

*The* January- February- 2021  
*Search*

YCS/YSM National Newsletter

Book 41

Vol: 1



**CREATING  
SAFE  
SCHOOL**

Inside this issue

**Essays & Poems, articles on  
Childrens' Rights**

# STUDENTS ARE THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE!.

Greeting to all!!

We are students, or some of us were students once. We all know that when students are united they are a very powerful force. They can change anything they want. As our former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam once said, "The best brains of the nation may be found on the last bench of classrooms." Students are considered as a box of new ideas and they are full of energy and enthusiasm. Students are involved in many researches and inventions. Students can be useful resource of any nation if they are utilised wisely.

When we look around, we see a lot of young people who are involved in anti social activities, drug and human trafficking, involved in violence etc. Most of the times these young people are abused and they are dragged into these anti social activities. Sometimes their power is used for wrong reasons by political parties or some organisations. Most of the times these students are drop-outs or those who did not know about their rights as students.

What are our rights!? How can we use our fundamental rights in a constructive way? How can we stop people who misuse them? How to bring about a change in the society? These are some of the questions we need to ask ourselves and to reflect about it.

Some of the basic rights provided by our constitution for students are :-

Right to freedom of speech and expression; Right to information; Right to education; Right to life; Right to equality.

Though these are fundamental rights for every citizen, students need to know more about these rights. Once a young boy/girl knows about the right to free education, right to information, right to speech etc, he/she will be able to live a meaningful life in the society. Being student is one of the best stage and the important stage of one's life. As the students should always know their rights, our schools should explain these to students. This will help students to focus their life and lead a meaningful life. They can use their resources and power to bring a positive change in the society.

Once Swami Chinmayananda said, "youths are not useless, they are used less. They are not careless, they are just cared less." It's time to let people know the strength of students and the abilities they are capable of. It's also our duty to respect the rights given by our constitution and not to misuse it.

At last I would say that an educated student could change everything while an uneducated one could destroy everything. And change is what our movement is. Students aren't just the future, they are the present!.

- *Ashita Jimmy*  
Editor - *The Search*



# student rights



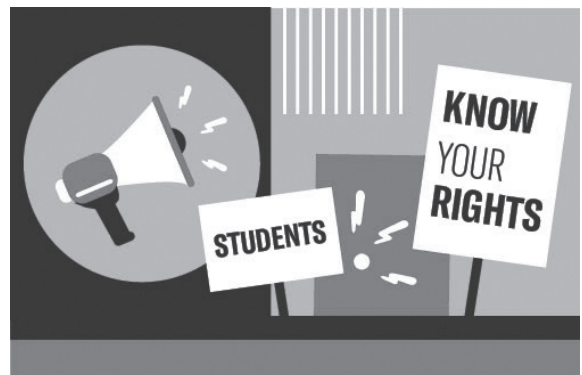
After a much needed break from the normal course of work in our life we are privileged and fortunate to be safe. As we all know after all the lock downs and unlocks for about 11 long months the schools and colleges are all set to reopen, whereas in some states schools and colleges have already begun and our lives are slowly getting back to normal. For that one particular decision there are always negative and positive responses. Where many of us are supporting the decision of reopening the schools/ colleges, there are people who are against it because of the fear of their wards getting infected in the schools, but if we don't learn to coexist with this situation now, it will be very difficult for us to adjust later.

I know that many of us are facing issues to get back to the normal life after all the online stuff. At the same time all of us are really tired of looking into our phone/ laptop screens for hours with minimal understanding of concepts taught there. Personally I'm glad that the schools and colleges have reopened, which helped me to meet my teachers and friends after a very long break, got an opportunity to clear my doubts with regard to the concepts thought during online classes. I'm sure you too are happy and glad that our schools, colleges and other ventures have opened. The long break from our regular course of work was adversely affecting us.

Let us thank God and move forward according to the will of nature and cope up with what is coming our way.

Students/children are the asset of a nation. It was earlier said that youngsters are the future but Pope Francis changed this to youngsters are the present and the future. That means you and me, we are not supposed to sit and wait for the future for opportunities rather grab them now itself to be the change we want to see in the world.

In a country like ours, its difficult for most of the children to grow in a society that is still poor and backward. There is also lack of support and discrimination. These major issues don't allow equal opportunities to all. As in this edition of *The Search* we are focusing on the rights of children. I urge you all to read and study more about the rights of a child in our country. This will help us grow. The base to be an ideal youngster should be laid at an early age. Therefore, as YCS/



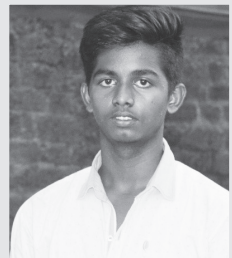
YSM'ers, let's learn and spread awareness about the rights we possess and make good use of those rights to be the guiding light to others.

Also, after a gap of one year YCS/YSM is all set to restart with the cell meetings and other YCS/YSM events and activities just like reopening of schools and colleges. I request all the students and animators to motivate yourselves and others for a new YCS/YSM year coming our way. Let YCS/YSM light shine!

Deril D'Sa, National Convenor

## Rights of Students

***“Every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation, every possession a duty”.***



Every student has a right to study, right to live peacefully in the society, right to practice his/her faith etc. Students are the pillar of the society. Students need freedom in this society. They should learn while in school and not waste time. They should be treated equal and fair in the society by the elders and have a safe and secure place in the society. They should have the right to make their own choices. Students have their own ideas and thoughts. If they are guided properly, they can contribute positively to the society.

When we talk about student rights, it also means giving them their due, a space to grow, respect etc. It is in this kind of environment, a student grows as a responsible citizen. Constitution gives us rights and sometimes because we are not aware of these rights or our parents are not aware, we miss a lot of opportunities.

We see a lot of young boys and girls on the streets and also young people working in factories and big industries. They are abused and sometimes they lose their childhood because of this. If they are aware of their right to free education, they would be admitted in any school which will give them a true identity.

### SAFE SCHOOL

***“The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise”***

Safe school means school safety. We know that certain habits like violence, drugs, bullying, and ragging begins in the school. The school has the responsibility for the students safety and security. Every school must have a system to address these issues and keep their schools safe from these influences.

***C. Tony Mariya Richerd,***  
Editor- *The Search*

# LIFE is a TOUGH RACE, it is a MARATHON

Bill Vaughan once said, *“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new academic year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”* Its been another academic year, its been another 365 days. New work environment, new friends, new responsibilities, new problems, new insights and many other new things. The year that is gone by was not a good one to remember though a lot of good things happened during the lock down. This is part of our life as students. Every new academic year brings new knowledge and learnings and increases our wisdom. We become more capable of making wiser and firm decisions and was also able to discern people better. All these will have to come from God



Chetan Bhagat, novelist and columnist while addressing a group of MBA students said, “the first day in the school is about you. You, who have come back to school, (some are still not sure) leaving the comfort of your homes (or in some cases discomfort), to become something in your life. I am sure you are excited. There are few days in human life when one is truly elated. The first day in school is one of them. When you were getting ready today, you felt a tingling in your stomach. What would the teachers be like, who are my new classmates - there is so much to be curious about. I call this excitement, the spark within you that makes you feel truly alive today. Today I am going to talk about keeping the spark shining. Or to put it another way, how to be happy most, if not all the time.

Where do these sparks start? I think we are born with them. A 3-year old boy has a million sparks. A little Spiderman toy can make him jump on the bed. He gets thrills from creaky swings in the park. A story from daddy gets him excited. He does a daily countdown for birthday party – several months in advance – just for the day they will cut their own birthday cake. But when we see older people, the spark is difficult to find. That means as we age, the spark fades. People whose spark has faded too much are dull, dejected, aimless and bitter. Remember Kareena in the first half of ‘*Jab We Met*’ vs the second half? That is what happens when the spark is lost.

So how to save the spark? Imagine the spark to be a lamp’s flame. The first aspect is nurturing - to give your spark the fuel, continuously. The second is to guard against storms. To nurture, always have goals. It is human nature to strive, improve and achieve full potential. In fact, that is success.

Don’t just have career or academic goals. Set goals to give you a balanced, successful life. I use the word balanced before successful. Balanced means ensuring your health, relationships, mental peace are all in good order. There is no point of getting a promotion on the day of your breakup.

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There is no fun in driving a car if your back hurts. Shopping is not enjoyable if your mind is full of tensions. You must have read some quotes - Life is a tough race, it is a marathon or whatever. No, from what I have seen so far, life is one of those races in nursery school, where you have to run with a marble in a spoon kept in your mouth. If the marble falls, there is no point coming first. Same with life, where health and relationships are the marble. Your striving is only worth it if there is harmony in your life. Else, you may achieve the success, but this spark, this feeling of being excited and alive, will start to die. One last thing about nurturing the spark - don't take life seriously. Life is not to be taken seriously, as we are really temporary here. We are like a pre-paid card with limited validity. If we are lucky, we may last another 50 years. And 50 years is just 2,500 weekends. Do we really need to get so worked up? It's OK, bunk a few classes, goof up a few interviews, fall in love. We are people, not programmed devices.

I've told you three things - reasonable goals, balance and not taking it too seriously that will nurture the spark. However, there are four storms in life that will threaten to completely put out the flame. These must be guarded against. These are **disappointment, frustration, unfairness and loneliness** of purpose. Disappointment will come when your effort does not give you the expected return. If things don't go as planned or if you face failure. Failure is extremely difficult to handle, but those that do come out stronger. What did this failure teach me? is the question you will need to ask. You will feel miserable. But it's life. If challenges could always be overcome, they would cease to be a challenge. Disappointment's cousin is Frustration, the second storm. Have you ever been frustrated? It happens when things are stuck. Frustration is a sign somewhere, you took it too seriously. Unfairness - this is hardest to deal with, but unfortunately that is how our country works. People with connections, rich dads, beautiful faces, and pedigree find it easier to make it. And sometimes it is just plain luck. Don't let unfairness kill your spark. Finally, the last point that can kill your spark is Isolation. As you grow older you will realize you are unique. When you are little, all kids want Ice cream and Spiderman. As you grow older to college, you still are a lot like your friends. But ten years later and you realize you are unique. What you want, what you believe in, what makes you feel, may be different from even the people closest to you. This can create conflict as your goals may not match with others. And you may drop some of them. They give up something that meant so much to them. They do it for their family. But in doing that, the spark dies. Never, ever make that compromise."



Love yourself first, and then others. Once you start loving yourself it is easier for you to love your neighbor. I wish all the YCS/YSMers a successful return to the school. Learn to be positive and face the storms. Life has to be lived sincerely and not seriously.

God bless you

**Fr. Chetan Machado, National Chaplain**

(Text taken from the address by Chetan Bhagat to MBA students)

# O GOD, N SCRIPTURE, E RELIGION

From the very inception in 1993 USM (Universal Solidarity Movement) had been using songs to promote its mission of value education for peace. Songs were used for spiritual renewal and motivation to distinguish between religiosity and spirituality.

As a proactive response to religious conflicts and violence which block the progress of the country USM always made efforts to create awareness among people of all walks of life and faiths



about the importance of spiritual values common to all religions. Among many songs which the Movement promoted through its Hindi music album 'Pratyasha' the following song was sung on various occasions. It promotes the religion of humanity beyond all divisions of castes, creeds, colours and nationalities. The lyrics of song in Hindi have melodious music:

धरती पर स्वर्ग है जीवन ही मोक्ष है।  
सेवा ही पूजन है प्रेम ही ईश्वर है।  
*Heaven is on earth; the  
eternity is in life; service  
is worship; love is God.*

The Jewish priestly class and theologians often used to have arguments and debates with Jesus Christ. During one of the discussions Jesus spoke of the most important commandment, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength". He also spoke of the second most important commandment

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*Fr Varghese Alengaden*  
Founder USM

as," Love your neighbor as you love yourself".

The problem arises in identifying God. Even after two thousand years people have not succeeded to understand the meaning of these words of Christ and apply them in their daily living. Different people identify God with different objects persons and names. These diverse identities of God has caused innumerable conflicts and murder of millions people all over the world. Emperors and kings of the past and politicians of today have misused the man-made objects, names and persons of God for their vested interest.

Though Jesus Christ has placed loving one's neighbor as the second most important commandment throughout His life Jesus taught His disciples to see God in every human being and love them. Loving and serving human beings is the genuine worship to God.

If people could understand and accept this truth then politicians and god-men would not exploit the common people in the name of God. They would understand that God is not dwelling in the multimillion temples, churches, mosques and other worship places. They would be able to love and worship God without the help of priests and worship places. Jesus had clarified this eternal truth when He said, "you will worship God in truth

and spirit". Spirituality shall go beyond temples, churches, mosques and all other worship places and complicated rituals performed by priestly class.

Once people start seeing God in human beings politicians and priestly class no longer can fool people in the name of God and religion. When persons see God in the other they would honour every man and woman and respect

their dignity. It will be a society free from injustice, exploitation, oppression, violence, discrimination and hatred. The universal family, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" will be a reality. Millions which are used for constructing worship places could be used for worshipping "gods in flesh and blood" by improving their living conditions across the world.



## ONLINE CLASSES

Last few months we had a lot of online classes. We students watched videos and listened to our teachers online. I felt that it was very convenient for me. They allow me to take additional classes that would not have fit into my schedule otherwise. I got an opportunity to understand better as I could watch them again and again and also clarify my doubts without any hesitation. Online classes allowed me to remain at home with my family. Taking these classes has many advantages for a non-traditional, and traditional student, such as: saving money, saving time, and most of all the convenience. Online classes are the answer for many students with non-traditional needs. However, the only drawback to my online class was network issue, which was disastrous. Sometimes I couldn't attend classes because of this problem. I also thank all my teachers for helping students during COVID 19. They had to work hard and make a special attempt to come online to teach us. I will ever remain grateful to them.



- Kamir Chinthongpi, Sacred Heart School



# THE RHETORICAL INDIA



India is always a difficult term to be defined. A country that has world's second largest population, all divided into thousands of various communities; linguistic, ethnic, religious, regional, traditional and so on. A country that has rich cultural heritage, exceptional natural beauty and moreover a glorious history. The contributions of this country towards the ever-evolving global community in all the spheres are eminent and valuable.

The rising economic gap has fuelled this divisions and the misguided notions of nationalism and religious ideologies is further legalizing this division of India.

This Country is often termed as a Sub-continent owing to the fact that this diverse nature which is connatural and that's the best definition one can give to 'India'.

May be that's the reason why the first Prime Minister of India, Pandit Nehru vigorously promoted the idea of 'Unity in Diversity' as an ideal essential to national consolidation and

progress. Thus, India is more than a country, but a unifying factor that unites thousands of unique diversities to form a single nation. This idea of India is the key towards the future, in other words this is the soul of India. One can talk for days explaining these exceptional features of India, the mind-blowing varieties of India and about the potential position of India to be a global super power. A pinch of nationalism and patriotism to this pre-existing concept of India and the historical significance thus make a beautiful rhetoric explanation of India, the illusionized reality of India. And quite obviously, living in this reality one can only expect to see a vision of 'The Rhetorical India'.

The word 'vision' in the topic made me ponder over this idea of 'the Rhetorical India'. The answer for the question "What should be the vision for India in the next 5 years?" may have thousands of answers, but how many of those are feasible in the reality? That's the question that matters, because 'the Realistic India' contradicts 'the Rhetorical India. The unity that brought us the very own independence of this country is debilitated due to the communal, regional, political, economic, racial divisions. The uniqueness of these diversities is neglected, the rising economic gap has fuelled this divisions and the misguided notions of nationalism and religious ideologies is further legalizing this division of India. When majority of India live in



this illusionized reality, where let it be 'the migrant crisis' or 'alarming unemployment' or 'farmer suicides' or 'increasing poverty' is little or not at all known, how can we expect a vision for a better India? When our media forsake the real issues of our country running behind the TRPs and join hands with the propaganda filled political fronts in creating this illusion of 'Sab Changa Si' (Everything is Fine), how can we expect a better vision for our country. The heart-wrenching incidents of couples selling their baby due to extreme poverty and parents selling their cattle to afford education for their children is all enough to prove that the rhetorical India isn't the real India. Of course, this pandemic has put some light on some of these incidents but it is a naked fact that millions are suffering in this country and we don't want to see it. That's where my vision of India comes, the vision for the 'Realistic India'. Unless and until our most vulnerable population is also a part of the vision for India, we won't succeed. Unless and until we can make the voices of the most oppressed and the neglected heard, we won't succeed. And that's the vision a person should have, specially being a responsible citizen, we are obliged to be the voice for the unheard, strength for the weak and moreover to become a true citizen of this country.

## Hunger Free India

"There are lot more ways to die, but hunger should never be one of them." I'd like to share a story that I read in an article by "The Hindu". *'Three innocent girls died in Delhi's Mandawali area. The post-mortem revealed that their stomachs did not have even a single trace of food. In other words, they had not eaten for many days. You can well imagine what these girls underwent in their in final moments! They might not have understood the dictionary meaning of the word 'hunger', but*

*they lost their life because of it. At the time these girls were dying of starvation, their mentally ill mother, too, was with them in their dilapidated hut. Owing to her mental ailment as well as a language problem, the native of West Bengal couldn't even seek help from her neighbours. When the girls were about to die, Mangal, their father, was away looking for work on the streets of the national capital. The doctors who conducted the postmortem on the children were shocked to see that their fat levels had crashed to zero. Or in other words, despite the absence of any food in their stomachs, their fat levels had kept them alive for a few days. And when even the fats vanished, the girls went into a coma. Doctors told reporters that the girls were suffering from such severe malnutrition that their bones were visible under their skin. Why did these children, aged two, four and eight have to die such a tragic death?*

It is a fact that 3,000 children die of malnutrition in the country every day. Let me point out the difference between malnutrition and hunger here. Clever governments are afraid of telling people that death by hunger is a bitter fact of life in the country even today. That's why the post-mortem reports always say that the person died of malnutrition. It is pertinent to realise that 34 out of 1,000 children born in the country die in the mother's womb itself. Nine

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HUNGER-FREE  
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lakh children below the age of five die much before they can comprehend the meaning of independent India and approximately 19 crore people in the country are compelled to sleep on an empty stomach. The Global Hunger Index report of 2019 ranked India 102nd among the 117 countries in the new hunger report with highest child stunting rate in the entire South Asia (37.9%). According to the Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) note "India at a Glance", despite being the second largest producer of rice, sugar cane, groundnut, fruits and cotton in the world and the largest producer of milk, pulses and jute and also figuring among the leading producers of spices, fish, poultry, livestock and plantation crops, while achieving food sufficiency in production, India still accounts for a quarter of the world's hungry people and is home to over 190 million undernourished people. The tragic deaths of migrant labourers due to starvation is again underlining the worst Hunger Crisis in India.

Food security should be provided for the most deprived population, a complete account of the hungry population should be maintained. Breakfast should also be provided with the existing 'mid-day meal' programme, thus ensuring education and nutrition for our people. Initiatives such as "Indira Canteen"

and "Amma Canteens" must be encouraged to increase the availability of quality food at a lower cost. Migration remains as the biggest roadblock in ensuring food security through ration cards, therefore legalizing the ration facility everywhere in the country through 'One Ration Card' is inevitable. A separate "Ministry of Hunger and Malnutrition" should be formed to implement and check the developments in the field. Such measures can drastically decrease the hunger and malnutrition rate and create healthy and resourceful population.

### **Eco-friendly and Sustainable India**

The floods, droughts, landslides, heatwaves, storms, human-wildlife conflicts are the most underrated but important problems of India. Floods and Droughts have become common these days posing a great threat to our existence. Just in this monsoon season the landslides and floods took more than 900 lives and severely hit millions of people in the 16 states of India. About 69 lakh people in Bihar and 57 lakhs in Assam have been affected by floods, displaced or marooned. Millions across India have lost their habitat, livestock and livelihood, taking shelter in thousands of relief camps run by state authorities. The flood alone has resulted in the destruction of properties worth millions

creating an economic burden for the Governments. While monsoons threaten with floods summers are being dangerous with draughts and heatwaves. In India, around 68% of the country is prone to drought in varying degrees. 35% which receives rainfall between 750 mm and 1125 mm is considered drought



prone while 33% receiving less than 750 mm is chronically drought prone severely affecting more than 500 million Indian farmers. 65% of India's population were exposed heatwaves in 2019 killing more than 100 people. These problems are increasing year-by-year and it should be stopped.

An immediate assessment of the prevailing conditions should be done. The reports by Gadgil and Kasthoorirangan should be implemented to save the Western Ghats from the brink of collapse. Mangrove forests should be conserved and technological advancements in predicting natural disasters should be encouraged. Instead of weakening the EIA by draft of 2020, a much more enabled EIA implementation should be followed. A Green Army should be setup to prevent the nature and ecosystem, the green army should be the extension of the disaster management troops in rescue operations in case of any disasters. New commissions should be formed to study on the floods and draughts and prevention plan must be drafted and implemented as soon as possible. The Wildlife Protection Acts and Environment protection Acts must be amended to expand the jurisdiction of protection. A separate "Ministry for Tribal Affairs" must be formed to meet the requirements and protection of the indigenous tribal population of our Country.

## Strengthening Health Infrastructure of India

The unprecedented entry COVID 19 Pandemic to the Global Community has shook the whole world and has created an existential angst among us. Globally the Corona Virus has claimed more than 7 lakhs, claiming 46 thousand lives from India. It has infected more than 2 crores people forcing people to stay in homes and governments to implement strict lockdown measures. In India the cases

hit 23 lakhs, and is raising exponentially. Even though India has an upper hand in controlling the mortality rate, the difficulty to meet the healthcare provision for its massive population has been extremely difficult. India had gone through the acute shortage of masks, PPE kits and ventilators. Low quality ventilators and ineffective PPE kits are risking the lives of the people and the healthcare servants. Thus, it has been very evident why strong healthcare infrastructure is important India. It's not just during the COVID period, even before the pandemic has hit us, the healthcare in India was degrading. 'Tracking Universal Health Coverage: 2017 Global Monitoring Report', a new report by the World Bank and the World Health Organization released on Wednesday has revealed around 5.5 crores of people have been pushed into poverty due to increased medical expenditure. The increased medical expenditure in private hospitals and lack of facilities in public hospitals have left marginalized population with no hope. The Development of Health infrastructure is of high importance as it reduces the out of pocket expenses of people, thus increasing effective demand and boom of economy. It also enables the marginalized communities to avail better medical facilities. Increasing the government spending on Healthcare is inevitable. The pharmaceutical



industry of India must be enabled to increase quality production to compete with global pharma giants, a high availability of Pharma workforce will make India a leading pharmaceutical manufacturing country thus reducing the cost of medicines and empowering the healthcare sector of India. Medical educations should widespread and cost effective and an extensive campaign on health awareness is also important. A Kerala Model of health infrastructure should be assessed and implemented throughout India. A better healthcare workforce with an enabled health infrastructure will strengthen India's fight in eradicating diseases and forming a developed and healthy population.

## Conclusion

The Greatest strength of India lies in its Unity. If we want our India be a global super power

and lead the world it is really important that we shed the differences among us and work for the betterment of India as a whole. We must understand the reality of India and focus on the real problems, because unless we understand the problems, we cannot tackle them. We shouldn't be lost in the illusionized reality of the "Rhetoric India", but instead should be vocal for the real issues of the "Realistic India". That's where as a country we succeed, that's when the united diversities of this great land become an example for the world. The Vision for this country is in its Unity, and the unity lies in the diversities♣

- **AKASH N SHAJI, Diocese of Puttur**  
(This essay won the 2nd prize at the National Essay writing competition)



## RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

Rights of students must be liberal and not solely focused on 'I, Me, Myself' igniting the qualities of team spirit, unity, leadership while also making them aware of things happening around them, therefore helping the students develop a keen sense of understanding towards their rights.

It is not only about the rights but also the duties that come along with it, as it is essential for every student to not just know their rights but also their duties and responsibilities. For only, if the students are made aware of their rights now, will they be able to become responsible citizens of tomorrow. Hence, students must be aware of their rights and involve themselves in various camps, social activities, joining philanthropic organizations as volunteers and also to become a responsible citizen. Students should also be encouraged to take up post in college and school union elections. Students knowing their own rights will help them create their own identity not only for themselves but also for the society.

Thank you

**Anusha, Tamilnadu**  
NEXCO



# ARTICLE

# CHANGE IS PAINFUL



**Lizan Meryl Pereira**  
Miyar, Udupi

“Change can be painful. But dealing with it is definitely wise”. For the past few months, we have been dealing with the messed-up schedule of offline and online mode of education. A change that we never dreamt of even in our wildest dreams. There has been a long break from our usual routine and now we are slowly getting back to it. Change is the rule of the Universe and adapting to it is the only way out. Most of our Schools and Colleges have begun and some are going to begin shortly. The environment is not going to remain the same. We have to take precautions and remain safe so that we remain healthy and contribute in building a new and healthy society.

Returning to schools have set up new obstacles in our way. Some of us may enjoy going back while most of us would rather stay at home and attend online classes because we are so much adjusted

to the new normal that sitting in a physical class entire day seems like a big task. Apart from this, the teachers also find a massive divergence in the participation of students which I discovered while having a chat with my English Professor. He says that he finds the enormous energy missing that the students once had, which is indeed sad. But physical classes are much more effective than the online classes because we can interact and concentrate which lacks in virtual classes.

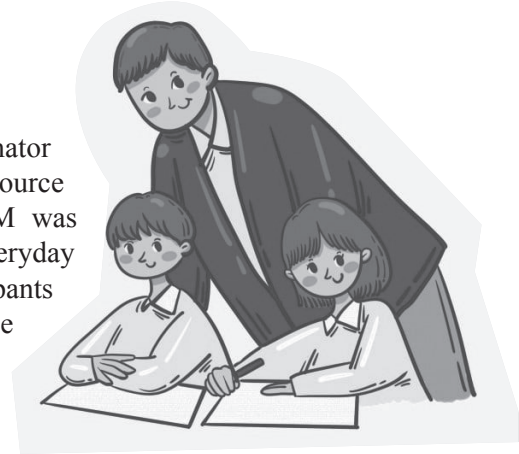
John Maxwell says, “Change is inevitable. But growth is Optional”. Amidst this pandemic our lives have remained still, with no much growth happening because of the circumstances that were

laid before us. But now things are changing, they are slowly getting back to normal. We shall take this as a step to jump higher. Let us take full advantage of the offline classes, clear our queries, build strong companionship with our friends, meet our juniors, help our friends in need and thus let us set up an example to everyone fearing to attend classes. The fear is definitely justifiable therefore Let’s not forget to follow social distancing, wear masks and sanitize ourselves. Let’s just pray and hope that we students succeed in adapting to this normal and help in the formation of a new society. ♣



# National Students Leadership Training Programme 2021- report

Due to the prevailing situation of COVID-19 in the country the NSLTP 2021 was organised online using the youth commission e-learning portal from January 7 to 9. A total of 45 students, animator and diocesan chaplains were part of this programme. Resource materials, vidoes and other information related to YCS/YSM was uploaded in the portal for the participants to get access of it. Everyday in the evening there was a live interactive session with the participants and different esteemed speakers who had well versed knowledge about the movement explained and cleared the doubts of the participants. A brief report of the live session is presented here. The live session took place from 5: 30 pm to 7pm everyday.



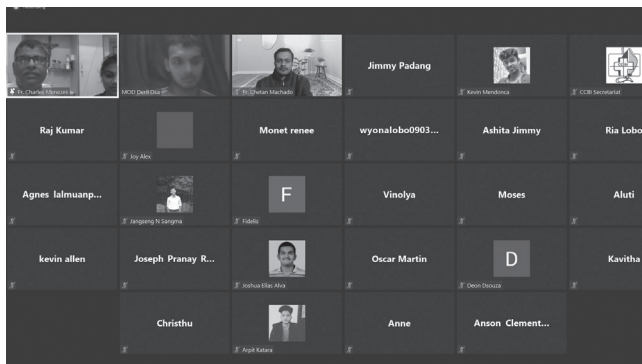
## Day 1 (January 7)

The first day of virtual NSLTP began with the session by Mr. Leo Joseph, former NEXCO from Tamilnadu region. He spoke on the meaning and importance and the history of YCS/YSM. He shared testimonies and stories of himself and others who have been part of the movement to motivate the participants to be an active YCS/YSM'ers by changing themselves and inspiring others to change. After the session there was an interaction between the participants and the resource person where many asked and clarified their doubts. After the session Fr. Chetan, National Chaplain gave a few instructions and guidance about the portal and other things to be followed.

## Day 2 (January 8)

On the second day there were 2 sessions starting with Fr. Anil D'Sa (IYCS Asian chaplain and Youth director of Bangalore Archdiocese). He spoke about the methodology of YCS/YSM that is 'see - judge - act' and how the participants can implement it in their day to day life to be the change. He also spoke about how one can be a role model to others just by doing small things with

great determination. After his session, two former YCS/YSM NEXCOs Mr. Melwyn Titus form Nagpur and Ms. Jevsita Qudras from Mangalore shared their experience, how the movement has changed their lives and helped them to earn an identity. After their sharing there was a interaction between all the participants and the resource persons. The participants asked many questions and were motivated after listening to them.



## Day 3 (January 9)

The last day of the NSLTP 2021 live session began with the testimony sharing by Mr. Jimmy Padang, former National President from the Northeast region. He shared about his past life and how YCS/YSM has changed his life completely. He also explained how he grabbed the opportunities which helped him enhance his skills. After his session there was an active interaction between him and the participants. After his session Fr. Charles Menezes, former National and International Chaplain of YCS/YSM took a session on Spirituality of YCS/YSM. He explained each aspect so that the participants could understand the spirituality of the movement. In the interaction part many asked their doubts and questions and got clarification from Fr. Charles.

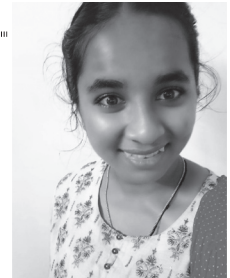
NSLTP 2021 was on a virtual platform and after attending a lot of online classes and webinars students were exhausted. But the participants who registered for the training were very active and serious about the programme. The NEXCOs conducted the programme. They welcomed the speakers and thanked them everyday and also introduced them. The former NEXCOs were also involved in this and they contributed by sharing their experience in the movement.

In the end Fr. Chetan thanked all the participants and resources persons for their active participation and asked them to be active for the betterment of the movement and its members. Mr. Deril Dsa proposed the vote of thanks and concluded the NSLTP 2021.



## EXPERIENCE-NSLTP

From 7-9 January 2021 we had the first ever virtual NSLTP programme. When my seniors informed me about this programme I was in a doubt whether to attend it or not just because I'd felt that it would be boring & just a waste of time. But I was proved absolutely wrong. The three days programme was totally different than I expected and gave me a lot of knowledge. All thanks to my seniors for advising me to attend.



Speaking about the programme, it was an entire bundle of knowledge, guidance, help, advice rolled up into one. I got to clear my doubts, sort out my queries on spirituality & also got a chance to listen & apply to the experiences of many YCSers. I myself didn't know much about the advantages of being in YCS/YSM movement, but through this programme I learnt that this has to do a lot with my life. Our aims in life may be different but when we apply 'see judge and act' our methodology, life becomes meaningful. This is my learning from NSLTP. I am pretty sure that this will always guide me through my life .

Hoping for such more opportunities to develop myself.

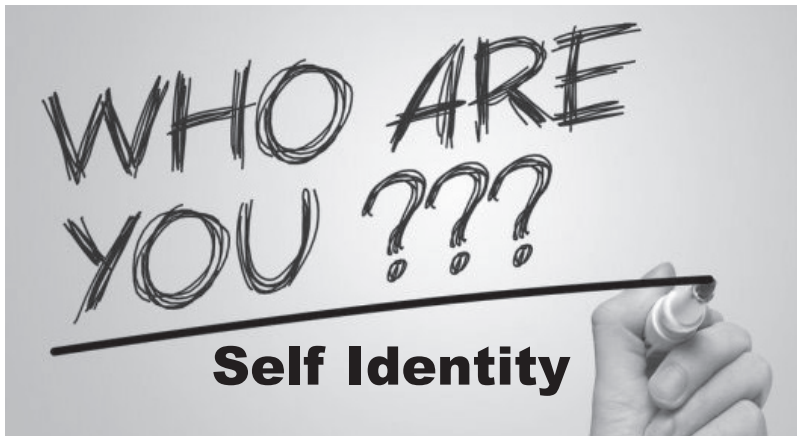
Thank you !

*- Wayona Lobo, Udupi Diocese*





**Agnes Lalmuanpuii.**  
Secretary, Aizawl Diocese



As the world revolves day by day, human life also changes extraordinary; physically and mentally, our beliefs and lifestyle and this helps us to go through a lot of experiences. But some people live without knowing the purpose of their life in this world, they don't even know why they are living. In order to know the purpose of our life, we all must ask these questions constantly and find an answer. – 'Who am I? , Why am I here?, What is the purpose in life?'

To the questions above you can say; I am a girl or a boy, I am a famous person ,,, a simple person ,,,, a great scholar ,,, a scientist ,, or a religious. But people who worked hard, stood first in any position and became a great person know exactly who they are because they had a purpose to live or to become someone in life and society. They have achieved their goals by constantly answering these questions. Not knowing what we are and who we are is one of the reasons why we fail.

'Why am I here?; Why are we existing in this world? ; Are we're here only to die ?; No! It's a big 'NO'. Let us all believe that GOD has a plan for each one of us, we will see it and know it if we listen to his words. He gives us a purpose to live only when we listen to his Word and live according to his plan for us.

Today there is a big identity crisis that young people are facing. Because of the media influence, one lives in a fake identity. People want to change their gender, their looks, their body etc. We need to understand that God has made us in his own image and likeness and we are unique in his creation. Most of the times we are not happy with ourselves and want to change the way we look. This is one way of losing our identity given by God.

So let us all know that we all have the one uniform identity i.e., 'we are children of God', Let us all learn to love the way we are, and love others as God made each one of us lovingly, Let us all try to become the best versions of ourselves. In that way we can inspire and change others by changing ourselves first. I hope we can truly build a just society, God's kingdom.





Search  
Search

REPORTS

## NORTHEAST

**YCS/YSM Covid-19 Relief Program:** YCS/ YSM North East India in collaboration with YCS/YSM India on 26 November 2020 organised Covid-19 relief programme for the people at Gobordhan village, Guwahati. YCS/YSM students' members and animators reached out to 150 families with essential commodities like rice and dal. Students interacted with students and elders and listened to their stories of difficulties



experienced by them during the pandemic. The people expressed their gratitude for the help rendered by the students' movement.

## KARNATAKA

### Report of YCS meetings after Covid 19 Break (Udupi Diocese)

Covid 19 had resulted in economic & social disruption. Due to the pandemic, there was lockdown since March 2020 and this continued for months together. This indeed has resulted a tough period for all of us due to social distancing etc.

After the Covid 19 break, our YCS meet was first held on 13.12.2020. The first meeting did not have a large number of members, but since then every Sunday the numbers have been increasing and there is active participation from all the members. Our Parish Priests and animators have been motivating us with talks, games and activities.

**13.12.2020** – During this meet election for the new YCS Council 20-21 was held. Members of YCS were divided into 2 cells. Each cell was assigned a leader and an animator. YOUCAT books were distributed to new members during this meet.

**27.12.2020** – During this meet Fr. Charles explained us the methodology of YCS (See-Judge & Act). We were given different situations and explained on how we can be aware, analyse and take action in different situation as an individual and a group. We were explained the essence of YCS and how we can benefit from it for shaping our character.



**03.01.2021** – Oath taking ceremony of the new YCS Council was held on this Sunday. All the office bearers were wished and congratulated. A workshop on “See-Judge-Act” was conducted. The youth along with the animators took active part in the workshop.



The youth were introduced to the former National Secretary of YCS Mrs. Jovita Dsouza. She shared her experience of being in YCS family and how it has benefitted her. She briefed about how we can manage time and lay a balance between studies and other extra curricular activities. We personally felt that being in YCS group will only benefit us and add to our competence.



**17.01.2021** – Fun activities and follow up on “See-Judge-Act” was initiated during this meet. Our Assistant Parish Priest (Fr Ashwin) informed us about the YCS/YSM newsletter “The Search” and encouraged us to read the articles and poems and also contribute towards the newsletter.

**24.01.2021, 31.01.2020 & 07-02-2021** – During these meets we were informed on various programmes and activities which would be conducted. Various activities like quizzes, enact a parable, “See Judge & Act” etc were planned. We were also informed about the *Yuva Samavesh* Programme that would be organised for the youth of Udipi Parish by ICYM members.

**14.02.2021** – “*Yuva Samavesh*” was a well organised programme in which more than 90 youth members had taken part among which 27 members were from YCS. All the youth also took part in the Eucharistic celebration. We had fun activities, games and talks on Youth & Media (conducted by Fr. Royson Fernandes) and personality development (Fr. Alwyn Dsouza) were conducted. This Programme gave us an insight on our responsibility as a youth towards our community and Society.



**Conclusion** – Other than the usual Sunday meetings, G.K quiz was conducted by our cultural secretary on regular basis. This helps us to interact and stay in touch in the group during the weekdays.

A long Break from the usual way of being Social has shown us the importance of the community Gatherings. YCS is teaching us on how we can improve ourselves, enhance our leadership qualities and be responsible for our actions.

5

**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.]*

**YCS/YSM lives on...**

The times and events that we face in India today threaten the security of the individual, joyful living in a family, peace in our communities and unity as a nation. Real solutions to our problems will not arise from leaders who profit from peoples' problems; they will not come from 'followers' of unthinking crowds who just grab opportunities to enrich themselves. The young leaders of today can and should propose and build a solution today for tomorrow's India. They have the thinking power; they remain unaffected by the hypocrisy of the world around; innocence, sense of justice and thirst for life are their strength. The YCS/YSM movement unifies and focuses their strength and resolve for purposeful action.

YCS/YSM lives on to its commitment. Last year I visited some of the YCS/YSM leaders in Tamilnadu.

**YCS/YSM India is grateful to Irudayam, our former chaplain for sharing memories with us.**

- Lily, a long time secretary in YCS national office, Chennai is now working towards building a national non-political movement of people.
- Christie, a full time student leader with her husband Peter (former AICUF leader) has built a model school and vocational training for children of a cluster of villages near Trichy.
- Nicholas, a YCS animator with his team of past YCS leaders is working with the Farmers Movement in Tamilnadu.
- Ms. Bala, a YSM animator is developing a model agricultural farm with village young people.
- We are all aware that Sister Jeanne herself championed the cause of unorganized house workers first in Bombay and then all over India to the effect of bringing about laws to protect their rights and dignity.

Many of us may not achieve big things in life. We can change out little worlds around us. I worked for 30 years with the poor and disadvantages students and youth in the Bronx, New York.

This is YCS/YSM. It is life changing. Once it moves you, you do not stop. You move others.



## CASE STUDY



Recently, when schools reopened Mary (class XI) didn't want to go to school anymore. She was a brilliant student and was doing well. She used to stand first or second in class. During the lock down, her parents did not allow her to meet friends, use phone to talk to friends, watch movies, play games etc.

She was told to study all the time. She did her online classes in the morning and her parents arranged online tuitions in the afternoon. Most of the evenings she spend on her homework. When schools reopened, she went to school reluctantly and teachers found her behaviour very disturbing. She got irritated, angry and restless. She wouldn't meet any friends. Now she has no friends. Everyone thinks she is sick, stressed or has anxiety. How to help Mary?

### 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*

## National Chaplain's Activities

1. 1 January - New Year Day - Mass for youth at Bethania
8. 8-9 January - NSLTP - online for YCS/YSM leaders
9. 11-15 January - Youth Ministry Course in Jalandhar
10. 22-25 January - Ymap online course - youth at risk.
11. 24 - 29 January - At Bethania - office work
1. 7 February - Visit To Yuvagram - Nagpur
2. 9 February - FCRA work in Delhi - new account at SBI
3. 10 February - CBCI Youth Council meeting - online
4. 12-13 February - Seminar (webinar) on Fratelli Tutti - online
3. 17-20 February - Ymap online course - Youth and Media
5. 18-22 February - Accounts work and office work
5. 26 -28 - February YCS/YSM Live in and NT/EXCO meeting, Delhi

### Future Programmes:

1. 6 March 2021 - ICYM Council Meeting online
2. 17-20 March 2021 - Ymap - Social consciousness
3. May -June 2021 - NTA EXCO meeting of YCS/YSM
4. 30 May-1 June 2021 - NEXCO meeting - ICYM - Bangalore
5. 2-12 June 2020 - Animators & Chaplains Programme, Bangalore



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## MY GREATEST FEAR



I really don't know from where to start ,  
But I'll try to pour down everything from my heart.  
My greatest fear is extremely vast  
It continues to live in the present from the past.

**I fear for my fear of numerous thoughts,**  
An internal battle between my mind and heart, which was once fought.  
Over thinking being a weapon used by my mind,  
With a single blow, it won and nothing could rewind.

A fragment of my mind is concerned for the Earth,  
A gift of God , a place where we all take birth.  
Our cruelty and ignorance has made her weak,  
**I fear one day we might starve for the resources we seek.**

A fragment of my mind is concerned for the nation,  
Why can't we be liberal and overcome discrimination ?  
**I fear for one , I fear for all ,**  
Let's be united for if divided we may fall.

*Sandra Castelino  
won the second prize  
in the English Poetry  
section.*

I fear for the homeless, I fear for the indigent,  
Mockery and pain was what most of us had lent.  
Hunger and thirst was the treasure they earned,  
They received darkness in the flames in which empathy was burnt.

Why wasn't a man helping a man survive?  
Some called it to be the hard truth of life.  
Nothing is permanent not even this truth,  
So let's do our part for **yes we are today's youth.**

God asked us to not to fear,  
Let's overcome them all and shed no more tears.  
He has redeemed us and called us by our name,  
**With him I can cross all hurdles, I proclaim.**

~Sandra Castelino, Lucknow



## HAPPINESS PANDEMIC 2.0?

Everyone's selecting their playlist on Spotify  
Whilst here in real life what can we mollify?  
They say chase your goals and money  
But they don't have time to laugh  
Ain't that funny  
Kids out here want to be cool  
And end up being made fools  
Emotions aren't valued anymore  
Everyone's turning into a bore  
What's the use of a great career  
With no time to smile  
What you can see aren't happy faces  
Just piles of files  
Even the beggar out there is happier than you  
Because he smiles more and his comforts are a few  
Ever wondered why stress tops the list?  
We aren't finding our clear sky  
Because everything's nebulous  
So throw your masks away  
Clear your mind's dirt like a brand new day  
Follow your dream and make God your strong beam  
Because once on him you lean  
The worst storms in life will pass like a dream  
So the pursuit of happiness  
Is finding the path to godliness  
Create your own definition of happy  
Sift answers that are crappy  
Focus on peace at the end of the day  
Because in peace and joy will happiness lay.

~ *Elika Dsouza, Goa*

*Elika D'Souza won the first prize in the English  
Poetry section.*



# YCS/YSM INDIA ACTIVITIES



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