

INTERLINK

TEACHERS' TEAMS - INDIA

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

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Dreams Never Die...

The theme for this year's seminar was based on the National Education Policy, but my thoughts were never really on the theme. I was lost in a reverie. My stay in Bangalore had given me some time to go through the files of Fr. Herve CSC. And among the many things, so systematically kept, I found his folders; with the words, 'Dreams Never Die'. My mind straight away started humming the song by Cooper Brothers, *'The Dream never dies, just the dreamer, the dream never dies if it's strong...'*

Well, the Teachers' Teams wasn't just the dream of Fr. Herve, it was a dream dreamt together by the pioneers in India. It was their dedication and zeal that brought in people who came to share the dream together. The absence of Fr. Herve from the seminar, and the reduced number of active teachers made me ponder whether Fr. Herve's dream was slowly fading away. Are we still relevant in the present world? Have we lost sight of our goal? If we are still convinced of ourselves, why are we not able to convince others of his and our Dream and bring more teachers to the fold ?

The story of the dog who ran behind the rabbit, while a few other dogs were running because the dog was running is known to us I believe. Are we the ones running because we saw the rabbit or because of others we run?



Let us infuse renewed vigor in our activities as Teachers' Teams' members. Like the Roman mythical god Janus, with two faces, let us look back and look forward. The two faces helped him to look at the past as well as the future. Similarly, let us go back to our roots – look into the seed. For the seed contains the flowers and the fruits. May our introspection help us to redirect ourselves and let The Dream Live on...

Rev. Fr. Sydney Dias
National Chaplain

EDITORIAL

Paradigm Shift in the field of Education - National Education Policy 2020

What does the title mean? The paradigm shift is defined as an important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way. The paradigm shift in education is the various changes that happen in the traditional way of the teaching-learning process.

The National Education Policy 2020 is being implemented to replace/ modify 34 years of previous educational policies! This is the paradigm shift in education that we the Teachers of the Teachers' Teams were called to understand during the 49th National Seminar in May.

To understand better, a brief on the New Education Policy.....India is in the process of making substantial changes to its education system to establish itself as a global power. The recent modifications were implemented to replace 34 years of previous educational policies. The New Education Policy focuses on revolutionizing the current education system by incorporating modern teaching methodologies, embracing technology, and promoting skill based learning. It aims to make education more inclusive, equitable and accessible to all with special emphasis on marginalized communities. The main objective of the New Education Policy is to raise the standard of education in India to a global level, allowing the country to emerge as a leader in knowledge based sectors. This goal is reached by the universalization of education.

There are various revisions to the former education policy with the goal of improving education quality and enabling children to have a good education. To mention a few Principles of the New Policy.....Determine and nurture each child's potential. Providing flexible learning opportunities. Spend money on public education. Improve education quality.

Do excellent research, teach good governance and empower children. Improve children's creativity and logical thinking.

There are major reforms in the policy and the implementation will take time, but we must observe that this is the biggest policy decision in the Indian education system in a long time and long overdue. The policy, if implemented well, will definitely bring a great transformation in Indian education. I should definitely mention the Teachers' Role in the reforms ... Teachers play a pivotal role in driving educational reforms, as they are responsible for implementing interventions, innovations, and policies. As they shape the minds of the next generation, the transformation of our education system depends on the skills and qualities of our educators.

It is essential to create a focused action plan for teachers at every level. NEP emphasizes on the quality of teacher education...Are our teachers prepared to teach our students the skills of the 21st century? Quality teacher education should be our priority to enable and empower our teachers to empower our students.

To conclude, teachers, let us do our best to upgrade ourselves and make the policy a success by raising the education standard.

The policy is vast, it is good to go through the National Policy/ Framework and understand the same. Schools have started orientations on the same.

Let us do that extra bit as part of the Teachers' Team. Let's pray that the NEP will be implemented by all Boards and States. Wishing all the teachers a great and fruitful new Academic Year!

Jacinta Pereira
National Coordinator
Teachers' Teams, India

REPORT OF THE 49TH NATIONAL SEMINAR

15TH MAY - 19TH MAY 2023
DHYANAVANA ASHRAM, MYSORE

15th May 2023

The participants gathered in the conference hall at 6.00 pm. Fr. Sydney, the National Chaplain, began the Seminar with a prayer.

This was the first time we didn't have Fr. Herve Morissette in our midst. He was missed a lot by all present at the seminar. At 6.10 we prayed the rosary, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration at 6.30 pm.

Mrs Delmira Fernandes welcomed the gathering. The National coordinator Mrs Jacinta Pereira gave the introduction. Messages from Suzanne Cahen of Dialogue and Cooperation, Asian Coordinator Rosalinda Francia and Mrs Natty Dsouza were read out by NC Jacinta Pereira. The participants were asked to be punctual for the sessions and activities.

A minute's silence was maintained in memory of late Rev. Fr. Herve Morissette our International Chaplain and mentor, late Maria Thomas and Late Livia Quadros, senior TT members and late John Jerome Melod, former national treasurer.

A brief introduction of the origin, aims and purpose of the TT movement was given especially for the knowledge of the new participants. The participants introduced themselves.

16th May 2023

The day started with the Eucharistic celebration at 7.30 am. Karaikal, Kottar and Kerala teams were in charge of the liturgy. At 9.00 am we had the adoration of the blessed sacrament led by Fr. Sydney.

Each region participated in the adoration in their respective language. Fr. Sudhir gave a talk on the importance of truth in our lives.

At 11.40 am Fr. Sydney took a session on group dynamics. He conducted several activities to show us ways of teaching and learning in groups.

These activities helped us realise that students may have a lot of problems. We as teachers should help them find the solutions. Communication should be clear and proper. Children should be able to trust their teachers. The lives of children entrusted to the teachers should be handled with care. We should not damage the confidence of the child.



At 3.00pm - The activity reports of Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore, North and South Goa, Karaikal, Kerala and Kottar regions were read. The National coordinator Mrs Jacinta Pereira explained what the TT is meant for - The Vision and Mission of teachers team.

After listening to the reports, Fr. Sydney read out the mission and vision statement and said that our focus should be on education imparting the Christian values. Other activities in collaboration with the church can be done separately but we need to strive in the field of education. We can visit the prison, orphanage and old age homes. These should be educational and not just give food and donations. Jacinta clarified that senior teachers are welcome but teachers in service are called so that they benefit from the topics discussed in the seminar and use it in their school.

At 7:30 p.m. we concluded with the Rosary



17th May 2023

The Eucharistic celebration was at 7:30 a.m. The liturgy was done by Goa region. At 9:00 a.m. the resource person Rev. Fr Rohan D Almeida S J arrived.

A brief introduction was given by the National coordinator Mrs Jacinta Pereira followed by the lighting of the lamp where Fr. Rohan, Fr. Sydney, Mrs Jacinta Pereira and our senior members Mrs Justina Rodrigues and Mrs Adilakshmi were invited to light the lamp.

Fr Rohan started his session on the topic of PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.



He said nowadays Education has become very much commercialised, and asked the teachers to reflect on the question, "What is my understanding of knowledge?" A video on the important landmarks of our ancient education was shown.

Another question posed to the teachers for reflection was - "As teachers, what are the challenges we face as we move to a new paradigm shift in the field of Education"? He said, we will have to adapt to the new methods of teaching and learning, more involvement by the students and less talking by the teacher. Lecture method is out, stress is on activity based, skill based, learning by doing methods. He further added that the rich heritage of ancient Indian knowledge has been a guiding light for the policy.

The aim of education in ancient India was not just the acquisition of knowledge as preparation for life in this world but for a life beyond schooling, for the complete realisation and liberation of the self. The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with existence.

Fr. Rohan explained to the teachers how the NEP throws a challenge to the teachers with its paradigm shift in Education. He also explained how we plan to meet this paradigm shift. Conduct in depth and extensive teacher training, provide resource materials to students and teachers, restructure the learning environment and update the curriculum. He also added that we as teachers have a great task and responsibility now with the new paradigm shift in the field of education.



In the evening NC Jacinta Pereira asked the teachers as to who would be willing to continue Fr. Morissette's work of Interlink, a monthly bulletin of Teachers' teams.

Mary Fernandes, a TT member from Goa, volunteered to help Fr. Sydney in compiling the articles for the Interlink. Members were asked to contribute articles for the Interlink. Father also asked the members to volunteer to prepare questionnaires as Fr. Morissette did for each month. Many members accepted the task.



Next year being the fiftieth year of our National Seminar, all RA's were requested to think of how to celebrate fifty years of National Seminar in 2024.

At 7:00 p.m. we prayed the Rosary followed by dinner. Later we had a fun- time with songs, skits and dancing.

18th May 2023

Eucharistic celebration at 7.30 am. Liturgy was arranged by Andhra Region.

At 9.00 am Session continued with Fr. Rohan Almeida. He spoke on the " Aims of Education for the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)".

He said that it aims for a society with individuals who are healthy, knowledgeable and with capacities and values and dispositions to participate effectively and meaningfully in a democracy. The NCF for school education is development based on the vision of the NEP 2020. The NCF addresses education for the age group of 3 to 18 years across the entire range of diverse institutions in India.

He also made the teachers aware of the importance of physical education, Arts Education, Environmental Education and Vocational Education.

He also threw light on the Key principles of good Assessment, and that the NEP will overhaul the education system in India and make teaching and learning vibrant, easier and joyful.

At 6.00 pm the regions were asked to get into groups and plan for the year June 2023 - 24 and submit region wise reports to the National secretary.

The National Coordinator Mrs. Jacinta Pereira presented the accounts of the Souvenir released in 2022 to felicitate Fr. Herve Morissette.

A purse was passed around to collect donations for the TT Corpus fund.

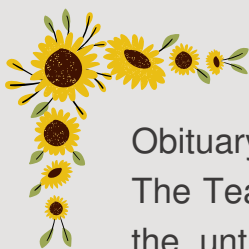
The budget was presented by the National treasurer Mrs. Delmira Fernandes.

19th May 2023

Eucharistic celebration was at 7.30 am. Liturgy was arranged by the Bangalore team. After breakfast everyone was free to go sightseeing around Mysore.

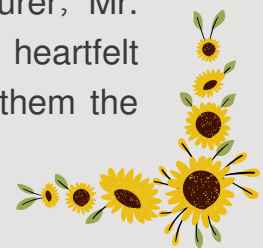
With this the 49th TT seminar came to an end.

N. Anupama Usha Rani
National Secretary
Teachers' Teams, India



Obituary

The Teachers' Teams of India is shocked and very grieved by the untimely demise of our former National Treasurer, Mr. John Jerome Melod of Kottar, KK, Tamilnadu. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family. May God give them the strength to bear this great loss.





Participants after the Eucharistic Celebration on 18th May 2023 with Rev. Fr. Sydney Dias



Participants of the 49th Teacher's Teams National Seminar with the resource person Fr. Rohan D'Almeida.

IMPRESSIONS ON THE NATIONAL SEMINAR

Most Rev. Fr. Herve Morissette's Absence was felt by everyone, on this occasion. The sad news of Mr. Jerome Melod's sudden demise was shocking. Besides Mr. Maria Thomas and Mrs. Livia Quadros also left us. They were all very active members of the Teachers' Team. May their souls rest in Peace.

The Seminar was good. Ambience was just appropriate, calm and cool.

The Resource Person Rev. Fr. Rohan D' Almeida delivered a lot of informative and inspiring material.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Core members for their tireless efforts to see to every comfort and well-being of the participants.

Thank You.

Justiana Lopes Rodrigues.
(North- Goa)



The seminar started with the introductory session on 15th May. On 16th May a recollection session was held during which Fr. Sydney Dias described Judas Iscariot delving into his qualities, personality, and providing insight into the reasons behind his actions. This was followed by another session 'Group Dynamics' during which Fr. Sydney stressed on the type of instructions to be given to the students. A group activity was conducted to show how problems can be solved in a group. He also urged us to be extra careful as we cannot take risks with lives that have been entrusted to us.

On 17th & 18th May, we had a guest speaker Fr. Rohan D' Almeida, Principal of St. Joseph's School, Bengaluru. During this session Fr. Rohan presented a PPT on the evolution of education in India. He mainly spoke on the following:

*Principles of NEP' and *National Curriculum Framework -2023

At the end of the session few teachers gave their feedback on the importance of the session and the need for developing 21st century skilled teachers. I truly enjoyed this seminar and appreciate the efforts of Fr. Sydney, Mrs. Jacinta Pereira and Fr. Rohan to make this seminar successful.

M. SARADA RANI
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

After the formal welcome Jacintha the national coordinator spelt out the do's and don'ts and announced the day's programme. She fondly remembered Fr. Morrisette - our mentor, guide, motivator , inspirational leaderand asked us to take strength from him and march ahead.



Fr. Sydney gave his introductory remarks and had an ice breaking activity, a novel way of introducing ourselves wherein we had to meet teachers from different regions and introduce each other about their interests, hobbies , place of work etc. All of us enjoyed Fr. Sydney's creative session on Group Dynamics and Team building. Many activities conducted helped us to understand that we as teachers should give proper instructions otherwise a child would be confused and frustrated. Thus he gave a fresh perspective to deal with the students. Meditation and adoration conducted by Fr. Sudhir was inspirational.

Our Resource person Fr. Rohan Almeida's session on New Education Policy was very lively and enlightening. He shared his personal experiences of his innovative school activities through videos and PowerPoint presentations. We were truly inspired by his effort.

To conclude we were delighted and happy to attend the seminar and will cherish the joyful learning that we had and convey the knowledge gained by us to the teachers who couldn't attend the same. Since some of us are retired We will use these excellent ideas when we have the retreats for students and at Ponda we retired teachers intend to take extra classes for the orphan girls of St. Mary's convent. We look forward to attending many more such educational, informative seminars.

Ponda Teacher's Team



The 49th National seminar was a booster to the teachers who are still teaching. It was a wonderful session and Fr. Rohan has explained very briefly about the NEP. Earlier in our school I was doing some of the activities which were shown in the clippings. Since 2020 we are following the government text books in which many topic related activities have been given, where the children are able to understand the concept very clearly by looking at the pictures. Now there's less writing work for pupils and activities are more where they can explore themselves. I shared with my co- teachers about the session and I hope we all will follow up what we learned in the seminar and a very big thanks to the National team for choosing this topic.

Rose Ravi
R.A Bangalore

Every year during the summer vacations all the TT members eagerly wait for the National Seminar of TT of India. I can say mainly for two reasons: to learn something which we can take back to our Institutions and secondly to meet all the TT members and exchange warm greetings to each other.



The recollection conducted by Rev. Fr. Sudir and Rev. Fr. Sydney was indeed a good spiritual guidance to all of us which was followed by Adoration. Hymns were sung by different regions.

Then Rev. Fr. Sydney, with great enthusiasm kept the teachers busy and active with his "Group Dynamics" session - A way of learning through group activities. These activities were mind boggling and they can be done during any subject period to motivate the students and create interest in learning.

We teachers enjoyed participating in those activities. Rev. Fr. Sydney concluded the session by advising us to be good resourceful teachers to our students.

After lunch the "Brain Storming " session helped the teachers as few seniors reported how initially the TT worked which helped many to rethink.

Rev. Fr. Rohan Almeida, the resource person for the seminar conducted sessions on the topic National Education Policy which was very well presented.

Though the matter was very vast he covered it up in two days.

The absence of late Rev. Fr. Morissette was felt by all the T T members present.

We consoled ourselves by saying that he must be watching us from above and praying for the TT members to carry on the TT work smoothly.

Maria Fatima Gomes
R.A North Goa.



The Teachers' team of India organised a seminar on National Education Policy 'Paradigm shift in the field of education'. The seminar focused on the important changes that happen in the field of education, mainly the paradigm shift, i.e , When the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way.

The seminar was conducted by Rev. Fr. Rohan Almeida. There were teachers from different regions who attended the seminar, like North and South Goa ,Bangalore, Andhra Pradesh ,Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and so on. This seminar was a very good experience for us.

We had group activities ,brainstorming games, Ice breaking sessions by Fr. Sydney. We got the opportunity to discuss with the teachers of other regions, the various activities they have been doing since this team has been instituted. We got to know about the changing educational policy. Fr. Rohan's session on paradigm shift in the field of education was a breakthrough for the teaching community. After the session we got the opportunity to create an action plan which was very useful to us.

Jobreena K.J.
Kerala

The day started with rosary in the evening, followed by mass. After the formal introduction, the National Coordinator Mrs. Jacinta Pereira briefed about the Do's and Don'ts to be followed in the seminar. Also marked the absence of Rev. Fr. Herve Morissette and Mr. Jerome Melod.



During recollection Fr. Sudhir mentioned that sometimes our students get confused with certain words used by English, History, Science and Maths teachers. English Tr. says that a cell is a small room, History Tr. says that a cell is a prison, then Science Tr. says a cell is the basic unit of life in our body, Maths Tr. says, sell is selling a product. Are we not confusing our students? It really impressed me. Group Dynamics organised by Fr. Sydney Dias was too good. This game showed us the importance of communication. Also the game on writing our problem and solution, kept us all enthusiastic and busy.

The session by Fr. Rohan D'Almeida, on Paradigm Shift in the Field of Education was very useful for us. He explained the main objective of NEP 2020, is to promote holistic experiential, discussion – based, and analysis – based learning. In addition, the NEP 2020 focuses on reducing the curriculum content to make space for critical thinking and in turn, develop individuals with skills instilled in them. He also added that NEP 2020 aims to replace the present 10+2 system with the latest 5+3+3+4. Curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14 and 14-18 years. The main motto of NEP is – Equitable and Inclusive Education.

There was active participation from all teachers. Small group discussions were organised which enabled the teachers to improve their knowledge and understanding of the topic by engaging with the key issues. Within a short time Trs. did their best, as the resource person was very much impressed. He said a Teacher's effectiveness lies in understanding the motivation of the learner. I felt Fr. Rohan is an expert in his field. He has delivered in the right way, it was very meaningful and a need of the hour. The outputs by the resource person as well as the sharing from the participation have surely enriched the members of the TT to take up in the classroom and bear abundant fruits.

Yvonne Fernandes.
RA South Goa



First and foremost, the seminar was enlightening, and even though I am retired I found myself fully immersed in the enriching discussions and presentations. The ambience was perfect for a productive learning environment. The house we stayed in was comfortable, clean, and conveniently located. The hospitality extended by the Carmelite priests and staff was remarkable. The organisers took great care in providing a diverse and delicious menu, catering to different tastes. Fr. Dominic, incharge of Dyanavana Ashram was not only welcoming but also readily available to assist with any queries or make arrangements for transportation.

The seminar venue was located next to the Infant Jesus Shrine, adding a sense of tranquillity and spiritual energy to the entire event. Overall, my trip to Mysore was an unforgettable experience. The combination of attending the seminar in a captivating venue and having the Infant Jesus Shrine nearby, truly was a blessing. The spiritual blessings, cooperative priests, and the opportunity to explore the city's attractions added depth and meaning to the trip. I returned home with a renewed sense of inspiration, gratitude, and a heart filled with cherished memories.

Mary Fernandes
Ponda, Goa.