



Caring
Through
Sharing

JESUIT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY



“The purpose of education is to replace an empty mind with an open one.”

– Malcolm Forbes

CDO Distributes Educational TABS for Students



The Conference Development Office (CDO), in partnership with the Karnataka Jesuit Province, distributed educational tabs to 41 students from vulnerable families in Harihar, Karnataka. The educational tabs for distribution were provided by the United Way India. Since there is an increasing demand for additional educational tabs from students in the locality, CDO programme team has been working towards mobilising additional support under CSR to provide more such tabs.

Nourishing Nature for a Better Future



St. Xaviers College, Ranchi, celebrated the World Environment Day with a tree plantation campaign. This drive was carried out by planting saplings in Manresa House Campus under the leadership of Fr Nabor Lakra, SJ (SXC, Principal), Fr Amrit Lakra, SJ (Manresa House, Rector), and Fr Prabhat Kennedy Soreng, SJ (SXC, Registrar).

Organised in close collaboration of Manresa House and St Xavier's College, Ranchi, the tree plantation campaign was conducted with a slogan, "Nourishing

nature for a better future!". The campaign flagged a strong message that we have only one earth and it is our responsibility to keep this Earth safe, neat and clean. If there is nature, there is future!

"Caring for the Common Home" is one of the universal apostolic preferences (UAPs) of Jesuits. Firmly committed to the UAPs, Ranchi Jesuits have initiated several activities in all the institutions and houses to care for and preserve our common home and promote ecological justice and biodiversity.

Ragpicker to a Driver: Towards a Migrant's Dignified Life



"I used to work as a rag picker. Learning to drive and securing a driving license helped me get a secured job with timely salary, weekly holiday and other social security benefits," says Krishna Barui (35).

I, along with my wife Priyanka and children, moved to Bengaluru from West Bengal in 2016. We made our home in Kempapura slum in the city. I saw migrants in our area working as rag pickers and earning their livelihoods. As there was no other job available, I joined them in collecting rags. Rag picking involves a lot of uncertainties and insecurities. I used to sit at home without work on rainy days. While collecting waste material at midnight I have to bear the threats from the local hooligans. Despite working hard my earnings were minimum and I could not support my family.

Later, I started working at a construction site as a daily wage labourer. In 2020, when the pandemic hit, I and other construction workers were gravely affected. With the loss of a job and no finances to go back home, I struggled to survive in the city. Having survived the pandemic, I had to look for another job to support my family. I and my wife started selling vegetables in a cart. Although the profit was not high, it gave us some dignity. After a few days, my wife started working as

domestic help. With this added income I was only able to support the education our two children in a school. I sent back my elder son to my native village and requested my relatives to enroll him in a school there. He is at present in Class 11 and doing well.

When the staff of Ashirvad, a Jesuit Training and Resource Centre, Bengaluru met my wife, she agreed to be a teacher for the children at the evening study centre. She also shared our family situation and my dreams. I met the Ashirvad staff and expressed my desire to be enrolled in a driving school to get a license. The staff, who passionately listened to my life story, came forward to help. They paid the fee to the driving school and in a few months, I learnt to drive and received a driving license.

Now I am employed as a driver in a private company. I draw a monthly salary, a weekly holiday and other social security benefits. I just can't believe that my dreams are getting realised and that I can live a peaceful and dignified life. I thank Ashirvad and Indian Social Institute-Bengaluru for recognising my dreams and potential, and assisting me towards a building a dignified life.

Story Credit: Mr. Debdulal Mondal, Ashirvad Training and Resource Centre, Bengaluru

Skill Development Programs for Poor Youths in Madurai Jesuit Province

There are Three Jesuit Technical Institutions that are conducting THIRTEEN programmes in Madurai Jesuit Province.

The Loyola Technical Institute (LTI) was started in 1952 to empower the downtrodden youth in and around Madurai. In 1956 Loyola Industrial Training Institute was approved to offer SCVT- (State Council of Vocational Training) courses. In 1982 Fr. T. M. Mathai SJ upgraded LTI and got it approved to offer NCVT (National Council for Vocational Training) – ITI courses in the name of Loyola Industrial Training Institute (LITI).

At present students in Loyola Industrial Training Institute are honoured with NCVET certificates in the following trades: Electrician, Fitter, Mechanic Motor Vehicle-MMV, Wireman and Welder. It is a Government Aided Industrial Training Institute (The state government partially supports the ITI with 75% of maintenance grant). There are also Driving and Non-Formal courses offered by LTI for both Men and Women. Students from economically poor and socially oppressed communities, students who are far away from the institute have been benefiting from Loyola Hostel which is as old as LTI, since 1952.

The non-formal courses were started on 12th Sept. 2005 with the motto “Skills to Youth - Light to the Least”, and named as St. Joseph’s Community College and now St.

The names of the institutions along with the courses conducted are listed below:

INSTITUTIONS	List of Courses Offered
Loyola Industrial Training Institute-Madurai	1. ELECTRICIAN (1+1) - NCVET
	2. FITTER (1+1) - NCVET
	3. MMV (1+1) - NCVET
	4. WIREMAN (1+1) - NCVET
	5. WELDER (1+1) - NCVET
	6. ELECTRICIAN ADDITIONAL (1+1) - NCVET
St. Joseph's Technical Institute -Nagapatinam	1. ELECTRICIAN - NSDC
	2. DTP - NSDC
	3. MRAC - NSDC
	4. NURSING - Diploma in General Duty Assistant - TNOU
Loyola Driving School Maduraid	1.TWO WHEELAR (With & Without Gear)
	2. FOUR WHEELAR (LIGHT MOTOR VEHICLE)

Joseph’s Technical Institute. During the past seventeen years, the college has imparted skill training thousands of youth who are the sons and daughter of widows and deserted women mostly from marginalized communities. The primary aim of the institute is to include the excluded and bringing the marginalized youth dropped regular schooling due to poverty, lack of intelligence, lack of motivation etc., back into the mainstream through job-oriented technical skills and making them responsible citizens. The institute offers the following courses: Electrician (NSDC), DTP (NSDC), MRA/C (NSDC) and Nursing - diploma in general duty assistant (TNOU).

Our objectives:

- To impart technical and commercial knowledge and practical training to youth who are:
 - Economically poor – Finding hard to bear the expenses of their basic needs for livelihood.
 - Socially oppressed – Dalits and marginalized
 - Educationally deprived – Youth who are not able to go for regular higher studies and those who drop their regular schools and looking for job opportunities.
 - Educationally Poor – we mean to say that those who are not able to cope up with the existing higher education system; but willing to develop their technical skills.
 - Abandoned – orphans and semi orphans are given priority.
 - Disoriented – Students who are affected and disoriented by social media, cell phone, drugs and various other social evils.
 - Migrants and Refugees – who are Internally displaced and refugees from Sri Lanka.
- To run hostels for the rural youth who are trained in our institutions.

Most of the students from rural area stay in hostel. There are also students, who are orphan and semi orphan (who have no conducive atmosphere at home) from urban area, accommodated in hostels.

"From Hopelessness to Happiness: How I Helped My Village Claim Their Rights and Receive Free Houses and Pattas"



(The families that got land Patta and govt. free houses, Nerkunam)

I am Mr. Gopi (40). I am from Nerkunam in Vanthavasi Taluk, Thiruvannamalai district. Nerkunam is a very small village that has 21 families. The families here have been living for more than 45 years. Most of the people in the village are illiterate and work as woodcutters and daily wage earners. Some of us go to the distant lands for various works as contract workers. The people here are landless and have their settlement in the watershed areas with huts. The most basic facilities are deprived by the local panchayat. We have been fighting for a proper land with houses for many years. But our voices are not heard by the government officials.

At that time, PALAVAI (Jesuit Irular Mission - a Jesuit Social Initiative to support the downtrodden) came to our village to work for the welfare of our people. The team selected me as one of the community leaders. I was motivated by them to lead our people to claim our rights. As a community leader, first step I took was to demand a piece of land and free house for 24 families. A petition was given in the collectorate in 2018. After continuous follow up and perseverance, we could get 10 free houses and pattas on October 26, 2022.

I am so grateful to PALAVAI and ESP (Ensuring Social Protection) trainings that kept me going to get houses and pattas despite a hopeless situation.