

ST.XAVIER'S INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION IN COLLABORATION WITH SAMANVAYA

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM HELD ON 16TH JANUARY , 2021

NAME OF THE PROGRAM : COMMUNAL HARMONY : SKILLS FOR PRACTICE
TARGET AUDIENCE : Second Year B.Ed. students
TIME: 9a.m. – 11a.m.
VENUE : ZOOM PLATFORM
PROGRAM ADVISORS : Fr. Prashant Olalekar s.j. , Dr. Sosamma Samuel , Principal and
Fr. Blaise D'Souza s.j., Manager
PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Dr. Vini Sebastian
STUDENT ENRICHMENT ACTION (SEA) COORDINATOR : Dr. Elvina Pereira
PANEL MODERATOR : Astrid Lobo
PANELISTS : Irfan Engineer, Sanjeevani Jain and Sweedle
INTRODUCTION TO SPEAKERS : Afreen Khan
SONG WOULD BE COMPOSED BY : Janhavi

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM :

- To sensitise the students on communal harmony
- To instill skills for practicing communal harmony in their daily lives as well as teaching
- To evaluate one's position on communal harmony through reflection
- To share each one's views on different aspects of communal harmony

The **program schedule** was as follows :

- Welcome by SXIE Principal
- About Samanvaya
- Panel Discussion
- Group Discussion
- General session
- Concluding input by Moderator
- Concluding remarks by Fr. Blaise D'Souza
- Vote of thanks

The learning from the program are as follows:

- We must not categorise ourselves but build relationships.
- Avoid generalizing one act to a larger group
- Half knowledge about other religions can be dangerous
- Distancing demonizes people

- Family's mentality towards interfaith marriages must change
- Interfaith marriages could be a step towards communal harmony
- Nature is a great teacher for communal harmony
- Teachers must develop their own attitude towards communal harmony
- Creating consciousness in students rather than dictating lessons to them would be more preferred
- Believe in real news rather than fake news
- Business of Education is to be critical and not conformism.
- We must practice discernment
- Multiple identities must be a norm for every person for fostering communal harmony
- Teaching must be research based
- Questioning must be encouraged but by maintaining respect of the people involved
- Avoid polarization
- Be open to truth and dialogue
- Avoid attaching to one political party

The questions given for **group interaction** were as follows:

- Identify biases and prejudices that threaten communal harmony.
- Would you support interfaith marriages to foster communal harmony?
- What struck you the most in today's session?
- What steps do we take as teachers to build communal harmony?
- What lessons can we learn from nature to bring about communal harmony?

The students shared their own perceptions of communal harmony.

Message from the Manager, Fr. Blaise D'Souza s.j.

Fr. Blaise provided us a direction for instilling communal harmony. The steps given by father were as follows :

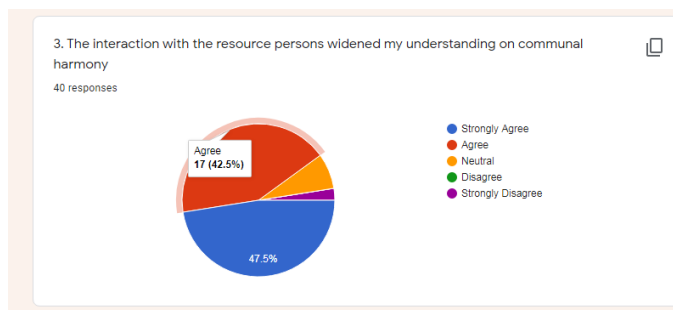
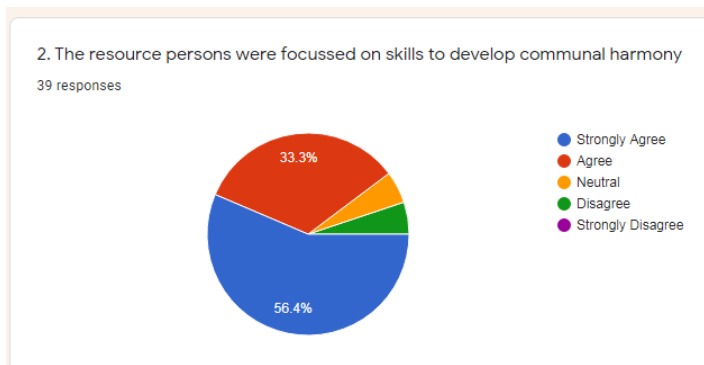
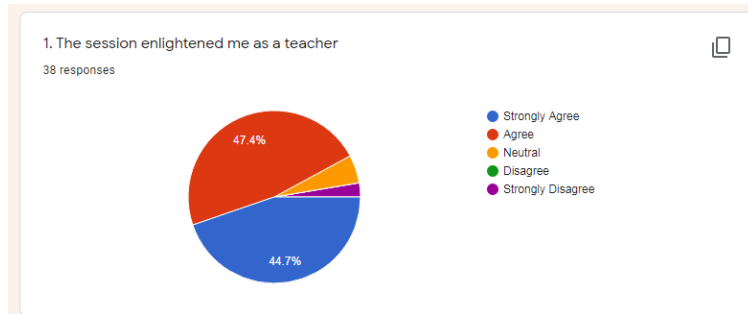
- Awareness of biases and prejudices
- Motivation to bring about the change
- Mobilisation among ourselves
- Organisation
- Action and Critical analysis of where we are
- Reflection and Evaluation

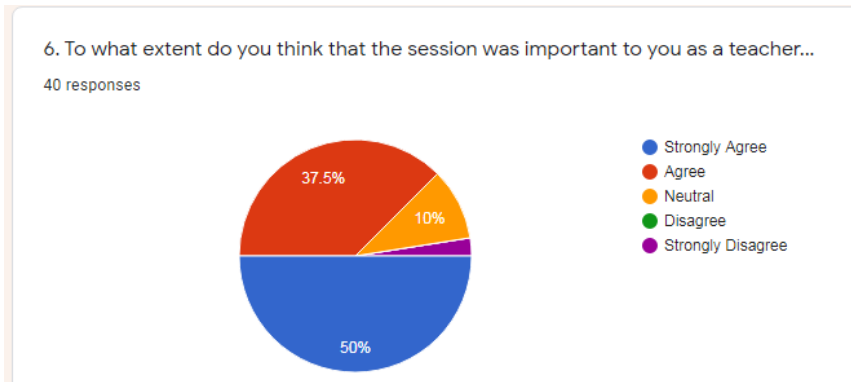
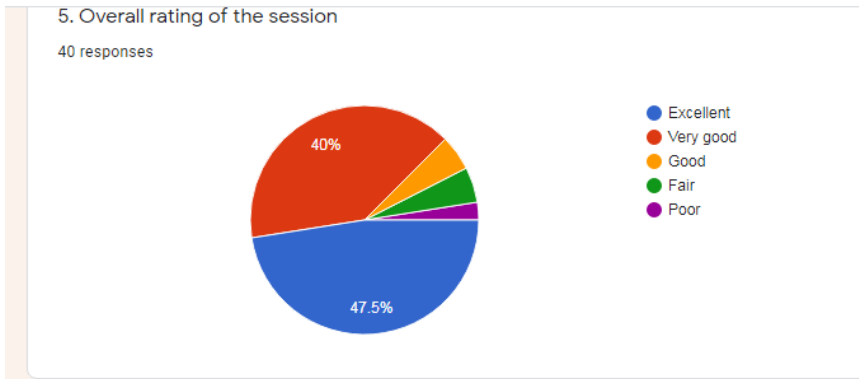
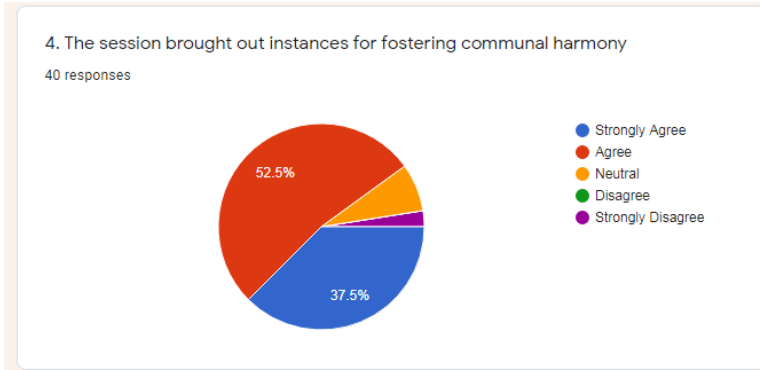
Father said that he believed in the Experience, Reflection and Action as an hermeneutical spiral.

The outcomes of the program are as follows:

- Students attained knowledge of the various aspects of communal harmony
- Skills for developing communal harmony in self and students were discussed
- Sharing of internal prejudices and biases were done and clarification was sought
- Samanvaya as a group was introduced and students were asked to become members of the group

FEEDBACK of the session : A google form was made and students provided their feedback.





The resource persons and their inputs were highly appreciated by the students and it proved to be beneficial to them as teachers.