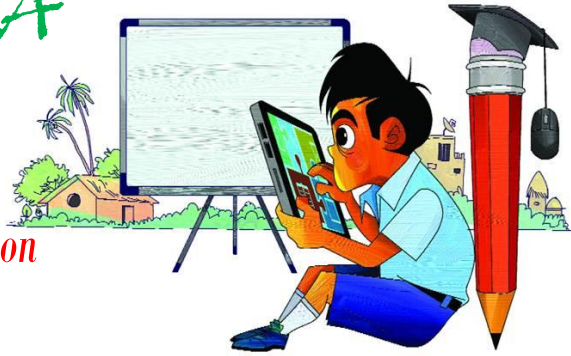




JPIC INDIA

PEACE

Passionists for Ecological Action, Charity and Education



From the Editor's Desk...

CHILD IS MEANT TO LEARN NOT TO EARN

Children worldwide suffer from abuse everyday. Not too many people are aware of the different kinds of abuse the children undergo-not because they don't care, but because it is not publicized enough for anyone to do anything about it. Every single child of the world has rights that protect and guarantee a peaceful childhood full of education, love, health and care. Nevertheless, the children were not always treated as boys or girls. The idea of children and childhood is not natural; conceptions of childhood have changed over the centuries. These historical changes depend on the modes of socioeconomic organization, forms of parenting, and socio-political organization in different places and times in the history of mankind. For all that childhood is a social creation.

The maltreatment of children, let alone anyone, should not be tolerated anywhere. Children have the same rights as adults. As a vulnerable group, children have particular rights that recognize their special need for protection and also that help them develop their full potential. Children are not helpless objects of charity or a property of their parents or any other person. They are recognized as human beings and the subjects of their own rights. A child is an individual, a family and community member with rights and appropriate responsibilities for his or her age and development stage.

Children should enjoy the basic qualities of life as rights rather than privileges accorded to them. Every child whether a boy or girl irrespective of age is unique and has value importance as a person with a right for their human dignity to be respected. It has a right to have a say in all decisions and matters that concern him or her, to be listened to and his or her opinion taken seriously. This will enhance understanding and mutual respect between children and adults. The participation of children protects them more effectively from abuse and exploitation. When we understand and respect children's own experiences, we are able to create better protection mechanisms and the children themselves can act as active agents in their own protection. This helps to develop and build recognition of children as independent bearers of rights with a sense of identity and a positive implication for their self esteem.



Let us join our hearts and hands together to protect children and their rights to survival (to life, to health, nutrition, name and nationality), to protection (from exploitation, abuse and neglect, to development (education, care, leisure, recreation, etc.), and to participation (to expression, information, thought, religion).

.....do not hinder them....



The synoptic gospels report the beautiful story of Jesus blessing the children.

He rebuked his disciples for hindering them from coming to him saying that the Kingdom of God belonged to them and those who were like them

The present issue of the PEACE magazine is dedicated to the theme of the rights of children. In this light it is good to remind ourselves of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children promulgated in 1992 and give voice to their inalienable rights:

To Survival (their right to life, health, nutrition, name and nationality)

To Development (their right to education, care, leisure, recreation, etc)

To Protection (their right against exploitation, abuse and neglect)

To Participation (their right to expression, information, thought, etc)

Children's rights go beyond just human rights, which exist to ensure fair and proper treatment of people across the world. Children, defined as any person under the age of 18, need more than just human rights due to a set of unique needs stemming from their vulnerabilities. Over many decades people, including priests and religious, have exploited these vulnerabilities. In this context, it is imperative that we become not only aware of the rights of children but actively involved ourselves in promoting their rights.



The quite appalling stats put out by CRY-India (Child Rights and You) must be taken as a wake-up call. About 99 million children of school going age are out of school in India. Despite the ban on child labour, 13 million children between the age of 5 and 14 toil in factories in the most inhuman conditions. About 150 children go missing every day in India. Many of them end up as child labourers and as objects for sexual exploitation. 42% of married women in India were married as children.



The above stats which is only the tip of the iceberg, should help open our eyes to the atrocities endured by children not only in India but the world over. One cannot but shudder at the thought of the innocent children of clerical sexual abuse and the traumatic situation of children in war torn areas of the world. By pushing the innocent children into such harrowing conditions, we are actually hindering their rights to survival, development, protection and participation. In a word, we annihilate their dignity created in the image and likeness of God.

Hence, Vos Estis Lux Mundi calls everyone to a "commitment to personal and collective conversion, a humility of learning, listening, assisting and protecting the most vulnerable."

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them....."

Paul Cherukoduth C P

JUST, PEACEFUL AND A DIGNIFIED LIFE

BRO. MAHENDRA GHEREL,C.P.

Jeevadhama, Passionist Theologate

Life is first and most important gift of God to us, and we all are called to take care of this gift. No matter whatever the state of life one lives; each one deserves to live a just, peaceful and a dignified life. In the 20th century we see there is threat to human life, in some way we are threaten by the natural calamities or disastrous but the greatest threat is alienation of oneself from his or her own family. When a individual is alienated for his or her own family, relatives, friends and even children how can one live a just, peaceful and dignified life.? It is in this context I would like to share my experience of ministering people at an old age home.

During the 2nd year of my theology, I was ministering around 40-50, aged members. I spent my time with them, in kitchen, in the garden, fitness room, hall, and at dining table. In my initial visits to this aged home, all people seems to be very exclusive, once I became familiar to them I could feel that they seems to be happy, but are living in a sea of sorrow. For me it took couple of months to become friendly with them, they narrated their entire life; many of them said they tried to give all that they could give to their children. enrolled them in the good schools, provided them with best facilities, when there was no enough food we went hungry to bed, every festival we bought new cloths and gifts for them and we wore the old ones but when it come to the children to take care of their parents they settle in abroad and leave their old parent to die alone.



One of the members said we did what we are supposed to, but the children forget to keep the fourth commandment which says “honor you Father and mother.” they have gone through difficult situation of life, to make life easier for the next generation. Dear friends I had an enriching experience over there, I realized that we are blessed with many things it is all because of the hard work of our parent and the elders. Many things are easy for us and we still make others to suffer. I humbly request all those who are reading this article that if today we are not respecting our parents and elders who looked after us and took care of us, do not forget we are also going to face the same problem.

So Dear brother and sisters, we often say we love God, forget about loving God, if we do not love those who brought us in this very world then how can we say that we love God. For the word of God says “love your neighbor as yourself.” Therefore rest a while and remember what they have done, I feel that they do not expect anything but little bit of our love, care, and concern for them.

Orientation on JPIC

to Passionist students of different communities in India

As part of JPIC activities in India, Fr. Jerald Varghese C P conducted orientation programs for our students in formation. The orientation was done from 17th Oct-21st Oct 2019. The purpose was to evoke awareness among the students on JPIC and ecological issues. The visited communities were Jeevadhama community at Bangalore, Gyana Nilaya community at Bhopal, and St. Gabriel Minor Seminary at Cochin. The students were warmly welcoming the ideas and were very much interested and enthusiastic to become part of JPIC. Different sessions were conducted bringing awareness on issues related to ecology and how the aim and objective of JPIC are closely related to the Passionist charism. At the end of sessions, each community was asked to choose **three action plans** to be practiced as a community throughout the up coming year.

The following action plans were chosen by the different communities:



Jeevadhama Community, Bangalore:

To Make a conscious effort to reduce the use of electricity, fuel, water, and food.

To Organize awareness programs in communities and eco-friendly gifts to friends and benefactors.

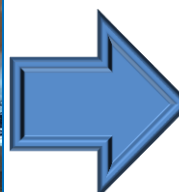
To plant new in every year.

Gyana Nilaya Community, Bhopal:

To Make a conscious effort to reduce the use of electricity, fuel, water, and food.

To Avoid loud music.

To promote Terrace gardening and organic farming.



St. Gabriel Minor Seminary, Cochin:

To Make a conscious effort to reduce the use of electricity, fuel, water, and food.

To Avoid loud music.

No to burn dry leaves.

JPIC India Activities

JPIC India encouraged students to plant trees in St. Gemma Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Randham Korattur, Tamil Nadu under the banner: **“Trees On Global Warming Gone”**



JPIC India conducted a drawing competition for the students on the theme: **NATURE NURTURES**