major and secondary objectives, methods for learning, time management strategy, few sets of learning strategy (I have mentioned in this article below), and areas that I love to improve. You can also customize your learning policy based on your learning requirements. To make this model work it requires a lot of discipline and it can be challenging. However, it can be one of the most interesting learning experiences when done properly.

Never stop learning because once you do, the birth rate of your brain cell decreases and you can google the consequences.

Search

I'm still learning said the famous Italian sculptor Michelangelo at the age of 87. Your self-learning policy must enable you and your community to gain a better understanding of what they are best at and what they need to work harder on. If you practice editing and reviewing your learning progress regularly, they will soon become familiar with the process of self-assessment. As a young champ, start to take ownership of your learning and experience success. You also need to develop invaluable confidence and self-motivation. This can increase your enjoyment across a wide range of subjects at any learning environment simultaneously preparing you for personal and professional success later in life.

Get ready to learn because learning with the vision of self-learning policy is the modern form of learning. Be ready to learn, it enriches your perspective on traditional, instructional learning. Self-directed learning has been proven to be effective, convenient, and fast, thanks to the rise of the internet. Nowadays, basic learnings have simplified through a simple Google search, by watching a YouTube tutorial, and by simply reading instruction manuals. Self-learning is the new form of learning that is equipping people with skills that are relevant to their daily activities.

Search and find a list of comfortable tools and decide which tools you want to use for a refined learning experience. Decide how you want to assess yourself. On the other hand, this can be a challenging form of learning even for the brightest students, since it requires a lot of discipline.

There are tons of advantages when you learn with the help of self-directed learning via your policy. As you develop strong problem-solving skills in a stress-free learning process, you gain other skills in the process towards your brighter and sustainable career. "Education is a fire to be lit, not a vessel to be filled." Even the best institutional educational policy is toothless without a self-directed learning policy. On the other hand, a simple self-directed learning policy can become a mighty tool for legendary self-transformation waiting to be written in the nation's history books.

*-V M Ebin Navis,
Former NEXCO, Tamil Nadu region*



“What makes a child gifted and talented may not always be good grades in school, but a different way of looking at the world and learning.”

—Chuck Grassley



Search

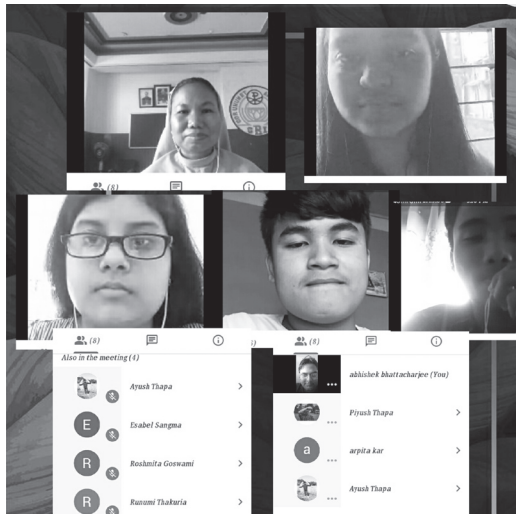
REPORTS

NORTHEAST REGION

ARCHDIOCESE OF GUWAHATI. ONLINE DEXCO CELL MEETING.

On 4th of July 2020, YCS/YSM Archdiocese of Guwahati organized an online DEXCO cell meeting at 4:00PM. Around 8 DEXCO members including YCS/YSM Diocesan Director and Coordinator attended the meeting.

The meeting was conducted via Google meet. During the meeting many topics were discussed. At first, Sr. Esabel Sangma (YCS/YSM DYD GUWAHATI) was graciously



welcomed by all the members, followed by reading from Bible by DEXCO member. The agenda of the meeting was then read out by Ms. Arpita Kar (President). We started the meeting with report presentation, followed by an evaluation and case study. The session of case study was conducted by Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharjee (Coordinator) and we were

asked to reflect upon the topic given to us. Everyone gave their own views and opinions which was highly appreciated.

After the Case study session, we were asked to suggest some topics for the upcoming online seminar which will be conducted by YCS/YSM North East Region. The members came up with various suggestion some of which were: Time Management, Nepotism, How to Utilize our hobbies in a perfect way, Study pressure etc. A discussion upon ways and plans to make our movement strong and helpful for others during this pandemic was discussed.

After the suggestion some important updates and information's was provided by Mr. Abhishek.

Sr. Esabel thank all members present for their hard work and dedication. The meeting was concluded with a recitation of the Universal Prayer.

- Aparna Thakuria
Secretary, YCS/YSM Guwahati.



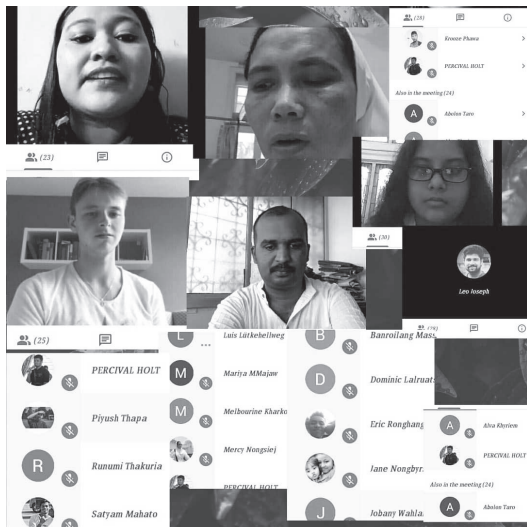
YCS/YSM NE WEBINAR

The First YCS/YSM Northeast Webinar on "Harnessing Positive Mind" was held on 28, June 2020 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm via Google Meet. The webinar was hosted and organized by the Regional team of YCS/YSM North East Region. Ms. SubarnaDhan, Gen. Secretary of North Eastern Regional Youth Commission was the resource person which brought about 35 Participants from all over Northeast and some other parts of India.

Search

Mr. Leo and Mr. Kamal Francis, YCS/YSM alumni members from Chennai, Mr. Jimmy Pdang, former Asian coordinator and Mr. Luis Lütkehellweg from Paderbon Diocese Germany joined the webinar.

The webinar started with a welcome address by Ms. Alva Khyriem, Northeast YCS/YSM President followed by Bible reading by Ms. Jane Nongbyrsaw, REXCO and a reading from Dhamapada by Ms. Arpita Kar, REXCO. Ms. Alva Khyriem welcomed the resource person to take over the session. Ms. Dhan during her input session highlighted the purpose of life, main components of Mental health and ways to keep our minds positive.



Time for interaction was given for students to asked questions. Ms. Dhan mentioned that even though the lockdown has been hard on everyone at the same, it was beneficial as one could spend quality time with parents and dear ones, and enjoy the nature. Secondly, we have sufficient time to venture something new, explore new ideas, learn new skills and develop new hobbies like cooking, music, art, literary skills, gardening, yoga and meditation

etc. She exhorted everyone to have faith in the goodness of God and remain peaceful, joyful and hopeful. The seminar served as an eye-opener for the young students in tackling mental and emotional issues.

After the session Mr. Dominic Lalruatsanga, Vice-president, YCS/YSM Northeast thanked Ms. SubarnaDhan. Sr. BernadethKropi, RYD Northeast presented the words of appreciation followed with a vote of thanks by Mr. Abolon Taro.

-Ms. Alva Khyriem

Northeast YCS/YSM President

YCS/YSM NORTH EAST INDIA WEBINAR

A webinar was held on 12 July 2020, from 4:00pm to 5:00pm via Google Meet on the topic 'Young Students for Safe Neighborhood'. The webinar was hosted and organised by the Regional team of YCS/YSM North East India. Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain of YCS/YSM India was the main speaker of the evening. The Webinar brought together over 101 participants from all-over North-East Region and some parts of India including the National Team, YCS Kenya, YCS Singapore as well as YCS Germany.

The webinar began with the welcoming of resource person Fr. Chetan Machado and all the participants by Ms. Alva Khyriem, President of YCS/YSM North East India followed by a reading from Dhamapada by Ms. Arpita Kar, YSM Representative of North East India. Father Chetan started the session with a question why are we discussing this topic? During the session, he made the students understand the concept of 'SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD' and why it is very essential to have safety in our neighborhood. He also stated that with the increase of cruelty, drug addicts, criminals,

immoral environment, one can hardly feel safe and secure. But dreaming big, having faith, making interactions with people especially our neighbours can benefit us to grow in a healthy environment. Indeed, father did full justice to the given webinar topic by explaining and making it relatable to everyday life in all possible ways.



The webinar was very useful, enriching, empowering to love our neighbours. It definitely served as an eye opener for the young students and the knowledge gathered from the session was beneficial in our day today life.

During the session students interacted and asked questions and was satisfactorily answered by Fr. Chetan the resource person.

After the session Mr. Dominic Lalruatsanga, Vice-president YCS/YSM North East India thanked Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado and invited Sr. BernadethKropi, RYD of North East India to share a few words of appreciation. The session was concluded with the vote of thanks delivered by Mr. Abhishek Bhattacharjee, Regional student coordinator, North East India.

-Abhishek Bhattacharjee
Regional student coordinator, YCS/YSM North East India.

PRESENT AND FORMER NEXCOS MEETING - JUNE 27, 2020

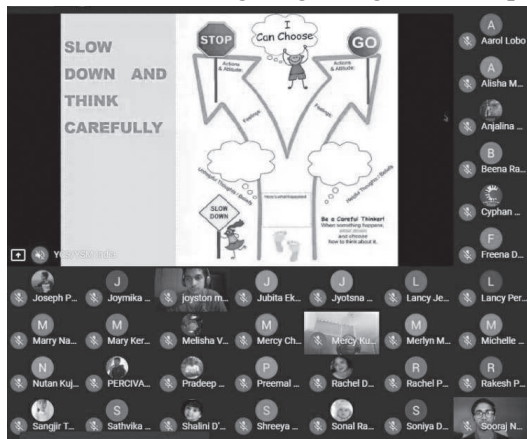
YCS/YSM India organized a meeting on Google meet for the present and former NEXCO members of YCS YSM India on the theme “Getting to know each other” on 27 June, 2020. The main objective of the meeting was to build a bridge of communication between the present NEXCOs and all former NEXCOs of the movement. The meeting was started with a short prayer lead by Angelina, National liturgical secretary. Mr. Jimmy Pdang, former NEXCO and National Volunteer chaired the meeting. He welcomed all the participants and, in his words, he said that, “former NEXCOs who have been transformed by the movement have more knowledge and wisdom thereby can play a role in mentoring and supporting the present team in their services to young students of our country”. All participants of the meeting introduced themselves and shared their moments of joy and happiness as YCS/YSM members. Further, their sharing about the change that took place in their own lives through the methodology See-Judge-Act inspired and motivated the present leaders of the movement. Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain was present in the meeting. In his concluding remark, he thanked all the members participated and requested them to attend future meetings and sessions. The meeting was enriched by the presence of Mrs. Judie Gomes, former National Treasurer (1989- 1990), Mr. Leo Joseph, former NEXCO and National Coordinator (2101-2013) and several senior members.

YCS/YSM INDIA NATIONAL WEBINAR

On 9th August 2020, NEXCO members of YCS YSM organised a webinar AT 4:00pm via google meet on the topic “ Physical

and psychological impact of COVID-19 on students “. Mrs. Bibi Augustine, an assistant professor at Father Muller College of Nursing, Mangalore was invited as the main resource person of the webinar. More than 100 participants from across the country attended the webinar. Miss Ashita Jimmy, The Search Editor on behalf of all NEXCO members welcomed all the participants followed by a prayer led by Miss Angelina Ekka, Liturgy Secretary.

Mr. Oscar Martin, NEXCO formally introduced Mrs. Bibi Augustine as the resource person and handed over the session to her. During the session Mrs. Augustin shared her knowledge regarding the concept



of “Physical and Psychological Impact of COVID-19 on Students” and also on various methods to lead a healthy and meaningful life. Mrs Augustin explained the pros and cons of online education and suggested that we should also keep ourselves fit and active for our physical benefits, she also explained about Cyber bullying which is very common these days and told the participants to stand against it. The participants during live interaction took part actively by asking questions to the speaker. Further, as our nation is now in an unlocked period and schools and colleges are going to reopen soon, Mrs Augustin had

suggested that if we are not comfortable, then we shouldn’t force ourselves to attend physical classes. The speaker of the evening also mentioned the importance of taking good precautions and making our immune system strong. She highlighted the mental pressure that people are going through these days due to several reasons.

The webinar was helpful especially for the individuals who relate themselves with the situation which was well explained by Mrs Augustin. After the session MsAshita Thanked Mrs. Bibi Augustin. Fr. Chetan Machado, National chaplain shared to all the participants words of appreciation. The session was concluded with a vote of Thanks delivered by Ms. Thangni Joan, National Secretary.

-Thangni Joan
National Secretary, YCS/YSM India

NEXCO AND FORMER YCS/YSMERS MEET

The 2nd NEXCO and former YCS/YSMers of YCS/YSM India meet was held on 2nd August 2020 via google meet. More than 20 participants joined the meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Mr. Jimmy P dang, former Asian Coordinator. Miss Angelina Ekka, Liturgical Secretary led the participants into a short and silent prayer followed by a welcome address delivered by Mr. Jimmy P dang. The members present introduced themselves and former NEXCO members including Mr. John Siddham, Mr Deepak Raj, Mr. Stafford, Mr Leo Joseph shared their stories and life experiences as YCS YSM members. Members spent most of their time interacting and getting to know more about each other. Fr. Chetan Machado thanked all the members for joining and the meeting ended with a concluding remark from Mr. **Deril Dsa, National President.**

**YCS/YSM
Movement –
Fond Memories
and Life Lessons**

Irudayam, New York
Former National Chaplain

Continued from the last issue...

[This narrative is a re-write of an article submitted in Tamil to a publication by past Tamilnadu YCS/YSM student leaders and animators in 2009.]

First taste of YCS ...

YCS/YSM is a movement; it is not a pious association, or a Boys/Girls Scout run by adults for young people. It is moved and powered by young students; its inspiration and direction come from young minds and hearts. The group of youth may require some assistance from adults, but it will always remain as their group, not dictated by adults. This is the first lesson I was taught by my first cell in Trichy; that little group of students and I did not have much exposure to real YCS training or experience.

I was Assistant Pastor in the Cathedral, Trichy , where my friend and Secretary of the Pastoral Commission for the Youth, Jude Paulraj (now bishop emeritus of Palayamkottai) initiated me into starting YCS in Trichy. During my visit to families of the parish, I came across a few boys and we were eager to start YCS. We met weekly in the students' home or in the parish house, came to know each other, and discussed whatever we thought relevant to our lives as Christians and students. In a few weeks,

YCS/YSM India is grateful to Irudayam, our former chaplain for sharing memories with us. We will publish these memories of former Chaplains in the coming issues

we had a Hindu student who wanted to join us; we welcomed him as part of our group. It was a joy, the first taste of the movement. The leader of that group, Adaikalam, grew to be a regional and national leader of YCS/YSM.

Adaikalam and the boys (we were not ready for a girls' group yet!) taught me a lot of life; I was a fresh, bookish priest, first time entering real world ministry. We learned obedience in the seminary; we did not dare to ask questions; we accepted things as they came. Sometimes we were afraid to ask questions, though it was the natural and intelligent thing to do. I was a good and pious priest; I knew how to walk safe and secure as I was taught. But this group of young people asked me questions about life, religion, faith, justice and love... I had to enter the world of questioning. As a good priest, trained in scholastic answers, I gave them my 'sets' of answers already prepared in the catechism and moral theology. They were not satisfied; they were unhappy to see me hiding behind 'sets' of answers and not face bravely the world of reality with them. I did not reach them; because I had not broken through myself first.

Often the questions are important; as important as answers; often we may not immediately find answers for our questions; but the very questions themselves will keep us alive, rather than being dead with dead answers.

Besides asking questions, the group also taught me to seek for answers not in my words alone, but in my life. All our intellectual answers coming from books

often mean nothing to young minds. The youth so longingly looks at you that they miss all your 'empty' words which do not spring from your life. The group demanded that we open our hearts and lives to each other; without shame we discovered and shared our mistakes and hypocrisies. We prayed to our God in our own simple words. We were not satisfied with rituals; we dug deep into the meaning of things. We were happy. Our families were happy. We were one good YCS group. I always feel grateful to Adaikalam and his leaders for their contribution to my growth and maturity.

Friends and Training in YCS...

Bishop Jude is a simple human being and a conscious priest; we grew up together as boys from the seminary days. Our friendship is a God's gift and we cherish it even today in spite of being across oceans. His calm outlook and simplicity of heart often challenged my impulsive character. By cherishing my mind, he allowed me to cherish his heart. As the first regional YCS chaplain of Tamilnadu, and later Coordinator of the Pastoral Commissions in Trichy diocese, he directed me into the activities of YCS/YSM in regional and national levels.

Bishop Yvon Ambroise (emeritus of Tuticorin diocese) became my model, mentor and friend in youth ministry. As a coordinator, he was establishing YCS and youth groups in Andhra. He initiated me and Bishop Jude into the real world experience of village youth; we visited village after village and were exposed to the young people and their concerns, discovered their strengths, and learned our roles as youth ministers. I always remember what I learned from Bishop Yvon: his challenging ideals combined with the simplicity of an approach to them.

There were leaders whom I liked to have known better and for a longer

period of time. One of them is Father Johnny Montero of Nagpur; another is Father Michael of Ooty. Both of them were national chaplains of YCS/YSM, Johnny before me, and Michael after me.

Johnny is a great human being and a good priest. In his smile and words, he was a gentle breeze that could move mountains. Often I saw him among the groups of young people, one with them deep in their conversation, doubts and struggles. He was a first responder who always continued his journey with them. He went all over India, contacted student leaders and animators, established regional and diocesan groups, developed national training of students and animators and built a solid base for the movement of nearly 80, 000 students of India. He made YCS/YSM a living organism of the Church in India. God bless him for his great work with the young people.

At the time of my early involvement with YCS, Michael was pastor at Bavani, South India. After his work as Tamilnadu Regional chaplain of YCS, he continued to host YCS training and meetings in his church. The first time I saw him, he was engrossed in a prayer and discussion meeting of full time volunteer student leaders. Michael is a simple priest, but extraordinary youth minister. Unless you know him, you would fail to notice him in the midst of his group of student leaders. Such a self-effacement helped his spiritual ideals and pastoral ministry shine all the more. *...to be continued*



- Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single umbrella body for the entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education. Public and private higher education institutions will be governed by the same set of norms for regulation, accreditation and academic standards. Also, HECI will be having four independent verticals namely,

National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation,
 General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting,
 Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding,
 National Accreditation Council (NAC) for accreditation.

- Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
- Over a period of time, every college is expected to develop into either an autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.

Other Changes:

- An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.
- National Assessment Centre- 'PARAKH' has been created to assess the students.
- It also paves the way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India.
- It emphasizes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund, Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- National Institute for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation to be set up.
- It also aims to increase the public investment in the Education sector to reach 6% of GDP at the earliest.
- Currently, India spends around 4.6 % of its total GDP on education.

Way Forward

A New Education Policy aims to facilitate an inclusive, participatory and holistic approach, which takes into consideration field experiences, empirical research, stakeholder feedback, as well as lessons learned from best practices.

It is a progressive shift towards a more scientific approach to education. The prescribed structure will help to cater the ability of the child – stages of cognitive development as well as social and physical awareness. If implemented in its true vision, the new structure can bring India at par with the leading countries of the world.

Source: The Hindu



MEMORIES



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