

MINUTES
JESCOM SOUTH ASIAN ASSISTANCY MEET 2007
LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI, 14-15 December 2007

Present: (alphabetical order)

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| 1. Anil Chakranarayan | -- | for JESCOM Coordinator, Pune Province |
| 2. Benny Sebastian | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Patna Province |
| 3. Chrisostam Hembram | -- | for JESCOM Coordinator, Dumka-Raiganj Province |
| 4. George Ponodath | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Calcutta Province |
| 5. Glenn Menezes | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Delhi Region |
| 6. Jerome Minj | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, MP Province |
| 7. K.M Mathew | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Gujarat Province |
| 8. Mike T Raj | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Jamshepur Province |
| 9. P.J. Joseph | -- | JESCOM Secretary, South Asian Assistancy |
| 10. Shaji Joseph | -- | Gujarat Province - invitee |

Excused: (alphabetical order)

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| 1. K L George | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Darjeeling Province - emergency |
| 2. Lourdu Raj | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Andhra Province - work |
| 3. Mr.Robert Cruz | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Sri Lanka Province – ill health |
| 4. S Paul Raj | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Kohima Region – not able |
| 5. Xavier Joe Freddie | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Madurai Province - sickness |

Absent: (alphabetical order)

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| 1. Alex Tirkey | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Ranchi Province (No news) |
| 2. Benitto | -- | Representative, Goa Province (No news) |
| 3. George Sebastian | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Kerala Province (reported coming) |
| 4. Myron Pereira | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Bombay Province (reported coming) |
| 5. NN | -- | No coordinator for Nepal Region, not represented |
| 6. Pradeep Shail | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Hazaribag Province (No news) |
| 7. Prashanth Madtha | -- | JESCOM Coordinator, Karnataka Province (No news) |

1 The meeting began at 9. 30 a. m. with a prayer by Anil Chakranarayan

2 **Session – 1:** 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 to them and to their provincials. He also shared the reasons for calling off the seminar and the shifting of venue from Citadel to Loyola College. The reason being the absence of the local coordinator, Xavier Freddie, due to ill health. Because of the change in programme, the participants were accommodated at LIBA & AICUF House, their meals at Loyola Jesuit community and the meeting at IDCR.

3 **Session – 2:** The participants then finalised the timetable and the agenda. The Secretary then read out the minutes of JESCOM Meet 2006. The Secretary then gave an update on activities the secretariat done in the year. They included attending 1) The JCSA Secretaries meet held at Sanjivan, Pune, 8-9 February 2007, 2) Visit of common houses – Satya Nilayam and Vidya Jyoti and six provinces 3) Jesuit Pastors' meet in Bangalore, October 26 -29, 2006 and 4) A National consultation on communication – communication as mission - at Ishavani Kendra, Pune, December 12-16, 2006.

4 **Session – 3:** Fr. Francis Xavier, former Provincial of Madurai Province, gave a brief on the province, its activities and focus touching upon practically all the aspects of the province. It was inspiring for the participants as they are focused on vital issues like province policy on admission in schools, accepting new parishes, starting English medium schools, etc. After this, Fr. Amaladoss shared with the participants about the establishment of IDCR (Institute for Dialogue between Culture and Religion). It is a new initiative and is growing.

- 5 **Session – 4:** Sch. Alwyn, SJ (Jamshedpur) introduced the latest from the field of communication studies and the resource materials available in the market. He also provided the participants with valuable information on web site and downloading of films from the net.
- 6 **Session – 5:** Fr. E. S. Jose, a practicing Madras High Court Lawyer, from Vellore Diocese dealt on the topic “**Right to Information**”. He spoke mainly on Article 19 of the Indian constitution, viz. the fundamental right. With examples he narrated the success stories of many people who used the RI. The resource person also told the participants how to use RI and the method of application, etc.
- 7 **Session – 6:** The members shared the communication activities in their respective provinces and regions in the last one year.

Calcutta Province: (George Pondath) – As part of the vision statement of the Province, the Social Communication formulated its vision as follows: *To build a community of communicators, committed to liberation, through media education, in collaborative networking, pioneering and creative expression.* Accordingly an action Plan for the next five years was also formulated: Gaston Roberge is to develop a course equivalent to one paper at the undergraduate level on 'media education for liberation'. **Chitrabani:** continues its work of training of media aspirants in the city. It also produces video, audio, multimedia and radio programmes that keep developmental and liberation perspectives. Chitrabani plans to reach out to Santal areas and to set up a small studio in the area and also to train a Santal boy to take care of the studio. Other plans include reaching out to Bangladesh and to network with more TV channels. **EMMRC:** plans a competent person to head the Centre; to see that the programmes reach more people especially in the rural areas. **JESCOM** to identify and propose to the provincial younger members of the province and if that is not viable, lay persons, who could be trained in communication studies to join the apostolate.

Performance wise: the regular production went on both at Chitrabani and at EMMRC. The Kolkata Short Film Festival, Chitrabani's joint venture with Nandan is gaining popularity. The training programmes are becoming more and more focussed. EMMRC Kolkata continues to be considered the Best Centre of the University Grants Commission among all the similar Media Centres of the country. The number of awards that they win, the innovative programmes that they produce, continues to impress both viewers and other media centres. Various people published a number of books: Gaston Roberge, Jean Englebert and Mathew Schillings continue their contributions to the print medium.

Delhi Province: (Glenn Menezes) - Presently in charge of the Finance in St. Xavier's Highschool, he plans to set up a computer lab and Video Editing. A project to document the apostolic activities of Jesuits in Delhi Province is underway. He prefers starting low budget media units in schools to setting up large centres.

Dumka Raiganj Province: (Fr. Chrysostom) - The members distribute Santali cassettes & CDs, 'soldiers of Christ', Bibles in santali. "Following Christ" a Bible study course, was conducted. Audio cassettes on Social and Religious themes are produced in the province.

Gujarat Province: (K. T Matthew) – Communication apostolate operates on three levels - Print, Electronic and communication media. The Province has the following centres – Gurjarvani, Anand Press, Gujarat Sahitya Prakash, Catholic Information Service Society, and RISTA (Communication in Pastoral Field). Books by Gujarat Sahitay Prakash are published along with cassettes and CDs. Books n Arrupe written by Hedwig Louis , Varghese Paul's books are published. Besides these Gujarat Church magazine, Ignis and Jeevan are published from Gujarat Sahitay Prakash. Gurjarvani has produced audio and video cassettes and conducted training programmes. Liturgical Christian Garbha songs and other Adivasi songs are distributed. The province has asked to prepare a programme on the works of the Gujarat Jesuits. The self-supporting GSP is engaged in publications, organise exhibitions of religious books; Anand Press, besides publications, conducts courses on DTP and give apprenticeship. Community Radio is being tied up with another NGO. CISS runs bible correspondence course and short-term Course on Journalism. RISTA conducts journalism workshops for school children; Katha, a local art form, is well used by a Jesuit for spiritual and social mobilisation. Vinayak Yadav is setting a journalism department in the College.

Jamshedpur Province: (Mike T Raj) – among the various activities of last year was a sound of Music play staged, filmed and later edited; Birsa Munda play was staged in various villages along with dances. Mass media is being used for Social Action. A work shop of cartoons was conducted to bring out the social issues.. Collaboration with Government is sought. The center is trying to collect all the documents related to Tribal life and issues. Fr. John D. contributes with his books. There is a plan to set up a Media centre in the province.

Madhya Pradesh Province: (Jerome Minj) - The Province is still looking for a centre. There was a group of interested scholastics. A seminar was conducted for the teachers, parents, and parishners on Media Education. A "Nukkad" was presented in various places. One scholastic has done journalism training. Fr. Agapit Tirkey heads a documentation centre and also has produced a dictionary in collaboration with a lay person. Every year youth are sent to Jabalpur for folk dances, Indian drama and singing. There is also a Social Action centre in the Province.

Patna Province: (Benny Moolan) – He heads the Ravi Bharati a media Centre. Sadhu Sheelananda catechizes the people with audio cassettes and singing. Electronic Media and Group Media like puppetry and audio are widely used in the communication. Every year Nukkad festival is conducted where in local groups are invited to perform. Training is conducted. Biannually, Video festival is also conducted. Three documentaries were produced. B Ed College programmes, summer Music Programmes are held regularly. Most of these are run as projects. Four Multi Media programmes were shown on the occasion of Triple jubilee. There is a great demand for communication classes.

Pune Province: (Anil C.) - Divya vani is the media cum pastoral centre. The centre organises programs for students, along with leadership camps for youths. Catechists are trained every year. It also conducts music & Leadership Training. Province also runs a 110-year old Marathi Monthly – Niropya - which focuses on catechetical, social and family themes. It has published two books.

There are a few individual Jesuits doing their own media work. Fr. Drago Caridade has written and published about 8-10 books on spirituality, and a couple of Marathi Novels on social issues. Fr. Anil Chakranarayan has translated three English books into Marathi on Personality development in collaboration with Dr. Soman Kamalesh alias Kishor. One of them is already in the secular market.

Reports received from other Provinces

Andhra Province: (I. Lourduraj):

17-year old Kaladarshini, concentrates on training the Catechists with skills in singing, acting and using folk art in their field, besides conducting classes in classical dance, art, drama and music. It also produces cassettes and occasionally TV programs. A video titled "Manjira Harathi" brought popularity to the institute.

An undergraduate course "B.A. Mass Communication" was launched at Loyola Academy Degree & PG College, Alwal, in 2004. Its objective is to encourage the Catholics and Christians especially the Dalits to break into media. The first batch just left Loyola Academy in June 2007. This is the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh. The department is grateful to Fr. Francis Xavier S.J., Principal for the unstinted support. Students' films made their presence felt at different film festivals. A film "Caste and Counterview" has won many awards. An ad made on "AIDS" by our student bagged the first prize at Manipal University. There is also a plan to start M.A. Film Technology and TV Production at Loyola Academy offered by Wintec University, New Zealand in June 2009.

In 2005, Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, started a course "B Sc Visual Communication. JESCOM unit have produced a CD of devotional hymns last year and this year we are producing two half-an-hour single episodes Christmas Programs for Saphthagiri – DD8, and TV5. We hope to bring out an audio cassette by the end of January 2008. Any apostolate needs money. The Provincial of Andhra Jesuit Province has made available one lakh for the JESCOM work every year. I as a coordinator place before you our appreciation for such a gesture of Fr. Provincial.

Sri Lanka Province (Robert Crusz):

The impetus received at the 2006 JESCOM SA Assistency meeting in Goa was carried forward in Sri Lanka in 2007. Consequently a survey was conducted among all the SL Jesuits and a general meeting was held in July 2007. All agreed to include training in the principles and practice of Communications in the Jesuit Formation process; and felt the need for SL Jesuits to gain fluency in all three national languages and in English. In September 2007, a course in Communications and Mass Media was started by Jescom Sri Lanka for the Sri Lankan Jesuit Juniors, as part of their Juniorate year training programme.

In February 2007 Robert Crusz held a meeting with a group of primary and secondary school teachers to discuss the possibility of training them in Media Education and Media Literacy and implementing a pilot study with one class in their respective schools. While the teachers were enthusiastic, the state Education Department was not. The JESCOM coordinator attended the inaugural UK Media Education Association Conference held at Warwick University, 18 – 20 May 2007. It was an intense learning experience especially in the area of media education and literacy at the primary and secondary school level.

JESCOM Sri Lanka produced the two issues for 2007 of the 'Journal of Religious Reflection' (JRR) published by the Sri Lankan Jesuits. The first issue for 2008 is currently being prepared. The Jesuit calendar for 2008 is also being prepared by JESCOM. It is currently completing a documentary on the role of the clergy in the current crisis in Sri Lanka.

Rachi Province (Lalit Tigga):

Satya Bharati has grown out of two other institutions: the Catholic Press Ranchi (CPR started in 1928) and Dharmik Sahitya Samity (DSS). With the approval of Provincial, Fr. Delputte reorganized the media apostolate in the early 1980s. Three new Societies were erected and registered with the Central Government under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. The Catholic Press as a printing concern only, Xavier Publications (1981) responsible for printing periodicals, and the third society, Satya Bharati (1982) for the other activities of the media apostolate.

Presently the official communication center of the Ranchi Jesuit Province, Satya Bharati was inaugurated on July 27, 1982. Its activities could be divided in two main departments: (1) Audio Visual and (2) Print Media

1. Audio Visual: This section consists of (a) Photo Studio Service, (b) Recording Studio Service, (c) Mobile Van Service and (d) Training Service.
2. Print Media: comprise the following sections: (a) Book Publication, (b) Magazine Publication, (c) Distribution Service, (d) Reading Room Service and (e) Research Service.

Over the years, the tiny ministry of print media had grown into a sizable ministry of communication, In all now 17 full timers are working in the various departments of the institute.

XAVIER PUBLICATION RANCHI, registered at Patna in 1981, now has five monthlies - Vidyajyoti, In Christo, Ave, Nishkalanka (Hindi), and Rahi (Hindi).

Suggestions and action plans

- 1 **Communication Conference:** For the next year it was proposed to conduct a Communication Conference. The topics would be "Emerging Trends of Media and Impact on Society". The question about the number of days, the resource persons, finance, etc. could be discussed through Email. It was decided that either Kolkata or Mumbai could be the Venue for the next meeting. **Fr. George Ponodath, JESCOM Coordinator of Calcutta Province, has consented to be the local host, if the Meet is held in Kolkata.**
- 2 **Next meeting:** It was proposed to have the next meet for 3 days in mid-November 2008, Preferably Friday to Sunday.
- 3 JESCOM Secretary, Fr. PJ thanked all the participants and resource persons. And the meeting came to an end at 4.00 pm.

P.J. Joseph SJ
Secretary, JESCOM South Asia

PS: JESCOM Secretary would like to thank Fr. Fr. Anil Chakranarayan SJ for recording the minutes during the meeting.

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