



Youth Empowering Service-Jesuits' (YES-J)

Report of YES-J 2016 -18

Love - Empowerment - Accompaniment - Formation (LEAF) are the four pillars of Youth Empowering Service-Jesuits' (YES-J) mission of Andhra Jesuit Province to reach out the needy youth.

The Youth of any society are regarded precious and promising. The National Youth Policy of India states that about 40% of Indian population is aged between 13 to 35 years and approximately 70% of the total population of India (1.2 Billion) is under 40 years of age. It is a boosting factor to India. But the reality of the youth today, in general, is in vivid contrast. They seem to be aim-less and hope-less, depleted of their enthusiasm and zeal for life. The reasons could be: *unhealthy competition, unmanageable pressure, acute unemployment, lack of job skills, lack of life skills, lack of big dreams and lack of motivation, lack of opportunities and guidance* etc. Therefore, the current scenario of their quality of life is alarming and a cause for great concern.

The responsible, well motivated and the passionate youth are the need of this day. However, if such men and women are to be effective instruments of a better tomorrow and are to challenge the evils of present day, they need to be *loved, empowered, accompanied and formed* by providing them **OPPORTUNITIES** to *explore, experiment, examine and execute* for personal development and universal outlook.

It is towards such universal vision and mission YES-J, one of the works of *Andhra Jesuit Province of the Society Jesus is working*. As I studied and encountered the uncertainties and challenges that the youth are bombarded with, deeply affected and inspired to do something worthwhile for the youth, I set about making serious and tangible preparations, plans for my work with youth on behalf of Andhra Jesuit Province. The fruit of reflection, prayer and discernment is the genesis of YES-J.

Birth of YES-J

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We have started and we are on the way. **The Youth Empowerment Service - Jesuits (YES-J)** is a new initiative of the province launched by the then Superior General Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, SJ on his visit to Andhra Province on 12th February 2016. It emerges after much thought, prayer, discernment and discussion about how the Jesuit presence could give the most benefit to young people striving to find their rightful place in our society.

What Are We ?

YES-J's mission aims at bringing **social, emotional, psychological, spiritual and practical help** to those young people in need **irrespective of their caste, religion and social background**. We work towards a vision of an integrated personality through **Love - Formation- Accompaniment- Empowerment-** to be sensitized to each other's needs and concerns, to be of support and solidarity in each other's struggles, and to reflect on concerns that affect one and all.

What is our Philosophy?

YES-J believes in YES philosophy. It is convinced that **instilling hope and courage** in young people and creating a **support system** will **empower them** to shout to the world: **YES- I have Dreams. YES- I am capable of fulfilling my Dreams. YES- I Can and I Will be the Dream I want to be if I am given an opportunity.**

What is our Approach?

Here at YES-J, we value **RELATIONSHIPS**. Relationships are the backbone of our values. Our values are descriptive words that reflect our **attitudes, beliefs and approach - styles** that empower our target young people. We try to incorporate these values **R.E.L.A.T.I.O.N.S.H.I.P.S.** in how we approach our mission.

- R - espectful approach
- E - ncouragement
- L - ove and laughter
- A - cceptance
- T - ransparency
- I - nvovement
- O - utreach orientation
- N - uture
- S - piritual growth
- H - ome-like feeling
- I - ntimacy
- P - rofessionalism
- S - trategic follow-up

What Do We Do?

YES-J YOUTH (YY)

We formed youth groups in parishes inviting young people to become the Soldiers of God. We encourage them to attend to their unique *Developmental, Social, and Religious* needs and nurture them to become ambassadors of love, peace and service. We have 7 active YES-J Youth groups as part of our Jesuit pastoral mission towards growth of rural youth. Regular programmes are being run for their integrated development.

MULTI SKILL TRAINING (MuST)

In order to enable the school/college dropout youth to live confidently and courageously, putting behind their growth stunting aspects of life, we passionately work to enhance their capacity to undertake self-employment and to build up their self-worth and self-identity through **Free Multi Skill Training (MuST)**.

We are glad that 143 young boys and girls have undergone one month to three months long vocational training since summer 2016 in collaboration with Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering and Technology and Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation. From March 2018, we flagged off a 3 month Driving and Mechanical Training in close collaboration with Toyota. Altogether, 60 deserving youth will be professionally trained for the year 2018-19.

SUMMER SHAPES (SS)

During every summer, YES-J conducts three to four weeks of *Free English and Soft Skills Training Classes* for the rural poor and disadvantaged youth. It is designed to enhance their communicative and soft skills and build up their self confidence - *TO BE WHAT THEY DARE TO DREAM*. *The summers of 2016, 2017 and 2018 benefitted 320 rural disadvantaged youth.*

MEN & WOMEN AIMING at GREATER INITIATIVES for CHANGE (MAGIC YOUTH)

MAGIC is a *Student Youth Wing of YES-J* set up in education institutions to create an opportunity for young people to be men and women of *Conscience, Competence, Compassion and Commitment* and be *the Agents of Change* through a systematic approach with *Spiritual, Social, Psychological, Contextual, Intellectual, and Creative Integration*.

MAGIC (Men & Women Aiming Greater Initiatives for Change) is set up in formal education institutions to create an opportunity for young people to be men and women

of *conscience, competence, compassion and commitment* and be *the agents of change* for themselves and the community they live in.

In the campus of Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada and Loyola Academy, Secunderabad we have started **five separate Magic youth units**. The response of the students is overwhelming. **Combining of all the three units, we have more than 2500 students registered so far.**

They are:

1. **For Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering and Technology (ALIET)**
2. **For Andhra Loyola Intermediate College**
3. **For Andhra Loyola College (UG & PG)**
4. **For Loyola Academy Junior College (Inter)**
5. **For Loyola Academy (UG & PG)**

The events organized by the units so far:

1. Three day workshop for Aliet first year students on 'Motivation and Goal Setting'.
2. Three day workshop on 'Self Defense mechanism and techniques for Inter girls'
3. Awareness Rally on 'Road Safety: Wear Helmets and seat belts and save lives'.
400 Aliet students participated in this.
4. Two day seminar for Inter students on 'Effective Study Skills'.
5. Three day seminar on 'Leadership'.
6. Screening and discussion on an inspirational Film at Mathias Hostel.
7. Two Day Seminar on Career Guidance and Self-Esteem for ALC PG & UG students.
8. visited and shared their love with the inmates of *Nirmal Hrudya (A Home for the Destitutes and Orphans run by MC Sisters)*
9. 'Mock Youth Parliament' was conducted by, '**Vijayawada Needs U' Organization**' for the students of ALIET.
10. 'Career Guidance' Workshop for the students of ALC by Mr.Srikumar and Dr.G.Prasad.
11. *Seminar on 'Women Empowerment: Different Roles of Women'*.
12. Magic Youth Volunteered in the Fundraising Programme for the Kerala Flood Affected Victims. Along with other volunteers, they together raised Rs. 6 lakhs.
13. workshop on '*Being a Servant Leader*' for the Lead Team.
14. *Cultural Interaction Session* between the Inde-Esipoir French Volunteers and Magic Youth of ALIET & ALC.
15. A Mime was enacted on Mental Health by LA students, etc.

PERSONAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES (PEP)

Personal Enhancement Programmes are offered to youth of any institution or organized group on invitation to **EDUCATE AND EMPOWER** them to be confident in

facing the challenges and complexities of life. So far, 20766 students of 67 schools and colleges and 1050 teachers of 21 institutions have been reached out via this PEP.

SCHOLAR SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SSP)

Through SSP, YES-J accompanies and financially supports the economically poor yet intellectually bright students to pursue their desired educational courses with scholarships. We have and are accompanying 17 students to move forward with their education.

VOLUNTARY IMMERSION PROGRAMME (VIP)

YES-J provides volunteer opportunities to people (18 yrs old onwards) from local cities and abroad through **Voluntary Immersion Programme (VIP)** in communities of all sizes, from rural villages to big cities, so that participants could be living in either an urban or rural setting. **VIP** enables to **Challenge** oneself, **Experience** another culture and **Develop** an attitude of being '**GRATEFUL**'.

Under this programme, 15 young university students from Austria, UK, Italy, France, and Germany have taken the bold step to immerse themselves with the life of Krishnapuram, Vinukonda, Krishna Devarayapeta and Katukapally. They say of this immersion as a life changing experience.

YES-J YUVOTSAVALU (YY)

YES-J Yuvotsavaalu is an annual/biannual Youth Festival aimed at bringing the youth to Express, Experience and Enrich their lives and march towards building up a just society. The maiden Yuvotsavaalu was attended by 500 youth from all over Andhra Pradesh and have been motivated, inspired and encouraged to be the best they can.

YES-J ECHOES (YE)

It is the news letter of **YES-J** circulated every four months that reflects **YES-J's** mission, activities and programmes through succinct and striking photographs. We have so far released 7 volumes of YES-J ECHOES.

In all that we do through the above and other programmes, we are mindful that the task of **ACCOMPANYING** young people for a bright tomorrow allows no half-measures. **Nelson Mandela** once stated, '*The youth of a country are a valued possession of a nation. Without them, there can be no reconstruction and no development programme. Without them, there can be no future.*' Therefore, accompanying the young for us mean two things: *Believe in the young; and be present among them.* They need people who can express trust in them and who can live with them without anxiety, sincerely

believing that they are capable of noble acts. We never consider them as '*half empty glass*' but as '*half full glass*' with their own potential. This is the basic attitude that we strive to exercise in journeying with them. **We are constantly challenged in this mission.**

We earnestly pray that we continue to march on with bigger dreams and plans for the well being and growth of our youth. *Antoine de Saint-Exupery* once said: '***If you want to build a boat, don't begin by looking for wood, cutting boards or distributing the work. First you must evoke in men the yearning for the wide and free ocean.***' I sincerely believe that there is already a deep yearning and wide ocean to satisfy our hunger in serving the youth. May the journey of YES-J that passionately began in 2016 run a long race of *Love - Empowerment - Accompaniment - Formation (LEAF)* of our youth.

Fr. Bala Bollineni, SJ

Founder-Director, YES-J