

# IN SEARCH OF A PEDAGOGY: IMPARTING CHRISTIAN VALUES THROUGH CHE IN A MULTI- RELIGIOUS CONTEXT

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# India and Plurality

- ▶ India – a country of religious, linguistic and cultural diversity
- ▶ 79.8% of the population of India practices Hinduism, 14.2% adheres to Islam and formal Christians form 2.78 %
- ▶ Biggest democracy
- ▶ Peace loving
- ▶ Indian churches are well attended

# About the Paper

- ▶ An empirical study conducted in Christian Colleges in Kanyakumari District, India
- ▶ Aims at suggesting an apt methodology to promote value based education in CHE
- ▶ Strives to show how CHE can serve as the 'salt of the earth'
- ▶ Finds out ways of integrating values into the curriculum

# CHE in India

- ▶ People have high respect for the value system of Christian colleges
- ▶ Main objective of CHE institutions is education and not spread of Christianity
- ▶ Non Christians come to CHE institutions for Quality
- ▶ Internal and external factors prevent CHE from witnessing
- ▶ Many factors stifle religious freedom that is guaranteed by the Constitution of India

# CHE in Indian Situation

- ▶ Religious teaching is prohibited in Indian colleges and universities
- ▶ Are our institutions committed to witnessing?
- ▶ Value Education to non-Christian and Religious Instruction to Christians are conducted
- ▶ Moral and spiritual issues discussed
- ▶ Special Christian programs conducted

# Programs in Campus

- ▶ Morning chapel service
- ▶ Camps of Student Christian Movement of India
- ▶ Prescribing value based syllabus
- ▶ Christian Studies and Value Education classes
- ▶ Programs that create awareness, skill and commitment to fight social evils

**STUDENTS SHOW INTEREST IN KNOWING THE BIBLE**

# Methods to Inculcate Values

- ▶ Introducing books of the Bible as part of language study
- ▶ Offering Christian Studies as extra credit courses
- ▶ Offering short term courses in Christian education
- ▶ Introducing service learning programs for Indian and foreign students
- ▶ Preparing teachers to be effective counselors
- ▶ Equipping teachers to be witnesses in campus

# Service Learning Programs for Indian and Foreign Students

- ▶ A good step towards networking and exchange
- ▶ A good opportunity to expose students to some harsh realities of society
- ▶ Help students understand the Biblical mandate for having an option for the marginalized.
- ▶ Enriches students by engaging them in services to the communities
- ▶ Incorporates the perspective of love, which is the essence of Christianity.



# Responsibility of Teachers

- ▶ Be effective counselors.
- ▶ Be good models of the fruit of the spirit
- ▶ Be patient listeners and nudge the students along “by modeling, encouraging, disciplining and structuring our classrooms”
- ▶ Be witnesses in the campus.
- ▶ Should teach the Scriptures, lead a life worthy of being a follower of Christ, proclaim the Good News and practice what they preach.

# Campus Realities

- ▶ Absence of trained counselors to guide students in Christian values
- ▶ Untrained counselors struggle to understand the needs of students
- ▶ Students go to teachers with family and personal problems, for prayers, for relief from stress and depression etc

# Students' Understanding of Teachers

- ▶ They know how to lead a good life transcending challenges
- ▶ They are patient, loving, kind, truthful, obedient, morally upright, disciplined, hardworking, behave well in public places, have values etc
- ▶ They are models to be followed

# Responsibility of IAPCHE

- ▶ Should impress upon CHE institutions and teachers their importance and role
- ▶ Should prepare platforms to discuss their role
- ▶ Should organize training programs for teachers at local and global levels
- ▶ Help CHE plan strategies and develop methodologies to discuss issues

# Responsibility of CHE in India

- ▶ CHE in Indian multi religious society is not in a hostile context
- ▶ Much is expected of it and we can offer a lot
- ▶ Presence of different faiths is to be taken as a fertile ground for CHE
- ▶ It opens window to fine opportunities for witnessing
- ▶ It is not a sign of hostility, but an indication of positive challenges and opportunities
- ▶ Christian Colleges in a multi-religious society should seize every opportunity to witness and spread the Word of God

# Thank you

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