

## **TWO DAY WORKSHOP ON "ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION IN AUTONOMOUS COLLEGES"--6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012**

### **1<sup>st</sup> day of the Workshop -5<sup>th</sup> June, 2012**

A two day seminar on "Enhancing Quality Education in Autonomous Colleges" for the teaching faculty of St. Joseph's degree & P.G. College was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 2012. As St. Joseph's degree & P.G. College is in its second year of autonomy, the seminar educated and enlightened the teaching faculty on the various aspects of autonomy. The workshop started at 9.00 a.m. with the lighting of the lamp followed by a prayer service led by Rev. Fr. Gova Showry (Head of the Psychology Department). The Principal welcomed the resource persons -Dr. Bernard D.Sami, IQAC Coordinator, Loyola, Chennai and Dr.Vincent, Associate Professor, Department of Advanced Zoology & Biotechnology, Loyola College, Chennai.

In the **I session -"Higher Education -Recent Trends"** , Dr. Bernard D. Sami spoke about National Knowledge Council and the Report of the Working Group on Undergraduate Education (headed by Sam Pitroda, Chairman of the National knowledge Commission). The Study conducted by the above concluded that there was "inaction in colleges" & there were only 8 % of students are undertaking education in universities in India. The aim of the 12th UGC Plan is to increase it to 15-20 % by 2020. The triple objectives of the Plan are "**Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence in Education**".

The **II session -"Autonomous Colleges in India: Achievements & challenges"** by Dr. Bernard D. Sami. It was a matter of pride to Dr. Bernard that of the 8 colleges given autonomy in 1978, and Loyola, Chennai was one of them. He spoke about the achievements under autonomy-self confidence, clarity of vision, enabled a student evolved teaching, reform in education and evaluation and provision of value education. Autonomy also provided them with criteria of employability and usefulness to society. Challenges of autonomous colleges are grants not reaching on time, tendency for the system to collapse if not used properly, lack of space and absence of university department to introduce certain courses among others were some of the constraints mentioned by him. He concluded both the sessions by repeatedly showing his concern for new

colleges entering autonomy and cautioning them not to make the mistakes made by them.

The **III session** was presented by Dr. S Vincent. -"**Strengthening the Science Curriculum**". No change in the science curriculum for decades has ensured students losing confidence in them. Both the public and the Government need to encourage research scholars in the field of science. He concluded the session by saying that science education should be reinforced through study of applications to local environment and industry.

The **IV session** was presented by Dr. D Bernard Sami -"**Curriculum Designing--Issues**". He elaborated on different criteria and combinations that can be used to make it effective. He also mentioned that monetary mechanism would enhance quality and that the Board of Studies decision regarding syllabus and evaluation method is final.

All sessions were received attentively by the staff and they interacted well with the presenters by seeking required clarifications on number of academic and research issues.

The participant were formed into groups and gave their queries which the resource persons addressed on the second day and clarified the doubts.

## **II<sup>nd</sup> day of the Workshop -7<sup>th</sup> June, 2012**

### **I Session - RESEARCH FUNDING SOURCES** -by Dr. S. Vincent

The session started with Dr. Vincent praising the college culture of greeting the visitors with a smile and commended the Principal for it.

Dr. Vincent said that funding should be earned by winning the confidence of the Government and by initiating and participating in research. The resource person then gave a detailed and elaborate source of funding in both the Science and Arts streams.

### **II Session - AUTONOMY - STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE** -by Dr. Bernard D Sami

Dr. Bernard started this session by repeating with pride that Loyola, Chennai was one of the first colleges to receive autonomy in 1978 and had set up a number of Centres and Institutes of Excellence.

Curriculum Aspects followed in Loyola, Chennai were highlighted. Students start with English, Languages and Values in the first year. Second year they are sent to Outreach programmes and opt to have Allied, Optional and General Electives. In the third year, the priority is given on major studies as well as link ups with corporate for internships. Supporting the students' progress, financial aid by management apart from Government scholarships, MOUs with premier research institutions are some of the good practices adopted in the college.

### **WHAT AFTER AUTONOMY?**

Dr. Bernard D. Sami concluded the session and said that this is a stage where the institution should be allowed to confer Degree certificates by the college, which he felt was the ultimate freedom accorded to the autonomous colleges. Finally, he invited questions from the staff.

### **III Session - QUALITY ENHANCEMENT- QUALITY DISASTER** -by Dr. Vincent

In this session, Dr. Vincent advised measures to be taken to ensure quality enhancement and concluded by saying that "A quality teacher gives a quality student".

The faculty thanked the Management for conducting such an excellent workshop which gave them great insights about autonomy and funding agencies.

### **IV Session - INNOVATIVE LEARNING** by Dr. Bernard D Sami

This session highlighted the importance towards the approach of each student being taught and monitored .The course content should neither be diluted nor too heavy & syllabus to be updated often and question banks to be given to the students.

All the sessions were interactive and lively. The workshop concluded with a valedictory and felicitation of the guests by the Principal, Rev. Fr. Dr. V.K. Swamy and a formal vote of thanks by Mr. Praveen, senior faculty Department of Business Management.