

CBCI EDUCATION WEB CONFERENCE
CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN COVID ERA AND BEYOND
CHALLENGES & POSSIBILITIES

Day 5: Apostolic Metanoia

14th August 2020, 11.00 am to 12.30 pm

Chairperson

Archbishop Thomas D'Sousa
Chairperson, CBCI Office for Education and Culture

Moderator

Fr Maria Charles SDB
National Secretary, CBCI Office for Education and Culture

There is deeper introspection in every walk of life during this COVID crisis. We, as members of the Catholic Church shall reexamine our identity as ambassadors of God's Kingdom and passionate disciples of Our Lord. The Church does not exclude the poor, marginalized and all people of God. How do we respond to the cry of the incomeless teachers, aimless students and hopeless parents? Adding to Covid, the introduction of National Education Policy by the government throws greater challenges for us to face.

The pandemic and its impact should serve as a period of purification – metanoia. Our education institutions must probe deeper and revive with new paradigms, praxis and results. The renewal of the Church must provide greater impetus for us to accompany the downtrodden children and young, affirm the competency and contribution of the teachers, account management and administration with transparency and accredit our purpose of existence with the vision of Our Lord to become true instruments of salvation for all people.

MEN AND WOMEN WITH AN INNER FIRE AND A TRANSFORMED (AND TRANSFORMING) VISION

Fr. Joe Mannath SDB, National Secretary-CRI

The Catholic Church has played a pioneering and even revolutionary role in two fields: Education and Medical Care. The present university structure and practices around the world, for instance, owe much to the Church-sponsored centres of education in Europe and America, which became models for what later became universities. We, church people, especially, religious, enter a field of work for

two reasons: (1) Others do not want to do it, either because of fear (e.g., care of leprosy patients) or because there is no money to be made in it (e.g., schools and hospitals in poor rural areas), (2) to do it differently from how others are doing it, namely, to empower the excluded and the marginalized, and build up a just and compassionate society, not to make money on our service. Ours is a mission, not a business. To do this well, we need animators—persons who lead through example, and who motivate and build up others, who, in their turn, truly educate the young. Mere administrators won't do. This demands a spiritual vision and inner fire in us that makes us move from selfish goals like career and comfort to social transformation, and from comfortable mediocrity to a quest for excellence.

PARADIGM SHIFT IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION: 10 NEEDED CHANGES

Fr. Sunny Jacob SJ

Jesuit Education Secretary of South Asia

As Catholic educationists, it is apt that in fast-changing India, we all look at Catholic Education in India, to give new stimulus to the Church's involvement in the field of education. We must be daring to look at the areas that need rectification or more deeper renewal. We must recall the fundamental characteristics of Catholic education, the challenges to Catholic educational institutions are called to respond...Pope Francis says, "Education is not about knowing things or taking lessons but about being able to use three lingos: those of the head, the heart, and the hands... learning so that you can think about what you feel and do, can feel what you think and do, and can do what you feel and think; unity within a person."

The NEP 2020 and the pandemic raises questions about our accustomed ways of i) conducting schools and colleges; ii) of teaching confined to class rooms, iii) role and function of schools in the neighborhood. The pandemic invites us to revisit our identities of nation, culture, religion.

Towards this goal, I propose much-needed Paradigm Shift in TEN (10) areas in our Education.