



XAVIER BOARD REGIONAL MEETING REPORT



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF ANDHRA AND TELANGANA REGION

The Regional meeting of AP & TS region was held on Sunday, 22 October, 2023 at 12.00 noon in V floor, Concordia Hall at Rajagiri school of Business, Kochi, Kerala.

Following are the minutes of the meeting.

1. The Regional meeting commenced with a short prayer followed by opening remarks by Rev. Fr. Dr. L. Joji Reddy SJ, National President XBHE & Principal, Loyola Academy.
2. Rev. Fr. D. Balaswamy SJ was elected as regional president replacing Rev. Fr. I. Lourdhuraj SJ.
3. A heartfelt gratitude was rendered to Rev. Fr. I. Lourdhuraj SJ and was appointed as a Director for Catholic TV.
4. A programme was conducted by Xavier Board of Higher Education in India in collaboration with local CRI. Rev. Fr. Dr. L. Joji Reddy, SJ addressed the gathering. About 200 participants witnessed the programme.
5. Discussion on **Plan of action**:
 - a) It was resolved to bring in all the unregistered catholic colleges who did not pay membership fee under the aegis of XBHE.
 - b) It was resolved to organize one programme each in TS state - Seminar in LA, Hyderabad in January 2024 and AP state – Workshop in ALC, Vijayawada, in February 2024.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF EAST AND NORTH EAST REGION

Minutes of meeting held on Oct. 22, 2023 at 12.00 noon during the AGM 2023 Br. Simon Coelho, the President was in the Chair for the meeting.

The meeting was attended by members from 18 member Colleges of the region and the representative from AICUF.

The new members who attended the meeting were Don Bosco College Diphu, Assam Don Bosco College, Chapaguri, Assam and Christ College, Umroi, Meghalaya.

Salesian College, Sonada was congratulated on attaining Autonomous Status and Don Bosco College, Jollang, Itanagar on being awarded 'A' grade by NAAC.

Br. Simon thanked all the Colleges which participated in the National Webinar on Research Writing held on April 21, 2023. He also placed on record his gratitude to all the Colleges which participated in the National Youth Peace Camp, held at NEISSR, Dimapur on Sept. 30, Oct. 1 and 2, 2023 wherein over 300 students, including some students from Manipur participated in the programme. A special word of thanks was said to Fr. C.P. Anto who graciously organised and hosted the NYPC.

Moving forward, Br. Simon requested the Colleges to put forth their suggestions on the kind of programmes that should be conducted which would benefit the Colleges in the region.

- ☐ Faculty Development Programmes for 5 days – both online and face-to-face. Themes suggested were: Preparation for NAAC, Research and Innovation and International Digital Transactions.

Suggested locations for holding the programmes were ADBU, Siloam, Holy Cross, Pastoral Centre, Salesian College, Sonada and St. Anthony's College, St. Edmund's College, Shillong.

- ☐ Programmes for students – face-to-face

Themes suggested were: Leadership, Cultural diversity, soft skills, introduction to research and student -Faculty programmes. Location – to be decided.

The members also raised their concerns regarding issues which were affecting their Colleges:

- ☐ Inclusion of Religious instruction institutions in XBHEI – Colleges of Philosophy and Theology
- ☐ Distance to travel to participate in any programme and the expenditure incurred due to the same
- ☐ NEP implementation

- ❑ Placement of graduating students
- ❑ Fostering Industry -Academe linkages
- ❑ Sharing of ERP among member colleges

Some of the responses included offering Online Value Added Courses and Certificate

Courses, Diploma by NEISSR in Peace Mediation, faculty exchange programmes. XIM University offered to host both faculty and student programmes for the region. Some colleges also offered to collaborate in various areas with other regional institutions.

The meeting ended with Br. Simon stating that the member colleges need to come together more often to make XB E and NE region a vibrant region.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF KARNATAKA REGION

The members of Karnataka Region of the Xavier Board met during the Annual general Body meeting at Rajagiri, Kochi on 22/10/2023. In the absence of the Present (Bro. Victor Raj) and the Vice President (Sr. Dorothy AC), Fr. Baiju Antony CM, the Secretary conducted the meeting. It was attended by 48 delegates from the member colleges in Karnataka.

The secretary welcomed all the delegates and then informed them about the different activities organized by the Region in the academic year 2022-2023. It included two programmes in Bangalore (at Jyothi Nivas College and Mount Carmel College), one in Mangalore (St. Aloysius College) and three in Mysore (two in Philomena's College and one in De Paul College). These programmes were on NEP 2020 and faculty development programmes.

After the reporting, the meeting focused on the activities the Region could take up for the coming the present academic year. The following were suggested;

1. Youth Leadership Programme, preferably for the students from rural colleges in Bangalore. The programme could be coordinated with the help of the diocesan Youth coordinators.
2. Leadership programme for the Managers and Principals of the member colleges.
3. An online session will be organized on October 28, 2023 at 9 am for the principals and at least two faculty members of the member colleges as part of gathering inputs and to create a consolidated suggestion to be sent to the State government on NEP 2020. The session will be organized by St. Joseph's College of Commerce Autonomous, Bangalore.
4. It was suggested in the meeting to include colleges run by Catholic Lay persons.
5. It was also suggested to organize more meetings with Xavier Board and CCK.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF KERALA NORTH REGION

The annual regional meeting of the Kerala (North) Region was conducted on the 22nd of October at 12.30 pm in the Seminar Hall of Rajagiri Business School. Members from the districts of Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Kannur were present for the meeting. The meeting was presided over by the President of XBHEI Kerala (North) Region, Dr. Alphonsa Vijaya Joseph. Rev. Fr. Dr. Martin K A, Vice-President and Rev. Sr. Dani Maria FCC, General Secretary, were present. The meeting was attended by 54 members from various institutions.

The meeting commenced with a silent prayer. The President, Dr. Alphonsa Vijaya Joseph welcomed the gathering and presented a concise report of the activities of the XBHEI Kerala (North) Region from October, 2022 to October. 2023. She also requested the member institutions to ensure participation in all programmes organized by the Xavier Board.

There was a very elaborate discussion on the implementation of the Four Year UG Programme in Kerala. The members raised their apprehensions on the method of implementation and the need for preparedness for its enactment. Rev. Fr. Antony Arakkal and Dr. Alphonsa Vijaya Joseph answered to the questions and shared the key points in the curriculum framework proposed by the Kerala State Higher Education Council. However, the Universities in Kerala are also bringing forth modified regulations to suit the needs of the University. The future of the higher education institutions were also discussed with respect to formation of cluster colleges, deemed to be Universities and private colleges.

The following action plan was proposed for the coming year:

- Since focus is to be given to the planning and implementation of the FYUGP, an orientation programme will be conducted
- A residential programme for teachers at Don Bosco College, Sulthan Bathery
- An orientation for the Administerial staff of HEIs on administerial aspects of the FYUGP
- A leadership programme for students

Rev. Dr. Fr. Martin K A also actively participated in the discussions. Rev. Sr. Dani Maria proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The meeting came to a close at 2 pm.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF NORTHERN REGION

The Meeting commenced with a short prayer.

Prof Sandra Joseph, President of the XB, Northern Region and Principal, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi welcomed the members.

The urgency to facilitate more interactions and coming together of the Catholic Colleges spread across the seven states in the North was discussed. It was suggested by the XB Executive that a minimum of **two** to **three** meetings with one being a meeting of the Principals/Managers/Senior faculty of the XBHE Colleges of the Northern Region has to be convened.

The need of benefiting from the collaborations between Northern Colleges via sharing resource staff, technical support, sharing/availability of software programs and other participatory programs for students was stated. Members offered solutions and gave references of people/institutions (Mr. Binu Thomas of Marian College and the college's technical team) that would help in such resource sharing.

The issue of lack of attendance of majority of the colleges in such important meetings of the Northern region was discussed. As a solution it was suggested that if the Xavier Board and the CBCI would intervene and send letters to the Bishops and managers of the colleges then perhaps full participation would be secured.

Since all members agreed on the urgency of an annual meeting in the Northern Region and the need for better participation, Fr Maria Charles of CBCI offered that he will extend his services to contact/communicate with whichever Bishop/Provincials/ Priests-in-Charge that the members would want to reach out to. This suggestion proposed by Fr Maria Charles was welcomed by the members present. Likewise it was suggested that XBHE after having two consecutive General Body Meetings in the South and Konkan should now perhaps look at the venue to be in the North for 2024 Annual General Body meeting as that would encourage colleges of the North and North Eastern Regions to participate.

Fr Peter, Principal of Trinity College, Jalandhar offered to be the host and the institution as the venue as accommodation facilities were available. Fr Peter also stressed that before coming to annual general body meetings there was a need to have more regional meetings for better cooperation. Members also discussed on identifying of resource people for the meetings for which it was felt that XBHE should play a larger role in arranging the resource people and their remuneration.

Members discussed **WHAT, WHEN and WHERE** should we conduct the proposed two or three programs.

On the question of **WHAT** is to be conducted in Northern Region suggestions of the following Programmes/Plan of Action was given:

1. Principal's/Directors/Senior Staff meeting of all colleges of the North region.
2. National Level meet such as the next Xavier Board General Body Meeting in North.
3. **Faculty empowerment programmes to be conducted** wherein young faculty could be sent to colleges in the Northern region to interact with the faculty and students in the colleges they visit. This could be done online or physical visits as per accommodation and work demands.
4. Along with Faculty exchange programmes also much needed is a **student exchange programme**.

Advantages of such collaborations/meetings were discussed as follows:

1. Faculty will learn from each other's programmes' and projects
2. Inter-college competitions and functions
3. MOU's between us
4. Resource people can be invited.
5. Conferences—National Level—staff can be sent to collaborative colleges.

On question of **WHERE** should such meetings take place it was observed many institutions in Delhi (Christ University, Don Bosco etc.) will fall short of accommodation provisions for participants.

After deliberations the following events, venue and time were roughly charted out:

Event 1: Principal's and Managers Meet.

Proposed Venue: Delhi.

Tentative Dates: Mid / End January.

Event 2: Meeting for Northern Regions/ Even a National Level Meeting for XBHE.

Proposed Venue: Trinity College, Jalandhar.

Tentative dates: 1st and 2nd of March 2024.

Event 3: Students Exchange Programme within the collaborative colleges of Northern Regions.

Event 4: Faculty visits as resource people to collaborative colleges of the Northern Regions.

For the first event in the academic year which was suggested as The Principal/Managers Meet by January end the following resource people were suggested:

Dr. N.V. Varghese and Fr. Paul Parathazham. It was felt that this meeting should also have resource people who could brief everyone about larger changes in public policy with regard to minority rights and the issue of Minority Certificates that would soon become mandatory for admissions and appointments.

The meeting was adjourned with a Vote of Thanks.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF TAMILNADU REGION

1. The secretary will create a Whatsapp group for Tamilnadu Region

2. Programme to be conducted region wise within Tamilnadu

Program for Students

Place: Auxilium College, Vellore

Place: Holy Cross College (Autonomous) , Nagercoil

Place: St. Joseph College, (Autonomous) , Trichy

Place: Loyola College (Autonomous) , Chennai

Program for Faculty Members:

Duration: One Day

Mode: Online

Place: St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Palayamkottai



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF WESTERN REGION

The meeting was held at 12:00 pm. Sr. Noella Dias, President of the XBHE Western Region presided over the meeting. Most Reverend Dr. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur & Chairman, CBCI, Commission for Education and Culture, New Delhi graced the meeting with his presence.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows;

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Update from the last AGBM.
3. Review of Activities held in the Western Zone
4. Future Programs
5. AOB

Sr. Noella welcomed the participants and requested participants for self-introduction.

Update from the last AGBM: She then informed the gathering about the activities conducted by the Region and briefed the members about the efforts in contacting the member institutions for payment of dues and the non-member institutions to request them to register as members of the Board.

Activities conducted during the year: the activity organized inter-religious harmony program 'Respecting the Other', and stated that it was well-conducted and that the program received good feedback. Dr. Vini Sebastian, InCharge Principal, St. Xavier's Institute of Education and organizing committee member of the program informed that 12 colleges from the Western Region had registered and 60 students participated in the two-day program held on 14th and 15th September, 2023 at the Retreat House, Bandra, Mumbai. She shared that an expenditure of Rs. 80,000/- was incurred on the program which was sponsored by St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous), Mumbai.

Activities planned for the Future: The members then shared their suggestion and proposed some programs that could be conducted in the Region for the upcoming period. Dr. Sebastian was of the view that 'Respecting the Other' could be a general umbrella term for other programs encompassing gender, migrants and other similar concerns.

The other themes suggested by participants were on gratitude and other moral values and on ecological and social concerns.

Some other suggestions discussed were programs on Teaching Pedagogy and Research. The participants discussed the possibilities of collaborations among colleges in organizing such programs. The financial implications were also discussed with a proposal to levy registration charges on participants, if needed, to defray the expenses. Sr. Noella clarified that Xavier Board does not sponsor the regional programs totally but give Rs 2000/- to support the program.

After the deliberations, the following activities will be considered for the future:

1. A skill enhancement National program for faculty in the online mode. It was decided that this program would be initiated by the Mumbai colleges and tentatively to be held by March 2024.
2. Previously discussed program on topic Environment, could be carried on by the help of Christ University in the Lavassa/Pune region and the time frame was not finalized.
3. The Goa colleges would collaborate in organizing a student-centric program in the offline mode on the theme of 'Ecological/Social Concerns'. The tentative dates discussed were January/February, 2024.

AOB

His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. Gonsalves was of the opinion that there is a lack of coordination among the different educational bodies and boards governing schools and institutions of Higher Education. He expressed that there should be one platform for discussions on common issues faced. He opined that such coordinated approach rather than parallel functioning of the different bodies could help in issues related to financial and human resources and would help in coordinated functioning and increase in strength of the regional institutions.

Sr. Noella expressed her gratitude to His Grace on behalf of the participants. She also thanked the participants for their valuable suggestions.

The meeting was attended by **18** members in all belonging to different institutions of the Western Region.



REGIONAL MEETING REPORT OF KERALA SOUTH REGION

The meeting of the Xavier Board of Higher Education – Kerala South Region was held at Rajagiri Business School, Kochi on 22/10/2023 at 12.15 p.m. as one of the major events of the three-day Annual General Body meeting of the Xavier board. 28 members participated in the Kerala South Zone meeting. Rev. Fr. Reji Kurian, the President of the Kerala South Zone welcomed the gathering and presented the agenda of the meeting. Dr. T.C. Thankachan, the Vice-President, initiated the discussion session and Rev. Prof. Dr. James John Mangalathu the national council member felicitated and oriented the group.



The principals, management representatives and teachers from different institutions shared their views on various issues of Indian Higher Education system, Higher Education in the Kerala context and NEP 2020 and its implementation strategies, concerns and challenges.

Agenda:

1. Organising Seminars, Workshops at different colleges in this academic year.
2. Organising a seminar for the Non-Teaching staff of the colleges regarding office management
3. Increasing the membership in the XB Kerala South Zone

Decisions:

1. Decided to conduct a seminar at Fatima College, Kollam in the first week of December, 2023 on the theme 'Four Year UG Programme in Kerala: Structure, Concerns and Prospects'

2. Decided to organize a seminar for Non-Teaching Staff of the colleges on 'PFMS, GEM, Office Management, etc' at St. Thomas College, Palai in the first week of January 2024.
3. Decided to organize a workshop on 'Outcome Based Education' at Marian College, Kuttickanam in the first week of February, 2024
4. Suggested the district-wise representatives selected to identify the colleges to be joined in the Xavier Board and include their name and WhatsApp number in the group

28 members participated in the zonal meeting. Rev. Fr. Reji Kurian, the President of the XB Kerala South Zone proposed the vote of thanks. The meeting come to an end by 1pm.