

Secretary' Report 2005

1. JESCOM Coordinators of South Asian Assistency met at Loyola Niketan, Bilaspur (MP) November 26 -28, 2005.
 2. 11 persons attended the meeting (including one from Sri Lanka) 2 excused and 6 were absent
 3. The meeting began at 10. 00 a. m. with a prayer by P J Joseph, JESCOM Secretary. Theodore Toppo, Socius to the Provincial of MP province, then, welcomed the participants to the Province and to the Loyola Niketan community.
 4. JESCOM Secretary, welcomed the coordinators for the meeting. The participants also gave self-introductions to facilitate group building. The Secretary also shared with the assembly the excuses offered by some coordinators and the absence of any news from some others, in spite of sending e-mails and snail mails. The participants then finalised the timetable and the previously circulated agenda.
 5. The Secretary then gave an update on activities the secretariat done in the year. They included attending 1) The JCSA Secretaries meet held at XIMB, Bhubaneswar, 9-10 March 2005, 2) Jesuit Artists' workshop (JAW II) at Mount Abu, 15 - 25 April 2005 and 3) JESCOMEAO meeting in Philippines, 6-8 September 2005.
 6. Province/regional coordinators then presented their reports, which basically touched upon the media ministry in their respective provinces/regions. Many have shared their success stories and also the hindrances they face in the ministry.
1. **Calcutta Province:** EMRC and Chitrabani are the two major centres which are involved in media production and training. Recently EMRC was declared by CEC, the best centre in the country. The centre now also prepares multi-media packages in academic and non academic subjects for the students throughout the country. Its programmes are also telecast in the local Doordarshan in Bengali. Chitrabani's initiatives, besides its regular training, research and production, include launching of 2nd Kolkata Film Festival, production of a Christmas album jointly released in Kolkata and Bangladesh. The centre also has another sound studio and has also collaborating with other NGOs involved in media work. The province has three persons specifically being trained for media work – viz, music, dance and popular culture. The province has little to coordinate among centres and provincial takes hardly the opinion of the commission and younger generation does not show much interest in this field as it is seen a specialised field. However, the commission plan to bring out a vision statement in the coming days.
 2. **Gujarat Province:** it has six institutes for communications – Gurjarvani and its new unit, Jai Adivasi Stduio, have produced audio and video cassettes and conducted training programmes. GSP engaged in publications, organise exhibitions of religious books; Anand Press besides publications, conducts courses on DTP and give apprenticeship; CISS runs bible correspondence course, RISTA conducts journalism workshops for school children; Katha, a local art form, is well used for spiritual and social mobilisation.
 3. **Pune Province:** Divya vani is the media cum pastoral centre. The centre organises programs for students, and runs a 100-year old Marathi Monthly – Niropya - which focuses on catechetical, social and family themes. Another centre – Marg Prakashan – for Indian paintings, books

and cards closed down due to lack of outlet for sale. The province has one writer. With the new provincial the media apostolate is expected to forge greater heights.

4. **Kerala Province:** many Jesuits work in print media, publish a 50 year old magazine, Sneha Sena, having a circulation of over one lakh. Yatra Publication published 4 books last year. Tanmaya is a resource and training centre which conducts regular workshops. Its director has conducted about 45 outreach programs in India and in the US. Media related training programs, courses and retreats have great scope. If the province is interested and convinced of the meaning and relevance of this ministry more to be desired. To sustain and forge ahead in this ministry the province needs to invest more money, talents and resources into it.

5. **Dumka-Raiganj Province:** has an offset press, which has printed over 10 publications mostly in Santali, besides two Santali magazines. There were also two ACDs and one VCD produced in the province. A list of media material available in at the Province media centre is published with the province newsletter of October 2005.

6. **Delhi Region:** has a few involved in communication, mostly in schools. Several videos with social themes have been made for use in schools. This has proved to be low cost and highly effective. However, an organised approach in the communication ministry is yet to be made.

7. **Madhy Pradesh Province:** has no centre. However, the province has produced audio and video cassettes, and also books, magazines, calendar, etc. The commission has also conducted media workshops for students, teachers and Jesuits in formation. The commission faces many problems including lack of interest from its members, spread out of members, etc. There is also lack of trained personals, active interest of the curia, a full time coordinator and lack of fund. However, the province has published a new mission and vision plan with specific time bound action plans. It includes training of scholastics in media, media education in educational institutions, use of media in ministry, a mobile van for Jesuit communication ministry and establishing a media centre. Little done in the last year to accomplish this vision.

8. **Jamshedpur Province:** has a new coordinator now. Province has closed down its Loyola Communication Centre. Its resources will be shifted to Chaibasa. Tribal research and training centre trains people in street plays and puppetry, and publish books and magazines, and runs film shows in villages. It also makes promotional videos for non formal education. There is also a local language – Ho-publikations. Human life Centre also trains people in the use of media, etc. Scholastics are being trained. However, these are more of individual initiatives and not a collective venture.

9. **Karnataka Province:** has several writers, who have produced several books and articles and also programmes for **College Campus TV**. Two Educational institutions have UG journalism departments and do a lot of creative works there including producing weekly news bulletins, short films and documentaries. Little is happening in the organised level as there is no centre after the closing of **Media Centre**. An effort is made to restart it as media department of the college, but as of now, it has not borne fruit. Over 10 Scholastics are being trained in the media now. It's time that the province takes a serious look at its media apostolate – with all the talents and resources it has.

10. **Bombay Province:** (*taken from the CDs sent*) has taken a number of initiatives. The media savy Jesuits in the province have been conducting media training programmes, attending national and international conferences, video film festivals, printing booklets for less privileged people. XIC has introduced new courses in the curriculum and the demand is ever increasing.

11. **Srilanka Province:** has a new lay coordinator – Mr. Robert Crusz with Fr. Benedict as its associate coordinator. Jescom Srilanka is actively involved in the planning for Jubilee year 2006. It has also plan to start media education in schools – training teachers – by the time the country introduces media in national curriculum in 2006. The media centre conducts training in radio program production, video filmmaking, film appreciation, media education, etc. It also has a mobile media unit. There is also a plan to set up a local radio station.
12. All the provinces and regions have geared up for the triple jubilee of Ignatius, Xavier and Fabre. JESCOMs have taken active role in most cases. They include publication of books, calendars, posters, audio and video productions. Dramas, competitions, etc. are also planned.
13. Participants also raised concern over the absence of media courses in our common houses – especially in Philosophy and Theology. It was pointed out that India has the largest number of Ph.D. priests in communication and yet less training is imparted due to lack of networking among them.
14. There are several individual initiatives, which have borne fruit, but, by and large, province and provincial's support is much desired. Some Province/region coordinators of JESCOM do not coordinate or even convene meetings. Some of the commission members also show lack of interest in the communication ministry.
15. JESCOM Secretary informed that little response has received for the revision of media directory, which was proposed and accepted last year. A copy of the information is again distributed among the participants. It is agreed to complete and update the directory by the end of January 2006. The coordinators have been given a data entry form for books, video and audio productions, which are expected to be returned by the end of December 2005.

Suggestions and action plans

1. JESCOM directory is to be updated and will be online with whatever information received from province/ region coordinators by the end of January 2006. The online directory will also have the list of books published, and audio and video productions done and where these media resources can be obtained. Coordinators of provinces/regions are expected to furnish all the relevant information by the end of December 2005.
2. To make JESCOM webpage in www.jcsaonline.com, more attractive and informative, it was suggested to update information from various provinces/ regions. The media directory mentioned above will be available on this site. It will be done by the end of January 2006.
3. This year too Jesuit Artist Workshop (JAW) will be organised by JESCOM in association with Gurjarvani in 2006. Coordinators offered their support in finding the right candidates for the same. Details of the workshop will be communicated to them in due time.
4. On the occasion of the triple Jubilees, JESCOM South Asia will undertake the following:
 - 1) **Designing and printing a flex** for the use of all provinces – Glenn Menzes (DLI) and Julain S Das (CCU) will coordinate this work and will be ready by the end of December 2005.

- 2) **Creating a line art** of the pictures of the saints – which will be organised by Agnelo Vaz (Guj)
- 3) **A drama script** on Francis Xavier – in English and Hindi – will be made available to those in need. Glenn Menezes will do this work.
- 4) **Common book marks** will also be designed by Agnelo Vaz (Guj) for the Jubilee.

5. JESCOM Secretary pointed out the number of coordinators present and absent at the meeting. It was agreed that the Secretary should inform the absent coordinators the feelings of those present and take necessary action like informing the concerned provincials /regional superiors.

6. After detailed discussions, the participants proposed to have the next meeting in Goa during Diwali Holiday in 2006. It will be sometime in October. Glenn Menezes will take care of the local coordination with the contact person in Goa province. It is to be noted that several provinces volunteered to host the JESCOM meet 2006 including Srilanka Province.

7. At the evaluation participants felt that meeting created a new beginning and were happy with the interactions. All appreciated the hospitality of the MP Province and especially the community of Loyola Niketan, which made all infrastructural facilities at the disposal of the participants. It was proposed to have one or two day's inputs to the participants. Fr. George Sebastian will look into the possibility of organising this input sessions. It is also agreed that the participants make an audio-visual presentation of their reports, as far as possible.

8. The meeting concluded with the Eucharist by the JESCOM Secretary, on 28th November 2005, at 12.30.00 pm.

P.J. Joseph SJ
Secretary
JESCOM South Asia

Members

	Present:	
1.	Agnelo Vaz	(Represented), Gujarat Province
2.	Alexander Ekka	JESCOM Coordinator, Madhya Pradesh Province
3.	Anil Chakranarayan	JESCOM Coordinator, Pune Province
4.	Chrysostam Hembrom	(Represented), Dumka-Raiganj Province
5.	George Sebastian	JESCOM Coordinator, Kerala Province
6.	Glenn Menezes	JESCOM Coordinator, Delhi Region
7.	Julian S Das	JESCOM Coordinator, Calcutta Province
8.	Mike T Raj	JESCOM Coordinator, Jamshepur Province

9.	P.J. Joseph	JESCOM Secretary, South Asian Assistency
10.	Richard Rego	JESCOM Coordinator, Karnataka Province
11.	Savrimuthu Benedict	Associate JESCOM Coordinator, Sri Lanka Province
	Excused:	
1.	Myron Perira	JESCOM Coordinator, Bombay Province (Report sent)
2.	S Paul Raj	JESCOM Coordinator, Kohima Region (pastoral ministry)
	Absent:	
1.	Abraham Ignatius	JESCOM Coordinator, Patna Province (No news)
2.	D. Ravi Sekhar	JESCOM Coordinator, Andhra Province
3.	Joseph Cardozo	No coordinator for Goa Province but a contact person (No news)
4.	Lalit John Tigga	JESCOM Coordinator, Ranchi Province (No news)
5.	NN	No coordinator for Nepal Region, not represented
6.	Pradeep Shail	JESCOM Coordinator, Hazaribag Province
7.	William Bourke	JESCOM Coordinator, Darjeeling Province (No news)
8.	Xavier Joe Freddie	JESCOM Coordinator, Madurai Province (No news)