



Deepti Education Society

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Introduction

“By this everyone shall know that you are my people” (Jn. 13: 35).

Adequate human resource development is a serious concern of the nation. Contribution of the Catholic Church to the human resource ecology of our country is immense. The Church in India has a legacy in playing the lead role in education for centuries.

Human being fully alive is the glory of God. The actualization of the innate potential of the human being through strategic intervention with knowledge input, monitoring and evaluation is thus a divine mission.

As followers of Christ, who is the true master, the way, the truth, and the light (Jn. 14: 6) we have the god-given responsibility to re-create and lead the society from ‘ignorance to truth, from darkness to light, and from death to immortality’(Asatoma sat gamaya, tamasoma jyotir gamaya, mrutyoma amrutam gamaya (Bhadaranyaka Upanishad — I.iii.28). Thus, education is both a temporal as well as a spiritual activity, a Christo-centric pilgrimage.

A generation with the right knowledge equipped with the right attitude, values, skills and behavior is the dream of our education system. This requires a quality education system, where the goals are clearly identified; high standards, skilled teachers, and a well-organized curriculum are in place.

The Church is under an obligation to provide for her children an education as the result of which their whole lives may be inspired by the spirit of Christ. At the same time, She will offer her assistance to all peoples for the promotion of a well-balanced perfection of the human person, for the good of earthly society and the building of a world that is more human (Gravissimum Educationis, Declaration on Christian Education No.3).

The missionaries established most of the educational institutions in the rural areas for the poor. This accent on the poor shall never be forgotten and ignored with the pushes and pulls of the time. The Church has to continuously respond and refine her commitment to God’s vision and mission for the world. This shall be the distinguishing feature of our catholic educational endeavors. We shall

remember that our prophetic role is "to preach the good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to the captives, give sight to the blind and to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Lk 4: 18-19).

Thus, an education policy for the diocese that transcends the current socio-educational scenario of our society, and that supports the vision of the Council Fathers, founded on the evangelical values, becomes necessary.

All India Catholic Education Policy - 2007 of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) asks the Bishops and the religious to contextualize and concretize the guidelines in their dioceses by formulating detailed and relevant norms that will be binding in their respective contexts.

The catholic Diocese of Bhadravathi of the Syro-Malabar Church resolves to orient with a 'preferential option for the poor and the downtrodden and the marginalized' in our apostolate of education.

Preamble

*Understanding education as Church's mission,
And teaching as a divine call to establish God's kingdom,
To empower and liberate the least of the brothers and sisters,
Through the power of knowledge and skills,
Filled with divine grace;
The Diocese of Bhadravathi, of the Syro-Malabar Church,
Having resolved to improve the overall education system
Within the pastoral jurisdiction of the diocese,
Managed by various educational societies,
Promulgate the following policy.
The target beneficiaries of this policy shall be
The students who study in the catholic institutions,
The teachers and the non-teaching staff
The society and the entire nation
For the glory of God.*

Education as Our Vocation and Right

1. The Catholic Church considers education as liberating mission that leads to the transformation of persons and society in the vision of the Creator in establishing the Kingdom of God on earth. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, He has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor, sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed" (Lk 4: 18-19). Every Catholic educational institution thus has to become the source of ever permeating divine grace.
2. The Diocese considers education as a spiritual ministry. Inspired by Jesus who made a preferential option for the poor, we commit ourselves to focus particularly on the marginalized in order to enable them to take their rightful place in the life of the country and their contribution to the progress of the nation" (CBCI 2006, 7-8). As 'Heralds of good news to the poor', empowering the voiceless with the power of knowledge becomes our mission and vocation.
3. Education is the key to empowering the marginalized so that they can enjoy their God-given dignity. The National Policy on Education (1986, 2.1) too stresses that education is fundamental to the all-round development, material and spiritual, of all people. Preferential option for the poor is our mystical participation in the redemptive grace of Jesus. "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to the least of my brothers you did it to me" (Mt 25: 40).
4. It is also our constitutional right. By virtue of the Constitutional provision (under article 30(1) and the clear indication of the Supreme Court, in its 11-bench judgment (October 3, 2002),

minorities have been given the right to establish and administer institutions of their choice, precisely in order to preserve and strengthen their distinct culture.

5. The diocese shall strive to start educational institutions wherever necessary. The diocese places immense importance in improving the quality of our institutions, teachers and facilities for the students.

Vision, Mission and Goal

6. The vision of our educational apostolate is an enlightened and happy society built on kingdom values.
7. The mission of the educational institutions in the diocese is the empowerment and liberation of every human being especially the poor and the marginalized through holistic and quality education, centered on gospel values (love, compassion, tolerance and justice) leading to the transformation of society.
8. Our goal is to teach the students to live, to discover the deeper meaning of life and of transcendence, to learn to interact with others, love and care for creation, think freely and critically, find fulfillment in work, plan their future; or in one word, to learn 'to be'. It is in and through education that one can hope for a more human and humane future and a more harmonious society (Consecrated Persons and their Mission in Schools, 2002, 82, 84).
9. The education we provide shall aim at the holistic development of a student; physical, cognitive, emotional and behavioral maturity; social sensitivity and leadership; and moral and spiritual growth.
10. We shall not only ensure that our institutions transcend the narrow goal of academic prestige that focuses on high marks, top ranks and medals; but also aim with our total commitment to implement the basic Christian principles to foster human values and spiritual maturity among students and staff.

Objectives of Education

11. The Diocese considers the objectives of education as declared by the All-India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE,1982) as enabling students:
 - (1) to think for themselves independently and critically;
 - (2) to seek, extend and apply knowledge to the solution of human problems;
 - (3) to continually strive after excellence in every field;
 - (4) to become mature, spiritually aware men and women of character;
 - (5) to value and judiciously use their freedom, combining with it a full sense of responsibility for actions;
 - (6) to be clear and firm on principles and courageous in action;
 - (7) to be unselfish in the service of their fellowmen and concerned for the welfare of the poor and socially oppressed; and
 - (8) to become agents of needed social change in their own situations.