



UJWALA

Annual News Letter
April 2016

ST. JOSEPH'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#23, Vittal Mallya Road,
Bengaluru - 560001

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing. This success is what you can experience in the stories of SJCC which has been brought to light in the form of "UJWALA" - our annual news letter.



It gives me great pleasure to edit UJWALA(2015-16) brought out in the form of annual news letter. The newsletter will focus on the year's activities right from the inauguration of the academic year to internship and placement. This year was full of activities both curricular and co-curricular.

The newsletter will give an insight into the functioning of the community college for interested fraternity of students, parents, partners, friends and well wishers and academia. More interesting by far, however, is what's within it. It's filled with fascinating people - students, faculty and staff doing incredible work. It's an honor to spotlight the success of our students.

Conceptualizing, designing, and writing articles have been a team effort and I thank all students and colleagues who have contributed towards the newsletter. So many stories, so little time, such good memories and we do not mind capturing them all.

So sit back and turn the pages as the academic year 2015-16 of SJCC unfolds before you.

Neetha Veronica A.
Editor

MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



WE HAVE A DREAM.....

In our dream we see thousands of students healthy, strong, vibrant, bubbling with energy, creative, spontaneous and cheerful going to St Joseph's Community College, getting educated, picking up skills, finding employment and becoming useful, concerned and committed citizens. We see young people having a goal in life, gainfully employed and contributing to the welfare of the communities as agents of social change.

Our dream is to see our students becoming doctors, engineers, police officers, government officials, politicians and CEOs of private enterprises. We wish to see the students of today who are the adults of tomorrow taking up leadership initiatives to bring about a change in the mentality, value system, cultural conditioning and social customs so as to contribute effectively to the economic growth, educational progress and social development as

Fr. Anil D'Mello SJ
Rector

St. Joseph's Indian Institutions, Bangalore

"Dream is not that which you see while sleeping, it is something that does not let you sleep."

— A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,
Wings of Fire:
An Autobiography

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Bernard Shaw once said, "Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will." That is truly the journey of St. Joseph's Community College (SJCC). Anything new that comes up in the college is the fruit of imagination and hard labour. The annual newsletter "Ujwala" is one such creation. The purpose of it is to help our students to carry home and treasure the memories of their one year skill training at SJCC. It is also a medium to share the news and events, success and achievements of the college with our industry partners, well-wishers and friends.



It is truly a moment of great joy as 2015-16 batch of students are successfully completing their skill training. I am sure the trainees are thrilled to launch a new journey in their life of being employed in a Company or Industry. I wish all our students the very best.

It has been a wonderful year with lots of new initiatives and activities. Having gone to USA during the year on "Community College Administrators Program" I had the privilege of sharing the best practices of our college with our counterparts in USA as well as learning their best practices. 110 years' celebration of the entire institution was really a gigantic one which made all staff and students really get involved and showcase their best of the abilities. "Fusion" - sports and cultural fest and College excursion to Wonderla have been memorable events of the year for our students. Internship has made all our students to wake up to the realities of working conditions.

What is most cherishing is to hear from our students saying, "SJCC has changed my life." Of course, the role of management and staff is paramount in bringing about such a change in the students. I wish that all the students of 2015-16 batch turn out to be wonderful persons, skillful employees and future entrepreneurs.

Fr. Melwyn Lobo SJ
Director

St. Joseph's Community College, Bangalore

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2015-16

FIFTEEN DAYS INTENSIVE ENGLISH COURSE



The academic year began with a 15 days Intensive English course for all students from 1st of July to 17th July 2015. The students were equipped with thorough

speaking, writing, reading and listening skills.

STUDENT COUNCIL



As the student storm into their respective classes, the activities of the college got colorful. The student council was formed on 1st August 2015. The elected student representatives are *Sandesh D'souza* President, *Ismail Hoque* Vice President, *Supriya Kotekar* Cultural Secretary, *Inmanuel Derrick* Sports Secretary, and *Maria D'souza* Academic Secretary. The student council was ably coordinated by Fr. Deepak.

INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR



Inauguration of the academic year was held on the 3rd August, 2015. The Rector Fr. Anil D'Mello who was the Chief Guest of the program motivated the students to be persons of character and learn at least a skill to come up in life. The Director Fr. Melwyn Lobo welcomed the students with some words of advice and informed them about the staff members and gave them guidelines regarding the life in the College.

HOUSE ACTIVITIES

To encourage healthy competition and participation, students were grouped into four houses. The four houses are St. Joseph's, St. Xavier's, St. Ignatius', and St. Theresa of Calcutta.



Academic, Sports and Cultural activities were conducted houses wise on every first Saturday of the month.

SEMINAR ON PEER PRESSURE



On 8th of August 2015, a workshop on "Peer Pressure" was conducted by the Parikrama Trust. The Seminar enabled the students to

understand the influences of peer pressure in their lives.

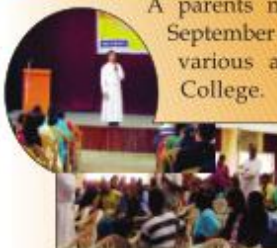
TEACHERS DAY CELEBRATION



On the 5th of September 2015, the students put up a classy program for the teachers which included fun filled games and quiz. The college management also felicitated the staff

for their selfless service rendered to the institution.

PARENTS MEETING



A parents meeting was called on 12th September 2015, to brief the parents on various aspects of the Community College. The meeting helped the parents to understand what Community College is and their role in the progress of their ward. Another one to one parent-teachers meet was also held on 26-01-16.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2015-16

WORKSHOP ON UGC C.C'S and B.VOC. CENTRES

A one day workshop on Review, Evaluation and Action Plan for UGC Community Colleges and B.Voc centres for the states of Karnataka, Andhra, and



Telangana was organized by Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education and Mount Carmel College (Autonomous), Bangalore on 29th September, 2015 and was attended by Fr. Deepak K, Assistant Director of SJCC and Mr. Vijay Prasanna staff of SJCC.

DIRECTORS VISIT TO US



Fr. Melwyn Lobo SJ, the Director of the College attended a six week "Community College Administrator Program" in

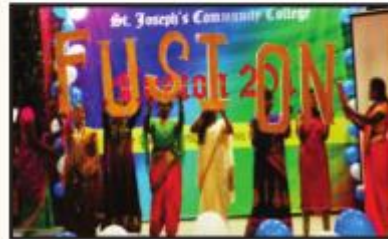
USA, Florida from 20th September to 30th October 2015. It was organized by the US State Department, in collaboration with Florida State University and Santa Fe College. Fr. Melwyn was one of the 15 participants who attended the program. It was an exposure to six well known Community Colleges in the US and to learn the best practices from those community colleges.

SRIJANA - A TALENT SHOW



The students were given a platform to showcase their talent individually through SRIJANA - a talent show on 3rd of October 2015. Srijana really brought out the talents of the students to the forefront.

FUSION - AN INTERHOUSE FEST



A much awaited "FUSION" an inter house competitions were held on the 3rd and 4th of December 2015.

Students participated in various academic, sport and cultural events and exhibited great sportive spirit. St. Xavier's house was the overall champion of the event.

CHRISTMAS



On the 22nd of December 2015 the college celebrated Christmas. Fr. Deepak along with the hostel

students put up a Christmas tabloque which conveyed message of the birth and life of Jesus.

110 YEARS CELEBRATION



St. Joseph's Indian institution celebrated its 110th year in the month of January 2016. On this special occasion the institution had organized a

thanksgiving Eucharist on 10th January 2016. It was celebrated by Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao S.J., the Bishop of Shivamogga. On the same day an Alumni meet was also organized and thousands students came together as one band. On 12th January 2016, it was a cultural extravaganza depicting the journey of the institution through a presentation named "PAYANA" - yesterday, today and tomorrow.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 2015-16

SEMINAR ON ADOLESCENCE DEVELOPMENT



2016. They discussed with students the various struggles of the present day youth.

A seminar on Adolescence development was organized by members of Sampurna Montfort College, Bangalore on 13th February

WORKSHOP ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP



Australian High Commission, New Delhi organized by University Grants Commission.

Our Director Fr. Melwyn Lobo attended a three day workshop on Vocational Education and Leadership from 16th to 18th February 2016 at the

CONFERENCE ON CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



Mr. Premdeepak, staff of SJCC participated in the workshop

The ICRDCE in collaboration with Montgomery College, Maryland, USA jointly organized an International Conference on

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS



The "Y's Men International" of Jayanagar block, Bangalore organized a Scholarship Award Ceremony. During the ceremony they handed over a scholarship cheque to the Director of SJCC.

INTERFACE MEETING WITH MONTGOMERY COLLEGE EXPERTS



March 2016 in Loyola College, Chennai. The US experts shared their expertise on best practices of community colleges in US.

Mr. Vijay Prasanna, staff of St. Joseph's Community College attended an Interface Meeting of Indian Community Colleges with US Community College Experts on 6th

EXCURSION TO WONDERLA



Students had a memorable one day trip to "Wonderla" on 8th March 2016. All staff and students made sure that they did not miss any fun and play during excursion.

WORKSHOP ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY(CSR)



(Skill for Progress) at Don Bosco Skill Mission, Bangalore. The objective was to build capabilities for potential CSR partnerships.

Ms. Neetha, staff of SJCC had been to a day's workshop on "Corporate Social Responsibility-Linkages" on 18th of March 2016 which was organized by SKIP

INTERNSHIP



All our students were into internship from 21st of March till 9th of April. They had a real work experience of being employed in a company. They felt the worth of doing internship as they were promised job opportunities immediately after training.

JOB NET & ALUMNI CONNECT

JOB PLACEMENT



St. Joseph's Community College has a good placement cell. Fr. Deepak J.K, a full time faculty takes care of the placement of students. Every year we do have a campus recruitment drive where reputed companies participate and select our students to their companies. From 2005 to 2015 our college has placed more than 850 students. We not only place students into jobs but keep following them until they are well settled in their jobs.

JOB NET



"Right job for the right person at the right time" is the objective of Job Net. Job Placement at SJCC has gone online. Jobnet is an online job portal designed to help students find jobs and aid companies to locate best candidates from our college. Job Net allows the students to post their resumes and companies to upload their job vacancies. Uploading is possible at the college website www.sjccbangalore.com only after getting your own login id. There are three separate logins meant for three entities; student, company and management.

If you are a student you can register at Job Net in 3 simple steps.

1. Open the college website and click on Job Net
2. Create your user id and password
3. Post your resume or update it as per your status.

If you are a company looking to hire our trained students, you could register online and create your company profile. Once the company profile has been created, you could directly post vacancies on Job Net. To facilitate verification and authorization of your company profile in Job Net you may follow any of the 2 steps below:

1. Send an official request letter on your letterhead for Job Net authorization by email OR
2. Visit St. Joseph's Community College office and meet Job Net Coordinator and submit the original request letter for Job Net authorization.

FIRST EVER ALUMNI MEET

SJCC organized its first ever Alumni Meet on 3rd April 2016. Nearly 80 former students attended the meet. It was exciting as former students met many of their classmates and teachers after many years. The former students were introduced to online alumni registration as well as online Job Net registration. Alumni office bearers were elected. Ms. Kushbu was elected President, Mr. Kevin Anto as Vice President, Mr. Francis, Ms. Meena and Mr. Naveen were elected members. It was truly a home coming experience.



ALUMNI CONNECT

SJCC alumni is a platform for former students to come together and meet their friends and recall their nostalgic past, adventurous present and exciting future dreams. SJCC wants to connect with the alumni in order that they continue to find help from the college especially in terms of job placements and working for a cause. The alma mater provides ample opportunities of service to the alumni. We welcome all our former students to register themselves in the SJCC alumni association.



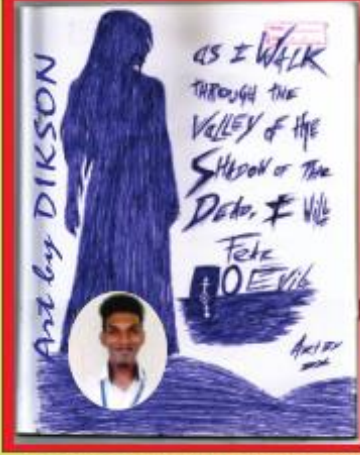
Registering in alumni is quite easy.

1. Open the college website: www.sjccbangalore.com.
2. Click on the alumni logo and register yourself with a username and a password
3. Login with the same username and password and fill in the alumni registration form and submit it. You could update your application whenever your status changes.

I cordially welcome all our SJCC former students to become members of the SJCC Alumni Association.



STUDENT'S CORNER



A SMALL TRUTH TO MAKE OUR LIFE 100%

If A B C D Y Z is equal to 1, 2, 3, 4..... 26

Then,

HARDWORK = H+A+R+D+W+O+R+K
8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98%

KNOWLEDGE = K+N+O+W+L+E+D+G+E
11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96%

LUCK = L+U+C+K
12+21+3+11=47%

LOVE = L+O+V+E
12+15+22+5=54%

Most of us think the above are most important...Then what makes us 100%.....???

Is that money????!!.....No.....!!

MONEY = M+O+N+E+Y
13+15+14+5+25 = 72%

Is our life complete with FRIENDS.....?? No.....!!

FRIENDS = F+R+I+E+N+D+S
6+18+9+5+14+4+19=75%

LEADERSHIP.....???

L+E+A+D+E+R+S+H+I+P
12+5+1+4+5+18+19+8+9+16=97%

Every problem has a solution only if we perhaps change our attitude.

ATTITUDE = A+T+T+I+T+U+D+E
1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5=100%

It is our ATTITUDE towards life and work that makes our Life 100% fruitful and success.

RoshanD'costa
ITES UGC



ಎಸ್.ಜೆ.ಸಿ.ಸಿ (SJCC)

ಸೌರವ್ಯೂಹಕ್ಕೆ ಆ ಸೂರ್ಯನೇ ಕೇಂದ್ರ
ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಜೀವನ ರೂಪಿಸಲು ಈ ಸಂತ ಜೋಸೆಫರ ಸಮುದಾಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ
ವಿವಿಧ ತರಬೇತಿಗಳ ಹೊಸ ಆಶಾಕಿರಣ, ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಸ್ಪೂರ್ತಿಯ ಚಿಲುಮೆ
ನಮ್ಮ ನೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಫಾ. ಮಲ್ಟಿನ್ ಲೋಬೊ

ಕಮ್ಯೂನಿಟಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಎಂಬುದು, ಒಂದು ಸಾಗರದ ಕಲೆಗಳ ತಾಣ
ಇಲ್ಲಿ ತರಬೇತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬರು,
ಮಾರ್ಪಡುವರು ವಿವಿಧ ಸುಂದರ ಶಿಲ್ಪಿಗಳಾಗಿ,
ಜನರ ಬಾಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಮಾಸದ ಈ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಎಲ್ಲದಕ್ಕೂ ಮಿಗಿಲು

ಮುಗ್ಧ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಂದಿಗೂ ಮಾಸದ, ಮುಗುಳು ನಗೆಯನ್ನ ಹೊತ್ತು,
ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಒಂದು ಸುಂದರ ಜೀವನವನ್ನ ರೂಪಿಸುವ,
ಕಾರ್ಯದಡೆಗೆ ಸಾಗುತ್ತಿರುವ ದಿಟ್ಟ ನಿಲುವಿನ, ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಮನಸ್ಸಿನ ಸುಂದರ
ಸ್ವಭಾವವನ್ನ
ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ನಮ್ಮ ನಿಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಪ್ರೀತಿಯ ಫಾ. ಮಲ್ಟಿನ್ ಲೋಬೊ

ನೆತ್ರಾವತಿ (ಐ.ಟಿ.ಇ.ಎಸ್)



KEVIN ANTO WILLIAMS



My name is Kevin. In the year 2011, my family was planning to migrate to Australia while I was studying in 9th standard. Everything was set and planned but due to some unfortunate circumstances the migration didn't happen. I lost interest in studies and failed in my 10th standard in the subsequent year. I was disappointed and had lost sight of my goal. Then my mother enrolled me in St. Joseph's Community College where I found a new lease of life. NLP taught me what life is and after completing my Diploma in St. Joseph's Community College, I enrolled for NIOS and completed my 10th and 12th. Now I work in a company called Mentor Mindz as an office administrator and I am also a part time film maker. I am planning to complete my graduation. Thank you SJCC for helping me rediscover my life.

TINS THOMAS



My name is Tins Thomas, I come from a small village in Idduki, Kerala. I had completed my 12th standard in a government college in Kerala. I then began to look for a job but couldn't find one as I had no skills. My parish priest at a local church recommended me to join St. Joseph's Community College to learn skills. I enrolled myself for diploma in Multiple Skills in 2011-12. I completed training in Retail, Hotel Management and Electrical and Electronics which included Mobile Technician course also. After I completed my course I did an internship with a local mobile service firm and learnt new technologies and updated my skills in this area. I then got a chance to go to Saudi Arabia. There I found employment in "Al Fagath"- A leading mobile company. Thank you SJCC for training me and giving me direction in my life.

RAMYA R.



My name is Ramya. I had joined community college after repeated failures in my PUC. I had applied for many jobs but due to my lack of communication and confidence I was rejected. After joining SJCC in 2014-15 the first thing I gained was confidence. Confidence to believe that I can do something and achieve my goals. In SJCC, I learnt HRM, Office Management, Finance and Accounting and CRM. With these key skills I was able to find a job in Oxford International School as an office admin. SJCC has played an important role in shaping my future. Currently I have completed my PUC and have enrolled for B.Com for better job prospects. One year of my life in SJCC has helped me to take these crucial decisions.

JOSEPHINE RANI



My name is Josephine Rani. I come from a small village in Ooty, Tamilnadu. I am 30 years old. All these years after completing my tenth standard a decade back, I was lost and searching for a job. My relatives made fun of me saying I will not be able to achieve anything in life. I was dejected and didn't know what to do. Luckily I came to know about St. Joseph's Community College and enrolled myself for a Diploma program in ITES. SJCC taught me how to communicate in English and from being reluctant speaker, today I am able to speak confidently, face an audience and can speak without fear. After completing my course I found a job in Don Bosco Social Organization in Bangalore as an office admin. Thank you SJCC for giving me the knowledge and removing fear from my life.

Success is simple. Do what's right, the right way, at the right time.

Arnold H. Glasow



Stories

RANJINI



My name is Ranjini. I am a student of B.Sc from Mount Carmel College. I did not complete my graduation and was at the crossroads not knowing what to do next. I was confused and electronic subjects didn't excite me anymore. I enrolled for diploma in ITES . I was introduced to the fascinating world of HR and instantly took a liking for the subject. All the subjects like finance, HR and Management were new to me but I seamlessly integrated myself with the help of my lecturers who were always there to guide me. Immediately after my course I got a job as HR Generalist in 24X7, a leading MNC. Thank you SJCC for making me a HR.

STEPHEN J.



My name is Stephen J. From childhood my only passion was dancing; perfecting all the moves made me ignore my studies and was not able to clear my tenth standard even after repeated attempts. My parents enrolled me to St. Joseph's Community College. In the college the good teachers suggested that dance could be a good career. Here in the college I formed a dance team and I choreographed and taught dance to the students. The dance troop became winners in an inter-college competition. This gave me confidence to venture out and participate in three TV reality dance shows and I won an event and collected 5 lakhs for the same. Now I am a background dancer in films and choreograph stage shows. Thank you SJCC for recognizing my talent and creating a career for me.

MAHESH



My name is Mahesh; I was a class tenth dropout, with no ambitions and no will to learn. My parents were very disappointed with my casual attitude towards my studies and tried to reason out with me but was of no avail. Then in 2011 they enrolled me in SJCC but I quit midway and I was back to square one again. My parents re-admitted me in 2012 after counseling and this time I had developed a liking for college because the teachers motivated me in a different manner and didn't force me in academics. One of the skill courses that fascinated me was mobile repairs and I instantly took a liking to learn a lot about smart phones. After completing my course I got a job in a Samsung outlet and worked for two years. Recently, I have been appointed as a head sale for Vivo mobiles. SJCC helped me to give a sense of direction to my life and I have not looked back since then.

ANJU



My name is Anju. I had no inclination towards studies and had failed repeatedly in my 10th standard exams. Then my father who at that time was working in St. Josephs Indian Institutions knew about SJCC and got me admitted in 2012. At SJCC the first thing I learnt was to be disciplined which I felt I had not acquired through my life and that helped me focus and learn beautician training which I felt suited me since science and maths were making no sense. Today I work in Naturals and support myself and my father. Thank you SJCC for giving me an occupation.

Success is not the key to happiness.

Happiness is the key to success.

If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Albert Schweitzer

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Redefining 'Community'



Jacintha would not have been pursuing her B. Com today, had she not been at St Joseph's Community College (SJCC) in Bengaluru.

Jacintha came to SJCC in 2010. Hailing from Begur in Bengaluru rural district, she had no clue as to what awaited her after SSLC. Through the guidance of the local church priest, she along with her nine friends, landed up at SJCC. Jacintha had a surprise as her talents were well-recognised. Not only was she trained in English and Computers, but also in swimming, a skill dear to her heart. Her aquatic talents caught the attention of Swim Life Academy, Bengaluru which picked her up as a coach. It transformed her life like never before. Jacintha now could stand on her own feet and earn her living. Along with her role as a coach, she pursued her PU and graduation. Now, besides being a swim coach she dreams of working in a big company in Bengaluru.

Nithesh, who came from a poor fishing hamlet of the coastal belt of Karwar, never dreamt that he would one day be working in ITC Gardenia, an international hotel in Bengaluru. Though he had done his ITI (an industrial training course), he was still hunting for a job. He chanced upon some information about SJCC and joined the college to pursue a course in Hotel Management. Soon, he was picked up through the campus recruitment to be employed in ITC Gardenia. A year has passed, and Nithesh has not looked back since and is confident of a great career ahead. These are but a few transforming life stories that have emerged out of SJCC, which recently celebrated its decennial anniversary. However, there are many who do not know what a community college is all about.

The concept of Community College is an American invention that began 100 years ago, putting publicly funded higher education at close-to-home facilities. In India, the Community College movement started in 1995. It aims at the empowerment of the disadvantaged through appropriate skill development, leading to gainful employment in collaboration with the local industrial establishments.

The key aspects of the Community College system are access, flexibility, cost effectiveness and equal opportunity. There are two types of community colleges in India. One is the NGO Community College which has been in existence for the last 20 years. The other is the UGC-approved Community College which began in 2013. Community colleges offer three or six months' certificate courses, one-year diploma or two-year advanced diploma in any employable skills.

SJCC was started in 2005 and is presently housed at St Joseph's Indian Institutions in Bengaluru. The College was started mostly to cater to the semi-educated and school dropout youth, in the slums of Bengaluru and in the remote parts of Karnataka, who were struggling to gain a livelihood. For the last ten years, the college has trained more than 1,300 students from various disadvantaged sections of the society in various skills such as hospitality, retail, beauty care, office management, basic computer skills, desktop publishing, photography and videography, spoken English, web designing, hotel management, mobile services, business process outsourcing and information technology enabled services (ITES). The College has enabled them to find jobs in various industries and companies. Among the students trained, most of them are well placed in different industries and companies.

In 2013, SJCC got recognition from the University Grants Commission (UGC) under the Community College Scheme. The College was the brainchild of Fr. Francis Guntipilly, a Jesuit priest. He had seen the plight of the dropout and semi-educated youth in rural areas as well as in the slums of Bengaluru. He felt that a small intervention by equipping them with skills and giving them jobs would give them better livelihood options. Thus was born SJCC.

Fr. Guntipilly worked tirelessly for eight years, building and shaping the College, until he handed over the charge to the next director. In the last two years, SJCC has taken a new shape in terms of establishing new courses with practical curriculum, better infrastructure and hostel facilities, thus attracting more students.

The College has become a beacon of hope to the struggling youth of the disadvantaged sections. When education has become increasingly commercialised, it is heartening to see that SJCC is offering skill training by charging a nominal fee. Moreover, it is further encouraging to see the poor finding their livelihood and shaping their lives.

Fr. Melwyn Lobo S.J (This article was published in Deccan Herald on 8th September 2015).

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Exploring Skilling Edges from US

The concept of skilling has been part of community colleges in the United States of America. Hence, many exchange programmes are organised by the US, bringing together those involved in community college movement across the globe. Recently, one such programme was organised by the U.S Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The programme called 'Community College Administrator Program with India' was a six week exchange initiative held in September-November 2015 for Indian officials from post-secondary vocational and technical institutions. It was executed by Florida State University and Santa Fe College.

A fifteen member delegation from all across India consisting of representatives of State and Central ministry, professors from universities and administrators from various government approved institutes and community colleges participated in this exchange programme. The delegation had an in depth exposure to six well known community colleges in the State of Florida such as Santa Fe College, Tallahassee Community College, Gulf Coast State College, Miami Dade College, Seminole State College and St. Petersburg College. Being part of the delegation provided me with a very unique worldview of the whole community college movement and helped me approach it with a different outlook even in the Indian context.

Skilling in US

Community colleges are the backbone of the US workforce. Besides universities, community colleges play a vital role in educating and training people. Though universities have a set structure, community colleges are quite flexible in nature and have certain interesting features.

In the US, community colleges are institutions which provide open access to higher education. Open access is guaranteed to people of all religions, colour, creed, sex or status. A minimum of high school graduation is the requirement to pursue studies in community colleges. However, a student of high school can simultaneously pursue programmes in community colleges provided s/he completes the mandatory course work. A very interesting aspect is that people who want to pursue second career in their forties or a third career in their sixties approach community colleges. There is multi entry-exits possibilities in community colleges, which help people to plan out their career accordingly. Students can not only pursue career while they study, but can exit the programme after a while for a career and complete the programme at a later stage. People who have no opportunity for education or those who drop out from the school education are provided with developmental education - kind of tuition as we have in India - to complete their high school graduation or its equivalent.

Community colleges in the US act as supportive system for university studies. Students who complete two year Associate of



Arts (AA) degree can transfer his/her credits to the university and complete bachelor's degree with another two years of studies in the university. This seamless transfer of credits has encouraged scores of students to join community colleges. Besides, Community colleges are known for their two year Associate of Science degree (AS) or four year bachelor's degree which provide training in specific sectors skills.

As is seen, community college system in the US is more than just an allied education scheme in the US. They offer high quality education at affordable price. To a large extent, community colleges are government funded and therefore students have very little to pay. Moreover, they are housed with a high quality of infrastructure, machinery and quality staff and resource persons from industry.

Industry partnership is one of the important pillars of community colleges in the US. The advisory board consisting of various stakeholders, including industry partners, determine the curriculum. The advisory board makes the curriculum relevant and makes possible practical training and hands-on experience. The divide between education institution and industry is bridged by the industry partners. The career services form integral part of the industry partnership.

Skilling edges for India

It is not only important to initiate community colleges in India but, it is also equally important to initiate a whole range of new ideas and attitudes required for community colleges. An important value is creating open access for education. There should be vertical mobility i.e., from community college to higher education and horizontal mobility i.e. moving back and forth from a programme to a career and vice versa. Creating a seamless passage in these directions is a need of the hour.

Providing job opportunities is an important aspect in skilling. Industry partnership is a vital cog in establishing community colleges. Having more and more industry partners on the board of studies or advisory boards can definitely increase the relevance of the programmes. Apart from this, internship, job shadowing, hands on experience should be integral part of the community college curriculum. As part of the corporate social responsibility (CSR) every industry should be made to adopt a community college or a regular college to make the programmes relevant to industry.

All these and many more skilling possibilities can be made available to a large section of student population if only government takes pro-active measures and considers community colleges as important and indispensable for skilled education in India. What this means is more funding to such institutions and a putting in place a system of checks and balances. Such measures will go a long way for community colleges to make deliberate contributions towards skilling India.

Fr. Melwyn Lobo SJ (This article was published in ICRDCE, Newsletter number 13, March 2016)

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