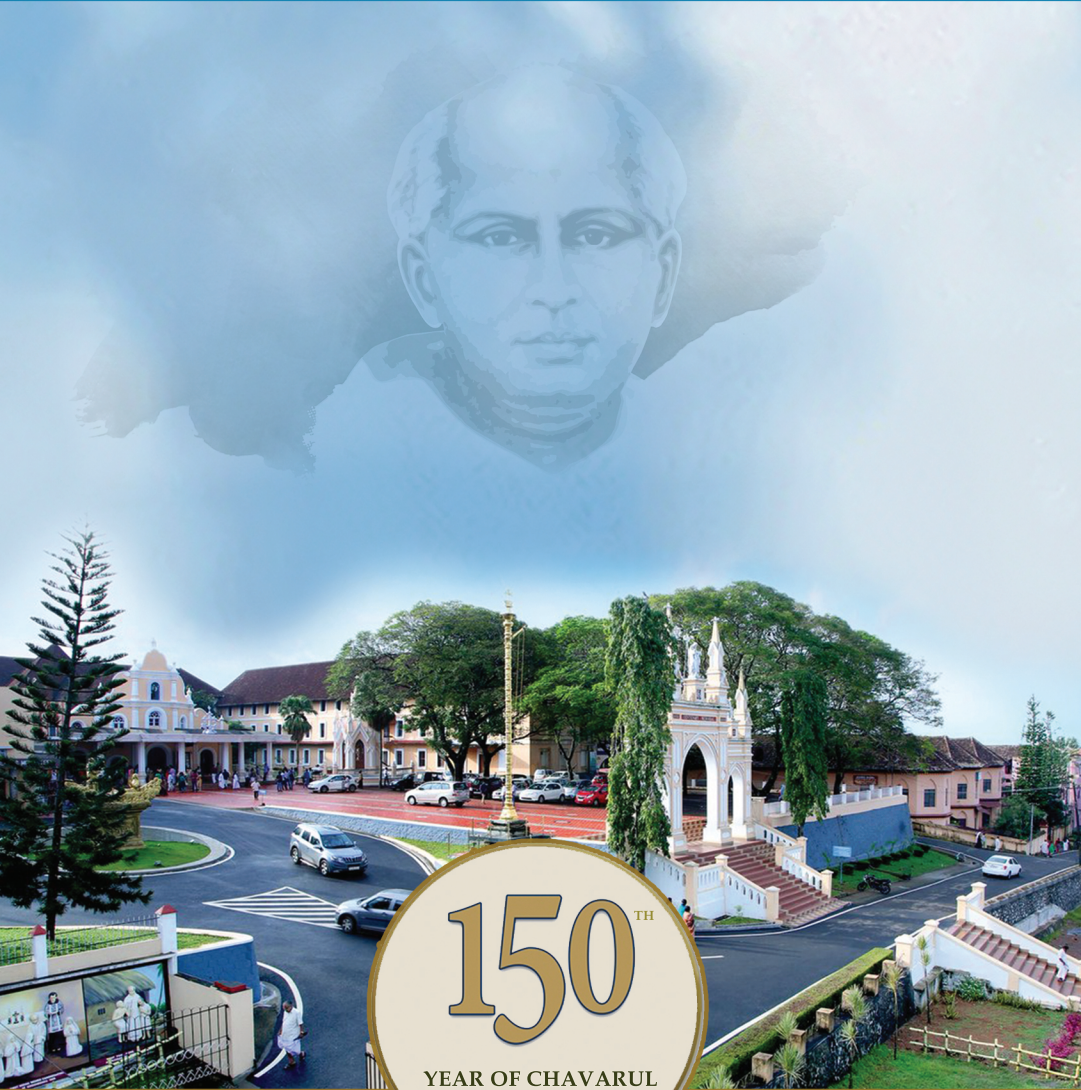




CMI EDUCATION NEWS



150TH

YEAR OF CHAVARUL

The Swansong of a Saint

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St. Ephrem's Higher Secondary School



Kuriakose Elias English Medium School



St. Joseph's Training College



Kuriakose Elias College

From the General Councillor of Education



Swansong of a Saint
THE TESTAMENT OF A LOVING FATHER
(Oru Nalla Appante Chavarul)
by St Kuriakose Elias Chavara
An Educational Reflection on 150th Anniversary

Fr. Sebastian Thekkedathu CMI

Advice given by Polonius to Laertes, when his son is about to return to the university for his studies, is a piece of immemorial lines from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Written in about the late 16th c., it is quite impressive. *Oru Nalla Appante Chavarul*, the Family Handbook, written by St Kuriakose Elias Chavara in 1868 reminds us of the lines of advice by Laertes to his son. Some of these lines from Shakespeare are still quoted profusely: for example, "Give every man thy ear but few thy voice," "Do not dull thy palm with entertainment of each new-hatched unfledged comrade," "Costly thy habit as thy purse can buy," "For the apparel oft proclaims the man," "Neither a borrower nor a lender be," etc. The piece from Shakespeare is written at a time when European renaissance was shaping itself while St Chavara writes this tract at a time when the people in Kerala are grappling with the renaissance ideals.

Historical Background

St Kuriakose Elias Chavara (1805-1871) writes *The Chavarul* (The Testament of a Loving Father) in 1868. Not long afterwards he leaves for his eternal rewards in 1871. In this year of the Lord, 2018, we commemorate this tract, a hundred and fifty years old, for its value for posterity. Until a generation or two behind ours this tract has been presented as a keepsake for a successful family life to the young couple soon after their marriage in Christian families of Kerala. Ask your grandparents, it is very likely that they may be able to recollect and have received a copy. Typically, epistolary in style, it is an intimate letter written to his dearest folks, family members and church community of Kainakary, where the Saint was born. Prophetic in his words in the introduction, "Hence I am leaving this document for you, in my own handwriting. This script will live even after I am dead. So I entrust this to my children of the Kainakari sub-parish bequeathed as a treasure." By extension, being the Vicar General of Christians of Kerala, this patrimony is a treasured inheritance for all the families in Kerala. Only a great visionary can draw up such a comprehensive approach to the family, as nowhere in the Church documents of the time, such a compilation can be found.

Swansong

It is believed that the Swan, a beautiful bird, sings, most melodiously before it dies. The word swansong, hence, is applied in English to refer to the last significant work of an author close to his death. Saint Kuriakose Elias cries most beautifully for his people urging them to have a close-knit home or family since it is the first school for a child to educate and to learn the ropes of life. The will and testament are documents which the posterity treasures for its value in terms

of the ancestral share of property and the words of wisdom from the lived experience of our immediate ancestors. If the Church in Kerala, especially the Syro-Malabar Church, could weather the storms of colonial oppressions and emerge as a cohesive community for the last two centuries, the role of St Chavara and the legacy left behind by him works at the root. This legacy carried through the religious congregations he established also played a significant role in this achievement. “Until *lions* start *writing* down *their* own stories, the *hunters* will always be the *heroes*,” is an African proverb prevalent in Kenya and Zimbabwe. This is very much true of colonial India as well. While the nation was under British subjugation, the native apostolic Church was under the control of European missionaries. It is not an attempt to belittle the gains the Syro-Malabar Church has made through the association with the western missionaries, but to point out that the history will be written differently if it is to be written from the Indian perspective which will bring out the suffocation and disadvantage which the Thomas Christians have swallowed under an alien rule and in particular, the ordeals of St Kuriakose Elias Chavara in holding the people together

Family and Children

Living in an era where the media is surfeit with stories of parental abuse and children being neglected and even killed by the parents, and vice versa, the saintly advice of St Chavara to the parents are noteworthy. When families and family life are ignored, it is the end of a society and destruction is built into such a society heading towards self-destruction. St Chavara, on his day of commitment to religious life or consecrated life, adds Holy Family to his name. Fr. Kuriakose Elias of the Holy Family is his full name.

His spiritual life was very much centered on Holy Family. He writes in the introduction to the *Chavarul*, “ A good Christian family is the image of heaven, where members live together by the bond of blood and affection, duly respecting and obeying the parents, walking peacefully before God and people, seeking eternal salvation according to each one’s proper state of life.’ What a definition he carves out for a Christian family! The physical bond of affection and love, the relationship woven around respect for each other resulting in peace, and each one pursuing a path of eternal salvation make it a heavenly family after the model of the Holy Family. St Chavara holds the family as the primary institution for education. The values imbibed by the children from the family are the solid foundation for all education in the life of a child. It is of utmost importance to have the family set right that the new generations grow up with the right attitude to life.

Families are Heaven on Earth

The tract, *Chavarul*, is written in two parts; one, A Handbook for families and, two, On Upbringing of Children. Out of a total of 40, twenty six precepts are on Family. The rest of the instructions, fourteen of them, are on how children are to be brought up.

The first part presents the ideal ambience and setting required for proper upbringing of children. It is nothing but a truly devout Christian family. The most important factors which keep a family together are love and forgiveness. Focusing on the affairs of one’s own house and discharging of the responsibilities would keep one busy enough not to intrude unnecessarily into the affairs of others. Be diligent and prudent in choosing the people to associate with and carefully restricting access of unwanted elements in the

family are crucial for the survival of a good family. Indecent talk, uncharitable criticism of other people, etc., invite ruin on the family. Avoid avarice. Since laziness leads to all kinds of vices, work hard. Avoid drunkenness. Business involves a lot of risk and challenges. If at all one has to take up business or trade as a profession, let him do it honestly. Lead a charitable life. Extravagance and miserliness are both sinful. In choosing a friend one has to be extremely cautious. Amassing wealth unjustly is to sell your soul as well as that of your family to devil. Pay just wages and be considerate to the poor. Holiness and fear of God are true wealth and fulfilling all religious obligations help increase the worth of the family. Modest dress and careful demeanor will increase the respect of the public towards a person. Disease, trials and difficulties are part of life and hence take them in proper spirit and accept them as will of God. Keep the company of good books as wisdom and philosophical knowledge are helpful in life. More than just daily mass and prayers indulge in acts of charity and be compassionate. Engage only such servants as those who fear the Lord. Have a routine time table for the family with stipulated prayer time and be punctual in observance even when guests are present at home.

Children as Sacred Treasure

Family exists primarily for children according to St Chavara. They are “sacred treasures” entrusted to the parents by God. The parents get a sacred custodial right over their children and their duties of parenthood are part of this right. Treasures are secured and well protected. They are worth the investment in them as they are not precious stones or just valuable ornaments; they are living human beings

created after the image of God and only God can protect them ultimately. The utmost Christian responsibility of the parents is to purify the children with most precious blood of the Lord. The salvation of parents depends on how good their children become through the training of the parents and hence it is obligatory for the parents to be under the protection of the Holy Family. The children, whenever they need protection and help, should have the habit of invoking the Holy Family; the first thing they should learn is the prayers like 'Our Father' and 'Hail Mary.' St Chavara was aware of the importance of good habits and the need of children to be formed spiritually before anything they grasp.

Body as Temple of God

"Do you no know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own" (1Cor. 6:9). St Chavara very well knew the implications and the importance of human body which belonged to God.

Children should learn to respect their body from the very childhood. To let them be naked and to run around so, even at home and to indulge in unbecoming conversation in their presence, thinking that they will not understand, shall be avoided. St Chavara knows about the capability of children to register what they hear even in their childhood although they may not fully process it at the time they hear it. Although the Saint does not elaborate on this, in this century we know the need to keep the body as the temple of God, pure and chaste, is an arduous task. Letting children, boys and girls, sleep in the same room can lead to terrible consequences and, the saint tells us, that the devil can work through such circumstances to instill bad habits in them. Parents shall take utmost care that children are always under

their watch and that they are not left alone in the company of careless servants and strangers as the chance of the children getting spoiled and abused are grave in those times. Leaving children to stay with relatives is also to be avoided. Children to leave home as angels and to have them return as devils is a powerful warning to parents. The significance of this line is evident today as the statistics of child abuse by the relatives are on the increase. We are not strangers to so many incidents of such abuse and the devil is lurking through modern media exposing children to programs inappropriate to their age and hence can hamper their proper growth. What is intended here are proper value formation, sex education and the need for parental involvement in the all round growth of children.

Education

As an educationist, St Chavara was instrumental in unleashing an educational revolution in the Church of his times. He pioneered a great educational leap with the opening of a Sanskrit School in 1846 and a seminary at Mannanam in 1833 itself. He makes sure the facilities are offered both for ecclesiastical and secular study within the reach of everyone. By improvising a wooden printing press with the available means is yet another breakthrough in the history of Kerala for spreading literacy and devotional literature. The historical circumstances by which he could not start with English education was due to the fact that English was considered the language of the Protestants and as such the Church hierarchy was opposing it. With Bishop Bernadine he was instrumental in forcing the Churches to have schools attached to each of them, with the motto, 'a school for a church.' It is no wonder that St Chavara instructs the parents to get their children go to school at the earliest.

He also advises them to monitor their progress in studies at regular intervals and to set apart Sunday for the parents to check their proficiency in what they study.

Sacraments and Faith Formation

Sacraments in the life of a Christian are of paramount importance. The right age for the sacraments, though arbitrary and various traditions are in place, St Chavara wants children to go for confession after due training and preparation from the age of seven, and devotion to Mary is also to be instilled among children.

Value Formation

The approach towards children should be a balanced one. Too much affection and too much leniency are to be avoided. If parents are too strict it will result in children to develop despair, dejection and stubbornness. Corporal punishment shall be the last resort after a series of other minor punishments which will normally be effective in correcting children. The words used by parents while correcting children are of utmost importance and it is the mutual respect of parents, father and mother, that the children observe and imitate in their lives. Even the slightest hint that parents themselves are cheating for the sake of expediency and explaining it is the way of the world, will lead the children to resort to lying and cheating. When needed parents should not shun punishment and the children should be trained to practice truth and justice. We can very well imagine if the parents encourage drunken parties and loose talk in the presence of children and then it will be in vain, if they try to correct the children to avoid such things in their life.

Discipline and Punctuality

The whole family praying together in the evening and to ensure that the children reach home before that and to have the practice of exchanging kiss of peace and to kiss the hands of parents and seek their blessings are good old practices to be maintained in all families. Adolescence is a very crucial period in the life of children and to engage them with age appropriate activities is also very important. Good habits like punctuality, prayer, respect for parents, modesty in dress and demeanor, etc., if picked up at the right age will continue to help the life of children all throughout their lives.

Daughters and Discipline

Even when we discuss in this day and age subjects like women empowerment, equal rights, etc., the advice of St Chavara is very relevant and appropriate for the parents to be prudent and cautious when they send their daughters dressed up to parties, festivals and as brides of honour at weddings. According to St Chavara, they are occasions wherein the devil is eagerly waiting to play mischief in the lives of people. Modesty, devotion, silence, and control of their eyes are the genuine ornaments which the girls shall wear all the time.

Freedom and Maturity to Choose Vocation

In the context of religious vocation, whether for priesthood or religious life, parents are advised by St Chavara to respect and foster them and not to dissuade them from their choices for selfish reasons. It is the inalienable right of an individual to choose the vocation for oneself. The age for marriage, sixteen to eighteen for boys and fourteen to sixteen for girls, given by St Chavara, is the prevalent custom and social practice of the times when the Saint lived; today the

society and the government have raised the bar of legal age for marriage for boys to twenty one and for girls to eighteen. If the Church in Kerala is blessed with so many vocations today, it is the result of families of yester years which were close-knit and value centered through the influence of people of the ilk of St Chavara. Only a family that is built around love and sacrifice will be able to offer their children for the service of the society and the Lord.

Parental Authority

The authority of parents and their status should not be belittled even when the children have grown up and turned out to be more wise and efficient. At any point if they are to become flawed in their decision making or become weak or indecisive, the consequences would be dismal and disastrous.

Rite of Passage to Adulthood

The parents have to see that children, when they are mature enough, receive their share of family property and help them establish their own households. Any undue delay in this regard will lead to discord and dissensions among the children. This does not in any way contradict the authority and control of the parents over their children as they deserve to have a life of their own and to have their own family.

Concluding Advice

The last three paragraphs of the tract are addressed to the children. They have to respect their parents as they are bound by the fourth commandment to respect them and not to cause any grief for them. They are reminded of an incident in Japan in which for the welfare of their parent,

one of the three children pretends as a criminal and gets himself imprisoned so that his brothers will get rewarded for turning in a criminal. The reward will then be used for the upkeep of their mother. The king ultimately rewards the love of these sons towards their mother.

In conclusion, it is to be acknowledged, that what St Chavara writes in Chavarul is a comprehensive programme of life in the families. In every sense, it is a true handbook for family life. Issues ranging from bringing up children to full maturity, responsibility of parents, congenial habits to be fostered within family for the healthy relationship, responsibilities of parents towards God and their family, daily routine for families, relationship with God and others, love, justice, compassion and various other virtues to be practiced, etc., are some of the themes dealt with in this tract. If the family bond in Kerala, especially among the Syro-Malabar community, is stable, influence of St Chavara is a major factor in making it so. A reading of this tract in today's context will be insightful for all to devise the right strategy in families of today.



Mannanam: The Cradle of Catholic Education

The existing reference about the Sanskrit School started by St Kuriakose Elias Chavara, the Father of Renaissance in Kerala, is found in the Chronicle written by Fr. Parapurath Varkey. It is a major leap for the Christians in Kerala, especially the Syromalabar Catholics. The beginning is very humble and unassuming, the implications far reaching!

It says: "At this time a Sanskrit School also was founded along with the Monastery at Mannanam.



The clerical students who joined this monastery as well as the children from the neighbouring places studied

there. The teacher belonged to the Warriar community and was brought from Trichur for the running of this school. He was proficient both in Sanskrit and Malayalam."

Today's Mannanam, the Bez Rauma, holds many educational institutions.



The latest of them is the KE School. Here is a pictorial journey through Mannanam as an educational complex. There we find the immense possibilities dreamt by St Chavara on this hill to transform it into an abode of God to transform Kerala Church. It is the hill on which

we still seek the spirit of St Chavara and aspire to live up to his dreams.

This is the church in which we have reinterred the earthly remains to St Chavara, brought from Koonammavu in 1889.



7 Milestones in CMI Education

1. Establishment of the first Syro-Malabar Formal Seminary Education - 1831
2. First Syro-Malabar Printing Press and First Catholic Sanskrit School - 1846
3. Foundation of First Syro-Malabar Catechumenate - 1853

4. Writing 10 Eclogues - First Malayalam Plays by St Chavara - 1856-1857

5. Writing Anastasyayude Raktasakshyam, First Narrative Poem in Malayalam - 1862

6. St Ephrem's School at Mannanam - 1885

7. Sacred Heart College at Thevara - 1944



Setbacks and Traumas

I. Shattered Dreams:

Fr Chavara transferred: While the construction of the monastery is in the preliminary stage, in 1832, Bishop Francis Xavier takes charge and transfers Fr. Chavara to parish work

II. The loss of two of the founding fathers:

Fr Thomas Palackal - 1841, and Fr. Thomas Porukara - 1846

III. Long wait for ecclesiastical approval (1831-1855) - Only in 1855 the long awaited ecclesiastical approval comes to the indigenous movement for religious life, that too as the Third Order of Carmelite Discalced (TOCD)

IV. The Seven Dolours and Suppression of leadership from within (1876)



V. Transfer of Fr Leopold Beccaro OCD back to Italy in 1876 after divesting him of his authority over the TOCD in 1873

VI. Congregation under Delegate rule: From 1885 to 1902, the congregation was ruled by Delegates who were OCD missionaries from Italy

VII. Gradual disengagement from responsibilities after the establishment of Syro-Mlaabar hierarchy



Reemergence as an Educational Presence and Global Missionary Presence:

St Kuriakose Elias was declared a saint in the Catholic Church by Pope Francis on November 23, 2014 in Rome. The CMI congregation is a great educational and spiritual presence today in India and global missionary presence with the members present in more than 30 nations across the five continents, especially in Africa and Latin America.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Rev Fr Prashanth, Principal of SH college thevara
receiving best Principal award by AIACHE
Hearty congratulations Father



Rev. Fr. Roby Kannanchira,
Director, Chavara Cultural Centre, receiving the prestigious
URI (United Religions Initiative) ASIA REGION AWARD,
for promoting Inter - religious Socio - Cultural Activities

Heroes of Bengaluru



Kristu Jyothi College, Bangalore, receives the
Heroes of Bengaluru award for Education

*Hearty Congratulations to
Students, Staffs and Managment of KJC, Bengaluru*

WEECA 2017

(Wonderla Environment and Energy Conservation Award)

The 10th Wonderla Environment and Energy Conservation Award (WEECA 2017) for the schools in Kerala and Tamil Nadu was announced on 12th February 2018. Chavara Darsan CMI Public School, Koonammavu, bagged the 3rd position among the 307 schools.

The award comprises of a cash award of Rs. 15000, a trophy and certificate.

The ceremony was honoured by the founder of Wonderla amusement park, Mr. Kochouseph Chittilappilly and the awards were bestowed by the famous Television and Cine artist Mr. Tiny Tom.

**St.Chavara Day at
St.Joseph High School, Parangarappilly**



On January 3rd, we celebrated the feast of St. Chavara Kuriakose Elias, the guiding light and patron saint of our schools in a benefiting manner. The events of the day-long programmes included different competitions like Chavara speech, Quiz, Writing Chavara sayings, paintings and Poem recitation. Many games and sports were also arranged for this students to mark the day more memorable.

In the afternoon section, a common meeting

was arranged presided over by Rev.Fr. John Pullokkaran CMI. The functions was attended by the staffs and students of L.P, U.P, and High School. Rev.Fr. Wilson Kokkat CMI delivered a short speech on St. Chavara and his contributions to education. The programme also showcased different entertaining programmes including a Skit that displayed how St.Chavara Kuriakose showering his blessings upon needy people.

Champions of Chavara Fest



St. Joseph's High School, Pangarappilly has lifted the prestigious Trophy for the over all First (in H.S Section) in the Chavara Fest Competition conducted at

Kuriakose Elias L.P.School, Pota. The students bagged first in Chavara skit, Quiz, Speech and third in water painting.

Congratulations to all the winners.

Shining Stars of State Level Kalotsavam

Students of Carmel HSS, Chalakudy, secured good positions and A grades in Kathaprasangam (HS), Violin (Western - HS), Bandmelam (HSS), Orchestra (HSS), Oppana (HSS), Gazal (Urdu) - HSS

and Mono Act (HSS) and B Grades in Bugle (HSS), Elocution (Malayalam-HSS), Violin (Oriental - HSS). Altogether 45 students have secured A Grades and 4 students B Grades in the State School Kalolsavam, held at Thrissur.

Annual Day Celebration and Farewell Function at Carmel HSS, Chalakudy



The 43rd Annual Day celebrations of Carmel HSS was held on 5th January 2018. Hon'ble Justice Devan Ramachandran, High Court of Kerala, inaugurated the programme presided over by Fr. Jose Stephen Menachery CMI, Manager. Rev. Fr. Davis Panackal CMI, Vicar Provincial and Councillor for Pastoral Ministry, Devamatha Province delivered the Benedictory address.

Mr. Jayaraj Warriar, Cine Artist and Caricaturist

was the Guest of Honour. Rev. Fr. Jose Kidangan CMI, Principal welcomed the gathering. He along with few student representatives presented the annual report. Mrs. Kumari P.K., Academic Administrator and Mr. M.I. Thomas, Staff Secretary, honoured the retiring staff Mrs. Gilly Rodrigues and Mr. Babu M.A. Smt. Bindu Sasikumar, Ward Councillor, and Mr. Subhash Chandra Dass P.A., President, PTWA, felicitated on the occasion.

Master Joseph Shaju, School Leader proposed the vote of thanks. Awards and prizes were distributed. This was followed by the thematic presentation. 'Hues of Life', a vibrant show of arts and colours put up by around 400 students. The cultural programme came to an end exhorting the audience to uphold the twin virtues – Love and Sacrifice in all fields of life.

A Hand of Charity! **by Lisieux Mat.Hr.Sec.School**

Christmas is the spirit of giving without the thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It's forgetting self and finding time for others.

The students of Lisieux Matriculation Higher Sec.School, Coimbatore generously contributed bounteous amount of money approximately around Rs.8, 00, 000 for social service. Principal Rev.Fr.Philips Pontheckan arranged various social service activities. He organized visits to various places to carry out social activities. On 2nd December few teachers along with our Principal went to

Ashreya Bhavan, Bommana mpalayam, Coimbatore and Little Sisters of Poor, Thindal – Erode. On 5th December, they visited Anbu Illam, Ukkadam. They rendered their service to HIV infected people. Around 9:00 am on 9th December they visited Suhruith Bhavan at Ottapalayam, Kerala. Our students entertained the special children and many HIV infected people by singing songs and performing some dance in front of them. We also gave them some snacks and gifts to bring in the true mood of Christmas.

Visit of German Delegates at Viswajyothi CMI Public School



Mr. Nobert, the Coordinator of the German Delegates Addresses the Students

As part of the International School Activity (ISA), our school hosted 25 guests from Germany.

They were brought to our school by Rev. Fr. Anto Koyikkara. Selected student representatives from Classes V to XI had an interaction programme with the delegates.

Ms. Madhuri Umesh, coordinator gave an introduction about the programme and started with a video presentation about the activities of the school.

The School Editor Ryanna Janet Jude welcomed the gathering. The Principal Fr. Joshy Koottumkal CMI addressed the guests. Mr. Nobert, the coordinator among the group, explained about the German educational system, food habits, seasons, alternative energy, waste management, celebrations, etc.

VINSFLARE-18 'THE GOSPEL OF THE SEA'



The St. Vincent CMI Schools, Pala, set sail on an incredible voyage, "The Gospel of the Sea," riding on the waves of the incredibly gifted students and the tireless efforts of the staff.

This journey has been a dream come true due to the selfless involvement of the parents led by the PTA, and, most of all, due to the student body, from the Playschool to Grade XII, for using their varied talents to express confi-

dence and for the glorious success of the theme for Vinsflare-18.

The St. Vincent CMI family welcomed the esteemed dignitaries at the Annual Day with a vibrant dance showcasing the cultural forms of our beloved state, Kerala. In the ceremonial gathering, Rev. Fr. Bastian Mangalathil CMI, Financial Administrator and Rector of St. Vincent CMI

Schools welcomed the honourable guests and the audience. After the synopsis of the School Annual report was presented by Rev. Fr. Philip Nechikkattil CMI, Principal of the St. Vincent CMI Schools, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Elanjickal CMI, Provincial rendered the Presidential Address.

The lamps of prayer, love, compassion, light and loyalty were lit by the honourable guests. The Guest of Honour, Sri. Jacob Punnoose IPS, Former DGP of Kerala, declared Vinsflare-18 'The Gospel of the Sea,' inaugurated following an inspiring speech. Sri. Siddharth Menon, playback singer and actor, had the students and audience singing to his tunes and they absolutely enjoyed the interactive sessions with him.

Rev. Fr. Sabu Koodapattu CMI, Corporate manager, gave away the awards to the students

amidst cheering applause. Our partner and unconditional support in every academic and cultural venture, the PTA President, Mr. Sreejith Pala, rendered a worthy felicitation. Ann Ritt Johns, School Leader, brought the meeting to a close with a heartfelt note of appreciation and gratitude to all.

"The Gospel of the Sea,' began with a homage to those who lost their all to the recent Ockhi cyclone that ravaged the coastline of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Vinsflare-18 then launched with a group of passengers, and the bitter sweet moments of an eventful journey entwined with the cultural programmes by students of all classes.

**‘Jettoy’ - Event by SAEINDIA
(Society of Automotive Engineers INDIA)**



The Engineering Society for Advancing Mobility Land Sea Air and Space together with Mahindra Conducted a competition for VIth standard students all over India. Their aim is to create engineering interests among school students. The competition named ‘Jettoy.’ It was based on Newton’s Law of Motion (3rd law), prepare a toy car with paper, plastic and balloon.

From the city level competition conducted at Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology, Kakkanad, student team from Chavara Darsan CMI Public School, Koonammavu was selected for the national level at Pune. Ajanya Sivaji, Lakshmy C S, Christal Maria Biju and Chanjal Krishna of class VI were the team members.

കെ.ഇ. സ്നേഹസ്പർശത്തിലൂടെ ഒരു ഭവനം കൂടി...



മാനാനം : കുര്യാക്കോസ് ഏലിയാസ് ഇംഗ്ലീഷ് മീഡിയം സ്കൂളിലെ കുട്ടികളും അദ്ധ്യാപകരും ചേർന്ന് നിർധന കുടുംബത്തിന് ഭവനം നിർമ്മിച്ചു നൽകി വീണ്ടും സമൂഹത്തിന് മാതൃക കാട്ടി. സ്നേഹസ്പർശം എന്ന കെ.ഇ. സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടികളുടെ ജീവകാരുണ്യ പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളുടെ ഭാഗമായാണ് മാനാനം കുട്ടിപടി വാളാശ്ശേരി വർഗ്ഗീസിന് ഇരുനില ഭവനം നിർമ്മിച്ചു നൽകിയത്. കെ.ഇ.സ്കൂൾ

നിർമ്മിച്ചു നൽകിയ മൂന്നാമത്തെ ഭവനമാണിത്.

ഈ അധ്യായനവർഷത്തിൽ കുട്ടികളും അദ്ധ്യാപകരും ചേർന്ന് സമാഹരിച്ച തുകയാണ് ഭവനനിർമ്മാണത്തിനായി വിനയോഗിച്ചത്. കുട്ടികൾ തങ്ങൾക്ക് ഏറെ ഇഷ്ടമുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ വേണ്ടെന്നുവെച്ച് അതിനായി ചിലവാക്കാൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന പണം സമാഹരിച്ച് അർഹതയുള്ളവരെ കണ്ടെത്തി സഹായിക്കുവാൻ സ്കൂൾ

ആരംഭിച്ച പദ്ധതിയാണ് സ്പോർട്സ് പദ്ധതി.

3 ബെഡ്റൂമുകളുള്ള ഈ ഭവനനിർമ്മാണത്തിനായി ഏകദേശം 15 ലക്ഷം രൂപയാണ് കൂട്ടികൾ സംഭാവന ചെയ്തത്. ബുധനാഴ്ച നടന്ന വീടു വെഞ്ചുറിപ്പു കർമ്മത്തിലും പൊതു സമ്മേളനത്തിലും സ്കൂൾ കുട്ടികളടക്കം നിരവധി പേർ പങ്കെടുത്തു.

തിരുവനന്തപുരം സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് പ്രവേശനാധിപൻ റവ. ഫാ. സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ ചാമത്തറ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷത വഹിച്ച യോഗത്തിൽ, റവ. ഫാ. ഫ്രാൻസിസ് വള്ളപ്പുര സി.എം.ഐ (വികാർ, സെന്റ് ജോസഫ്സ് ചർച്ച് മാനാനം), റവ.ഫാ. ജെയിംസ് മുല്ലശ്ശേരി സി.എം.ഐ (കെ. ഇ. സ്കൂൾ പ്രിൻസിപ്പാൾ), ശ്രീമതി സന്ധ്യാ ജി. കുറുപ്പ് (പിറ്റിഎ വൈസ് പ്രസിഡന്റ്), ശ്രീമതി സൗമ്യ വാസുദേവൻ (വാർഡ് മെമ്പർ, അതിരംപുഴ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത്), ശ്രീ. പി.കെ. ജയപ്രകാശ് (ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് മെമ്പർ, അതിരംപുഴ) ശ്രീ. പി.എ. കുട്ടപ്പൻ മാസ്റ്റർ (ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് മെമ്പർ, അതിരം

പുഴ) ശ്രീമതി മേരിക്കുട്ടി സെബാസ്റ്റ്യൻ (ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് മെമ്പർ, അതിരംപുഴ) മാനാനം ജനസഭ സഹരക്ഷാധികാരി ശ്രീ ജോൺ വൈറ്റ്, പ്രതിഭാസമർ റസിഡന്റ് അസോസിയേഷൻ സെക്രട്ടറി ശ്രീ. ജോർജ്ജ് കുട്ടി എന്നിവർ പ്രസംഗിച്ചു.

ഭവനനിർമ്മാണവുമായി ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട് സഹകരിച്ച ഏവർക്കും പ്രത്യേകിച്ച്, അതിരമ്പുഴ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് അംഗങ്ങൾ, സ്കൂൾ പി.റ്റി.എ അംഗങ്ങൾ, തുടങ്ങിയവർക്ക് സ്കൂൾ പ്രിൻസിപ്പാൾ റവ.ഫാ. ജെയിംസ് മുല്ലശ്ശേരി സി.എം.ഐ നന്ദിയർപ്പിച്ചു.

Liberating India's Best Colleges

HRD minister Javadekar has just announced the most far reaching reforms in higher education

Arvind Ponnagaya and R Venkatesh Kumar



With approximately one year left before voting for the next Lok Sabha elections begins, you would expect the government to avoid any headline. But the Modi government, on the back of a strategic Budget, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar has just announced the most far reaching reforms in higher education. Chief of us Ponnagaya had worried for long that the reforms in this important area had been delayed, with HRD Minister after HRD Minister failing to bring about fundamental change. Majumdar Javadekar has broken that curse.

By way of background, during past several years, multiple commissions and committees have recommended reforms but failed to bring about any substantive change in the core regulations under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act. Underlined, in June 2011, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) appointed a committee of the HRD Ministry to recommend how progress could be made in this important area. One of its charges that came true while the other remained an unfulfilled promise.

It is perhaps worth of a footnote that this committee was successful in bringing a consensus around the reforms among its members, which included the top officials of HRD, Higher Education Society (HES) and All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE). The committee submitted its report to the PMO at the end of August 2012.

The announcement by the HRD Minister has translated the recommendations by HRD committee into action in the areas of autonomy to universities and colleges. The far reaching reforms are contained in two separate Gazette notifications: *Grants Autonomy Regulations 2018* (GAR) 2018, and *Autonomous Colleges Regulations (ACTE) 2018*. Recommendations by HRD committee in a third area, accreditation, have received approval by UGC but await a nod from



the HRD Ministry.

GARs break away from decades long tradition of selective fit all regulations for one uniformity. Based on National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) scores, they divide universities into three categories: those receiving more than 3.5 in NAAC scores (Category I), those receiving NAAC scores above 3.25 but not exceeding 3.5 (Category II), and those receiving NAAC scores of 3.25 or less (Category III). Category I universities also include universities listed among the top 100 in international rankings such as the Times Higher Education and QS Universities in Categories I and II are granted considerable autonomy while those in Category III remain subject to existing rules.

Under GARs, universities in Category I and II are entirely free to start new courses, programmes, departments, schools and centres and open constituent colleges within their geographical jurisdiction in self-financing mode. They are also exempt from UGC inspection, can offer courses in new and relevant modes, build up an incentive structure to attract talented faculty from their own resources

To make these reforms permanent, the government will need to bring a new legislation to replace the UGC Act, 1956. Absent such legislation, the risk of a future government reverting to old rules remains

and manage in a more liberalised system including to bring in a faculty. Because making faculty has been shifted from UGC to university level, the university such as the Bangalore-based, students course and governing board.

Category I universities will additionally automatically incorporate Section 10 of the UGC Act which is UGC inspection. They will also have the freedom to open research parks, incubators, centres and university society linkage centres.

ACTE, the new governing autonomy to colleges, will be subject to a larger set of colleges so that they can evolve into high performance institutions, even

independent operation. Universities promote research at the level of the affiliated university, research and state government level UGC. Now discouraged colleges from seeking autonomy. Therefore, autonomy should be automatically conferred on a college in demand eligible for it. But the existing internal difficulties hindered this path. Consequently as a consequence, the new regulations make a concerted effort to eliminate the roadblocks that the affiliated universities, the state government and UGC can place in the path of autonomy upon eligible colleges for it.

Turning to accreditation, reforms recommended by HRD committee and approved by UGC, propose to turn the case wide open to independent accreditation agencies. Despite efforts, NAAC and National Board of Accreditation have not been able to achieve the scale and credibility necessary to make a success of accreditation process. Many more entities and processes are required to correct this situation.

Under the reforms, including HRD Ministry approval, an advisory council consisting of public figures and distinguished academics of independent integrity will be charged with formulating the accreditation agencies. Therefore, the accreditation and the agencies will be able to achieve accreditation agencies, they will be required to contribute the fee to a central pool from which the accreditation agencies will be paid.

Some would argue that we need grant autonomy to institutions. As a response to the grant of autonomy to the institutions, however, is that the reforms aim at credibility among stakeholders. This is best accomplished by providing autonomy among the top-ranking institutions. There would be every reason to extend the autonomy to all universities and colleges over time.

To make these reforms permanent, the government will need to bring a new legislation to replace the UGC Act, 1956. Absent such legislation, the risk of a future government reverting to old rules remains. The new legislation would also provide the autonomy to replace UGC by a less intrusive and more independent regulatory body.

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