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ICRDCE NEWSLETTER

INDIAN CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION (ICRDCE)
(A co-ordinating and facilitating agency for Community Colleges in India)



Message from Very Rev. Fr. General



CURIA GENERALIZIA DELLA COMPAGNIA DI GESÙ

Rev. Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J.
Director, ICRDCE
Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE)
No. 30, Veerasamy Street, Egmore
Chennai – 600008 INDIA

26 June 2025

Dear Fr. Xavier Alphonse,

The Peace of Christ!

It gives me immense joy to know that the Community College Movement and the Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) are celebrating 30 years (1995–2025) of dedicated service. Reaching out to 1,57,864 students and 14,016 teachers, conducting 251 programmes and 19 research studies, and publishing over 100 articles and 45 books - this is truly a remarkable achievement.

As the founder and Director of ICRDCE, you and your team deserve our heartfelt congratulations and deep gratitude. God's blessings be upon you, dear Fr. Xavier Alphonse!

I understand that, to mark this milestone, you are releasing a commemorative volume titled *Committed to Care*. This book, I believe, will serve as a historical record of the past three decades of this transformative movement - chronicling its struggles, triumphs, and invaluable contributions. More importantly, it will offer insights and inspiration for the future, helping strengthen and replicate the Community College model globally.

What moves me most about this initiative is the consistent emphasis on personal care. The movement's goal of individual and social transformation - through empowerment, employment, and the affirmation of human dignity - embodies the Jesuit spirit. By nurturing each person's potential and helping individuals discover their hidden talents through compassion and care, the movement reflects the very heart of Jesuit education.

I am also pleased to know that the book will explore the organizational and technical dimensions of managing Community Colleges, share international experiences, and document regional, national, and global conferences and collaborations - including with countries such as Papua New Guinea, East Africa, South Africa, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. The foundational role of ICRDCE in ensuring sustainability - through training, curriculum development, and evaluation - is commendable. Indeed, strong institutions are vital to sustaining meaningful movements.

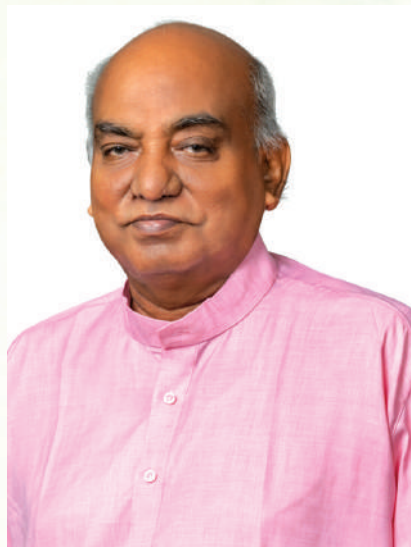
Once again, I thank you, dear Fr. Xavier Alphonse, and your dedicated team for your visionary leadership in this mission of education - so deeply aligned with the Jesuit tradition of *Magis*.

May God continue to bless the movement, the organization, and all those who contribute to this noble cause.

Yours sincerely in Christ,


Arturo Sosa, S.J.
Superior General

Editorial



Greetings from ICRDCE, Chennai

Newsletter is always an occasion to share with you the latest events, happenings, and programmes of ICRDCE. I am happy to present to you the highlights, achievements, and significant activities of ICRDCE from February 2024 to August 2026.

This is a milestone year for ICRDCE and the Community College Movement. We have journeyed 30 years together. The distinguished mark of our journey is the service of the most marginalized and deserving.

We have served through NSDC during the last two years 3,449 students (2024-2025) and 3,818 students (2025-2026). It makes us happy that all these students got Government Approved Certificates. 90% of them are placed in jobs.

Hallmark of ICRDCE is its programmes: NSDC Training of Trainers (ToT) - 4, Life Skills Programme - 4, Communication Skills - 1, International Life Skills - 1 and Regional Workshops - 4. Through these programmes, we have strengthened and consolidated the movement by training 596 Teachers.

The 30th anniversary of the Community College Movement was celebrated together, honouring and remembering all those who have contributed to the growth and development of the movement. All participating institutions were honoured for their valuable contributions. A special commemorative book,

“Committed to Care,” was also brought out, documenting the history and journey of the entire movement. This is also the moment of thanksgiving and gratitude: From the Jesuit Society. “Late Fr. D. Jeyaraj, S.J., Fr. Francis Xavier, S.J., Fr. M. Devadoss, S.J., Fr. Sebastia L. Raj, S.J., Fr. Danis Ponniah, S.J., Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, S.J., and Fr. Britto Vincent, S.J.,” as provincials of Madurai and Chennai Jesuit Provinces and Late Fr. A. Victor, S.J., Chennai Mission Superior. They extended immense support and encouragement for the entire movement. We extend our thanks Dr. M.S. Joseph Antony Jacob, S.J., who served the movement as the Director. We also fondly remember the quality contribution made by Late Mr. Anto Vincent, Late Prof. Albert Selvanayagam Late Dr. Kumara Babu and Late Mr. G.V. Subramanian. We thank Directors, Administrators, Principals, Staff and Industrial Partners of all the Community College throughout the Country. Our sincere thanks to the staff of ICRDCE, Mr. Joseph Johnson, Mr. Jothilingam, Ms. M. Gowri and Mr. Senthilkumar, who have been working closely with the institutions.

The movement is growing far and wide throughout India which gives us a lot of energy, enthusiasm, courage and mission to fulfil the dreams of the disadvantaged people of the country.

“Ad Muttos Annos”

Best Wishes,

Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J.,
Director, ICRDCE

1. National Conference on the Review and Functioning of Community Colleges and Skill Development Centres in India and Commemoration of 30 Years of Community College Movement in India (1995-2025).

The Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai, has completed thirty years of dedicated service, contributing significantly to the growth and advancement of the Community College Movement in India and across the world. This historical event was celebrated on the 26th & 27th September, 2025 with the National Conference in which 142 participants from 75 Community Colleges participated. They shared their experiences and the way forward.

- Dr. Wilson, Principal, Madras Christian College and Dr. Vasanthi Vijayakumar, Vice Chancellor, Captain Williamson Sangma State University, Meghalaya inaugurated the Conference. Mr. David Appasamy, Chairman, Roof for the Roofless, Chennai gave the keynote address on the Topic “The enduring relevance of Community Colleges”
- The commemoration was celebrated with a formal function on the 27th at Dhyana Ashram. Rev. Dr. Britto Vincent, S.J., Chairman, ICRDCE, Chennai; Tmt. Innocent Divya, IAS, Commissioner of Technical Education, Government of Tamil Nadu, as the Guest of Honour; and Fr. Berkman, S.J., Director, Loyola Pvt. ITI, graced the occasion. On this occasion, the book “Committed to Care” was released, tracing the journey of the Community College Movement over the past thirty years.



National Conference on the Review and Functioning of Community Colleges and Skill Development Centres in India, at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 26th and 27th September, 2025



National Conference on the Review and Functioning of Community Colleges and Skill Development Centres in India, at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 26th and 27th September, 2025



National Conference on the Review and Functioning of Community Colleges and Skill Development Centres in India, at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 26th and 27th September, 2025



Commemoration of 30 Years of Community College Movement in India, at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 26th and 27th September, 2025



National Conference on the Review and Functioning of Community Colleges and Skill Development Centres in India, at Chennai, Tamilnadu on 26th and 27th September, 2025

2. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been instituted to foster private sector initiatives in Skill development. It is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) organization with representatives of Government and industry Associates on its Board. ICRDCE (TP ID: 38218) has become the approved Training Partner of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the NSDC Non-Funding Skill Certification Programme of Skill India Mission, Government of India. 23,036 Students has been enrolled for the Skill Certification programme in the last eight years (2018-2026).



2.1 National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme:

Following the guidelines of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), ICRDCE conducts the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme regularly, based on job roles (courses) and sectors. Attendance at the ToT Programme is compulsory for all trainers.

The aim and objectives of the ToT Programme are to strengthen the capacity of Community College trainers and to support new institutions in establishing and implementing effective skill development programmes.

Training of Trainers (ToT) for the Community College on NSDC Non-Funding Skill Certificate Programme

S. No	Date(s)	Venue	No. of Participants	No. of Organisations
1	13 th & 14 th February, 2024	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	64	27
2	22 nd & 23 rd November, 2024	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	96	41
3	23 rd to 24 th June, 2025	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	77	43
4	22 nd & 23 rd June, 2026	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	116	62



NSDC - ToT, February 2024



NSDC - ToT, November 2024

Training of Trainers for the Community Colleges on NSDC - Non Funding Skill Certification Programme

Dates : 23rd & 24th June, 2025, Chennai



NSDC - ToT, June 2025



NSDC - ToT, June 2026

2.2. NSDC Training Centres: (January 2024 to June 2026)

S.No	Name of the Community College/ Training Centre	Parent Organization	Training Centre ID
1	St. Joseph Skill Academy, Bangalore	Karnataka Jesuit Educational Society	TC227077
2	Marian Craft & Arts Centre for Excellence, Thiruvananthapuram	Trivandrum Social Service Society (TSSS)	TC227078
3	Cluny Skill Development Centre, Puducherry	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, Pondicherry	TC258780
4	Vel Community College, Sivakasi	Arulmigu Sri Aandal Trust	TC259311
5	Vidivelli Skill Development Centre, Rajapalayam	A Unit of The Sivakasi Don Bosco Society	TC268223
6	Unity Skill Development Centre, Thiruvananthapuram	A Unit of Society for Unity and Inte- gral Progress	TC268225
7	Franciscan Hospitaller Skill Development Centre, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh	The Society of the Franciscan Hos- pitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception	TC273231
8	Thalir Academy, Cheyyur TK, Chengalpet	A Unit of Kalanjiyam Trust	TC273235

9	Christian Fellowship Skill Development Centre, Oddanchatram, Dindigul	Christian Fellowship Hospital	TC289142
10	M.S. Panwar Community & Technical College, Solan, Himachal Pradesh	M.S. Panwar Institute of Communication and Management	TC289143
11	TLM Skills Training Centre – NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh	The Leprosy Mission Trust India	TC298031
12	Sorna Community College, Paramakudi	Sorna Educational Trust	TC307138
13	Sri Sai Community College, Cheyyur	Chinnasamy Nagalingam Institute of Medical Science and Research Foundation	TC320806
14	JTECH, Ooty	Nilgiris Jesuit Educational and Charitable Society	TC334459
15	Elavero Training Institute, Adambakkam, Chennai	Elavero Foundation - Trust	TC335189
16	Rhythem Social Service Society for Women, Coimbatore	Rhythem Social Service Society for Women	TC335444
17	Jesus Mary Joseph Social Service Society - CG Bhilai	Jesus Mary Joseph Social Service Society (JMSSS)	TC354679
18	Wellesley Bailey Vocational Training Center, Ayodhya Dt., Uttar Pradesh	The Leprosy Mission Trust India	TC354680
19	The Leprosy Mission Hospital Training Centre – Muzaffarpur	The Leprosy Mission Trust India	TC354681
20	VisionFly, Hubli, Karnataka	VisionFly Foundation Trust	TC354682
21	Rev. Dr. Gamaliel Memorial SDC, Thiruvananthapuram	Bethel Evangelism Fellowship	TC354713
22	GEMS Community College, Dehri on sone, Bihar	Gospel Echoing Missionary Society	TC354850
23	Subbamma Mission Hospital, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh	Project India Compassion Trust	TC354853
24	VEMBU Trust, Vilathikulam, Tuticorin Dt.,	Vilathikulam Empowering Movement for Building the Underprivileged (VEMBU)	TC363664
25	Udhayam Social Service Centre, Trichy	The Capuchin Friars Minor Multipurpose Social Service Society (CFMMSSS)	TC363665

NSDC Assessments : (January 2024 to June 2026)



St. Joseph's Community College, Jamshedpur



Samaritan Community College, Satna, Madhya Pradesh



St. Aloysius Industrial Training Institute, Mangalore, Karnataka



Marian Craft & Arts Centre for Excellence, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Sharon Community College, Salem, Tamilnadu



St. Maria Gorethi Community College, Demdima, West Bengal



St. Joseph's Institute of Skills (SJIS), Bangalore, Karnataka



UPAYA Science and Technology Community College, Rajgangpur, Odisha



Kanyakumari Community College, Mariagiri, Kanyakumari



St. Anthony's Community College, Bangalore, Karnataka



St. Joseph's Skill Academy, Bangalore, Karnataka



St. Joseph's Community College, Gumla, Jharkhand



Loyola Skill Development Centre, Bangalore, Karnataka



Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College,
Keezhputhupattu, Tamilnadu



AHAL Skill Development Centre, Kilpennathur



St Joseph's Institute of Hotel Management and
Catering Technology and Skill Development, Belgaum

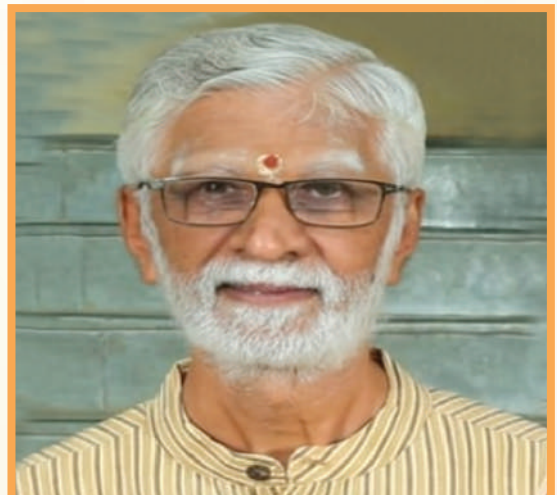
3. Life - Skills:

Coping is the effort we make to manage situations we experience as potentially harmful or stressful. A coping attitude is a philosophy that says life will not always be the way we want it to be, but our coping skills can help us make the best of it.

Objectives of the Programme

- To understand the meaning of life and its challenges.
- To provide the skills and knowledge needed to cope with life's problems and challenges.
- To develop a positive attitude towards themselves and others.
- To assist participants in becoming successful and responsible citizens.

We fondly remember Mr. G.V. Subramanian, Founder Trustee, Swami Vivekananda Rural Community College, Keezhputhupattu, Near Puducherry. He was a man of vision with a mission to uplift the poor and marginalized. His enthusiasm and energy were contagious. He touched many lives with his Kindness, Wisdom and Compassion. From humble beginning, he reached the heights of service, dedication and commitment. He becomes a monumental model in the Community College Movement.



3.1. Life Skills Orientation:

Dr. Xavier Alphonse S.J., Director, ICRDCE, Chennai gave Life-Skills orientation and introduced the NSDC Programme to the staff of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Ooty on 19th July, 2025.



3.2 Life-Skills Programme:

S. No	Date(s)	Venue	No. of Participants	No. of Organisations
1	25 th to 27 th July, 2024	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	65	31
2	9 th to 11 th September, 2024	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	49	33
3	11 th , 12 th & 13 th December, 2025	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	40	21
4	22 nd to 24 th July, 2026	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	41	29



Training Programme for the Life Skill Teachers, July, 2024



Training Programme for the Life Skill Teachers, September, 2024



Training Programme for the Life Skill Teachers, December, 2025



Training Programme for the Life Skill Teachers, July, 2026

3.3 Training Programme on Communication Skills :

Communication made in premeditated manner vouches for the meaningful accomplishment of the purpose for which it has been made. The probable barriers to communication if managed properly can result in to an effective and meaningful communication

- Training Programme on “Communication Skills” for the Teachers of Community Colleges in India on 25th & 26th July, 2025 at Dhyana Ashram in which 48 participants from 26 organizations participated.



Training Programme on “Communication Skills” July, 2025

3.4 State University - Life Skills Programme:

ICRDCE conducted the “Training Programme on Life-Skills for the Captain Williamson Sangma State University, Tura, Meghalaya on 24th to 26th August, 2026. Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Director, ICRDCE, Chennai was the chief resource person and organizer of the programme. The aims and objectives of the Programme

is to bring Life-Skills as part of the University syllabus/curriculum and to propagate the Community College System in North Eastern States of India.



4. Stories of Hope: Student Case Studies from Pravaham Community College

4.1 From Fear to Freedom: Geetha's Transformation through the Pravaham Community Education Programme



Geetha grew up in Varadharajapalayam, Baradharami, in a small thatched house with her parents, younger sister, and younger brother. Her father worked as a horse groomer in Bangalore, while her mother stayed at home.

What should have been a place of love and security became a home filled with fear. Whenever her father returned from Bangalore, he brought liquor with him. Soon, both her father and mother became addicted to alcohol. Even after her father returned to work in Bangalore, her mother continued to drink,

and the situation became increasingly difficult. After just one or two drinks, she would lose control of herself and wander the streets, sometimes vomiting and even being found unconscious by the roadside. This was a source of great shame and trauma for the family.

For Geetha and her younger siblings, this became a heartbreaking routine. They would anxiously wait for their mother to return home. When she did not, the three children would search for her. They pleaded with neighbours to help carry her home, but no one was willing to help. Together, the children would lift their helpless mother and bring her back home.

Instead of receiving compassion, they were often met with harsh words. Villagers would say, "Why are you still living here? Leave this place. Your mother's behaviour is a bad example for everyone." These words wounded Geetha deeply.

Her home offered no peace, and she had no one with whom she could share her fears, pain, or loneliness. Every day, she lived with fear, anxiety, shame, and uncertainty. The

emotional burden became overwhelming. She gradually lost confidence in herself and slipped into depression.

Although she completed her Class 12 education, Geetha refused to join college. She feared that if others came to know about her family circumstances, they would mock and reject her.

Just when hope seemed lost, her grandfather heard about Pravaham Community College and enrolled her there.

Even after joining Pravaham, Geetha remained withdrawn. She kept to herself, avoided conversations, and continued to carry the pain of her past. During the morning assembly, she would sometimes sweat profusely, feel a sudden chill, and faint without any apparent reason. The Pravaham staff took her to a doctor for a medical examination, and all her parameters were found to be normal.

Gradually, however, something began to change. Through the Life Skills Programme, counselling, encouragement, and a caring environment where she and her family were not judged, Geetha began to discover her own worth.

The fear that had controlled her life slowly disappeared. Loneliness gave way to friendship. The shy and emotionally wounded girl gradually became confident, cheerful, and active. For the first time in many years, she experienced a sense of peace within herself.

Today, Geetha is no longer defined by her painful past. She stands as a confident young woman who has found hope, courage, and the strength to look forward to a brighter future.

Her circumstances may not have changed, but the love, encouragement, and right opportunities provided by Pravaham transformed a wounded life into one filled with hope and confidence.

4.2. One Daughter's Education at Pravaham Community College Changed the Destiny of a Family

In the small village of Kottakuppam near Gudiyatham lived a family of six. Mr. Devadoss earned a meagre income by peeling coconuts, while his wife, Mrs. Vasugi, worked in a shoe factory. Together, they struggled to provide for their four daughters—Pooviarasi, Royal Kumari, Vinnarasi, and Rupavathi.

Although all four girls studied in a government school, the family's financial burden became overwhelming. Mounting debts and daily expenses forced the parents to discontinue the education of their eldest daughter, Pooviarasi, after Class 10. Their only option seemed to be sending her to work.

It was during this difficult period that they heard about Pravaham Community College. At first, they hesitated. However, when they learnt that the one-year healthcare course, including boarding and lodging, was offered free of cost, they decided to give their daughter a chance.



Ms. D. Pooviarasi



Ms. Royal Kumari D

That single decision changed the course of an entire family.

Pooviarasi joined Pravaham in 2013. After completing the one-year General Duty Assistant (GDA) course, she secured employment at Asirvadh Home, Injambakkam, Chennai. For the first time, the family experienced financial relief and renewed hope.

However, tragedy struck in 2016. Her father, who had been silently suffering from ill health, avoided treatment because he feared becoming a burden to his family. Sadly, he passed away.

His death pushed the family into even deeper hardship. They had no house of their own, and even their relatives turned them away. A compassionate pastor offered them a small place within the church campus, where the widowed mother and her four daughters lived in a simple hut.

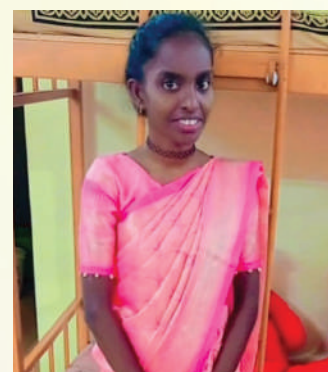
Soon afterwards, Mrs. Vasugi also became ill and could no longer work. At an age when many young women are still pursuing their dreams, Pooviarasi became the sole breadwinner. She took on the responsibility of supporting her mother and three younger sisters with remarkable courage and determination.

Inspired by her elder sister's determination and seeing how education had transformed her life, Royal Kumari joined Pravaham in 2017 after completing Class 12. Following her training, she was placed at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she has spent the last six years serving cancer

patients in the hospice unit with compassion and dedication.

The third sister, Vinnarasi, also completed Class 12 and joined Pravaham in 2018. She too was placed at Bangalore Baptist Hospital, where she now cares for cancer patients.

With three daughters now earning, the family made another life-changing decision. Together,



Ms. Vinnarasi D

they supported their youngest sister, Rupavathi, enabling her to continue her education instead of entering the workforce.

The transformation did not stop there. Rupavathi is now pursuing a Diploma in Nursing, fulfilling a dream that once seemed impossible.

Years of sacrifice slowly began to bear fruit. Pooviarasi devoted eleven years to caring for her family. Her younger sisters lovingly contributed towards her marriage, grateful for all she had done for them. Together, the three sisters saved



Ms. Rupavathi D

enough money to purchase a small piece of land and build a modest house.

For the first time in their lives, the family had a

home they could truly call their own.

Today, another exciting chapter has begun. Royal Kumari has been selected to pursue higher studies through Bangalore Baptist Hospital and will begin her course on 3rd August 2026.

Despite her busy schedule, Royal Kumari has never forgotten where her journey began. Out of gratitude, she regularly returns to Pravaham to encourage and mentor current students, sharing her own life story and inspiring them to believe that no circumstance is too difficult to overcome.

The story of these four sisters reminds us that educating one girl can do far more than transform one life—it can transform an entire family, break the cycle of poverty, and create hope for generations to come.

5. Regional Workshops:

Regional Workshops were conducted with objectives of propagation of the concept, overall review and Scenario in India, Preparation and Establishments of Community Colleges / Skills Centres in all over India.

- 5.1. Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai, Tamilnadu in collaboration with St. Aloysius College (Autonomous), Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh organized a workshop on Community Colleges and NSDC Programmes in Jabalpur on 19th & 20th September, 2025.
- 5.2. ICRDCE organized “Two Day Workshop on Skill Development, Training and Resource Centre for Self-Employability” in collaboration with Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya on 14th & 15th October, 2025 in which 74 participants 29 organizations participated.
- 5.3. ICRDCE organized “One day National Workshop on Skill Development - Empowering, Employability & Establishing Skill Development Centres in Higher Education” in collaboration with Captain Williamson Sangma State University at Shillong, Meghalaya on 16th October, 2025 in which 29 participants 12 organizations participated
- 5.4. St. Joseph Skill Academy, Bangalore run by Karnataka Jesuits celebrated its 20 years of its existence and also they organized workshop on “Future of Skills and Employability” in which Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Director, ICRDCE, Chennai gave the keynote address on 29th & 30th January, 2026.



Workshop on Community Colleges and NSDC Programmes, at St. Aloysius College (Autonomous),
Jabalpur, India, 19th & 20th September, 2025



Workshop on Community Colleges and NSDC Programmes, Synod College, at Shillong, India,
14th & 15th October, 2025



Workshop on Community Colleges and NSDC Programmes, at Captain Williamson
Sangma State University at Shillong, Meghalaya, India, 16th October, 2025



20 years celebration of St. Joseph Skill Academy, Bangalore

6. Research Studies:

- ICRDCE undertook a Research Study on the impact study to record the Social, Educational and Economic Transformation of Students and their families benefitted through the Community Colleges in India during the year 2023-2024 covering 7,028 students from 102 Community College/ Skill Development Centres. The study has brought to light both the aspects of empowerment and employment.
- Impact of the NSDC Certification on the Community College Beneficiaries for the last five years 2020-2021 to 2024-2025. The tangible benefits of the NSDC Programme on the students Job Placement and Livelihood.

7. International Collaboration

7.1. International Programme on Life-Skills : Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai organised “Training of Potential Faculty Members for the Community Colleges in Srilanka” from 26th February to 9th March, 2024 at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. 20 teachers from St. John’s Vocational Training Centre, Miani Technical Institute and Vivekananda College of Technology, Batticaloa, Srilanka.



Training of Potential Faculty Members for the Community Colleges in Srilanka"
from 26th February to 9th March, 2024, Chennai, Tamilnadu

7.2. Inauguration of Community Colleges at Batticaloa, Srilanka: Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Director, ICRDCE, Chennai and his team, visited and inaugurated three Community Colleges in Srilanka at Vivekananda Community College (Vivekananda Charitable Trust), St. John’s Community College (Church of the American Ceylon Mission/Anglican Church) and Miani Community College (Somascan Fathers) at Batticaloa on 25th and 26th September, 2024. ICRDCE was instrumental in starting of these three Community Colleges in collaboration with United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. It was a proud moment for ICRDCE which caters to the dropouts, war widows, orphans, etc., in Srilanka. **Dr. Pareena G. Lawrence**, President of United Board was the chief guest for all the above inaugurations.



Vivekananda Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, September, 2024



Vivekananda Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, September, 2024



St. John's Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, September, 2024



Miani Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, September, 2024



Miani Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, September, 2024

7.3. **Visit to Srilanka:** Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Director and Mr. Johnson, Manager, ICRDCE visited Srilanka for a review and assessment of three Community Colleges in Batticaloa, Srilanka from 4th to 11th October, 2025 on the request of the “United Board for Christian Higher Education” in Asia. There were more than 1,000 young men and women benefited from the programme during the year 2024-2025. We are happy to note that the time ICRDCE invested in Srilanka on Training of Life Skills trainers really given fruit, we saw the visible changes through our interactions with the students, teachers, administrators, community leaders, etc.,



St. John's Community College, Batticaloa, Srilanka, October, 2025

8. Inauguration of Skill Development Centre:

Inauguration of Franciscan Hospitaller Skill Development Centre at Baireddipalli near Palamaner, Chittoor District by the Congregation of The Franciscan Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (FHIC) took place on 03.11.2024. Msgr. Rev. Fr. Talari Balaraju, Vicar General of Diocese of Cuddapah and other diocesan Priests and Dr. Xavier Alphonse, S.J., Director, ICRDCE, Chennai and his team attended the inauguration of the Training Centre.

9. Convocations:



Faith Academy Community College, Yelagiri Hills, on 3rd January, 2024



Madras Christian College (MCC) -Family Life Institute, Mappedu, Tambaram , Chennai, Tamilnadu on 9th January, 2024



Nano Nagle Community College, Chennai, Tamilnadu on 9th February, 2024



Calvary Community College, Bangalore, Karnataka on 3rd April, 2024.



Tarbes Community College, Bangalore, Karnataka on 3rd April, 2024



Calvary Community College, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 12th April, 2024.



RUHSA Community College K.V. Kuppam, Vellore Dt., Tamilnadu
on 13th September, 2024



Shine Community College, Gummidipoondi, Tamilnadu
on 21st September, 2024



25th Year Convocation of Continuing Education of Madras
Christian College, Tambaram, Tamilnadu on 27th March, 2025



Thalir Academy, Pavunjur near Cheyyur, Tamilnadu
on 29th March, 2025



St. Joseph's Institute of Hotel Management and Catering
Technology Skill Development Centre, Belguam, Karnataka
on 11th May, 2025



KGF Community College, KGF, Kolar Dt.,
Karnataka on 17th June, 2025



MCC Skill Development Centre in association with Centre for
MCC-Hanshin Vocational Education (South Korea), Mudichur,
Tamilnadu on 11th July, 2025



Cluny Skill Development Centre, Puducherry on 29th July, 2025



YWCA of Madras Community College, Chennai. Tamilnadu
on 28th January, 2026



Presidency Community College, Minjur, Tamilnadu on
10th February, 2026

10. Inaugurations - Programme



Batch inauguration of Dr. Chandran Devanesen Rural Community
College, Karanai Village, Tamilnadu on 12th July, 2024



Batch inauguration of Dr. Chandran Devanesen Rural Community
College, Karanai Village, Tamilnadu on 12th July, 2024



Batch Inauguration of St. Joseph's Institute of Skills (SJIS),
Bangalore on 20th July, 2024



Annual Day program of Loyola Skill Development Centre - Loyola
ITI, Bangalore, Karnataka on 20th July, 2024



Annual Day program of Loyola Skill Development Centre - Loyola ITI, Bangalore, Karnataka on 20th July, 2024

11. Special Programme:

Silver Jubilee celebration: KGF Community College, Karnataka

KGF Community College, Kolar, Karnataka, run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tarbes and an associate member of ICRDCE, celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 6th June 2026. The Community College was established in 2001 and has trained more than 1,700 beneficiaries, helping many of them secure employment. It has served married women, women abandoned by their husbands, widows, orphans, mine workers, and school dropouts. KGF Community College is one of our model Community Colleges and has brought about a visible transformation in the community.



Silver Jubilee celebration: KGF Community College, Karnataka on 6th June, 2026.



Silver Jubilee celebration: KGF Community College, Karnataka on 6th June, 2026.

12. Mahatma Gandhi Community College:

A certificate distribution programme was held on 25th February 2026 for the inmates of Mahatma Gandhi Community College at the Central Prison for Men, Puzhal, Chennai. The programme was held in the presence of Shri K. Shankar, IPS, DGP & IG of Prisons, and Dr. G. V. Selvam, Vice President, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), along with other prison officials. The dignitaries and prison officials appreciated and congratulated ICRDCE for its initiative to serve the most marginalised, neglected, and vulnerable sections of society.



Certificate distribution for the inmates of Mahatma Gandhi Community College – Central Prison for Men, Puzhal, Chennai on 25th February, 2026

13. Agreement with India Skills Pvt Ltd., New Delhi

ICRDCE, Chennai signed an agreement with India Skills Pvt Ltd., New Delhi for conducting NSDC Assessments for the Community College students on 16th May, 2026 and more than 15,000 students will benefit from this agreement in the next two to three years.



ICRDCE, Chennai signed an agreement with India Skills Pvt Ltd., New Delhi at ICRDCE Office on 16th May, 2026.

14. Books and Articles :

14.1. Articles:

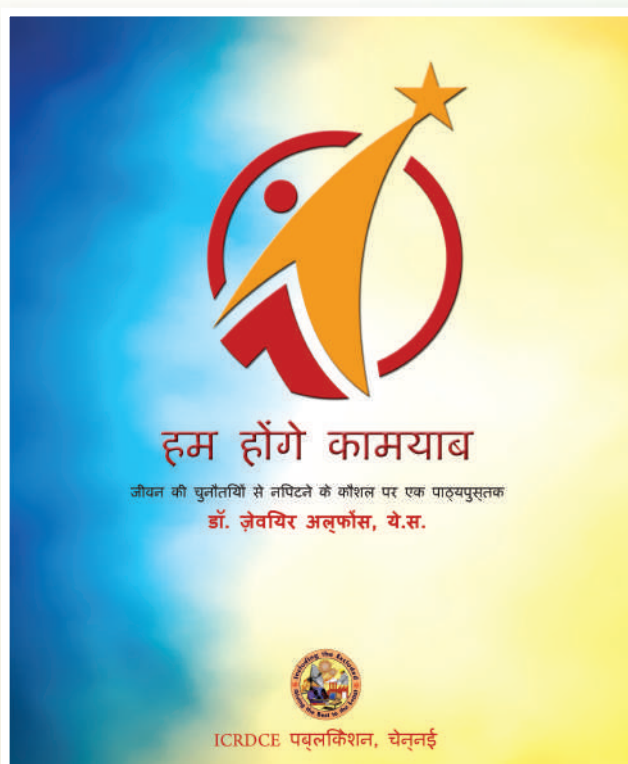
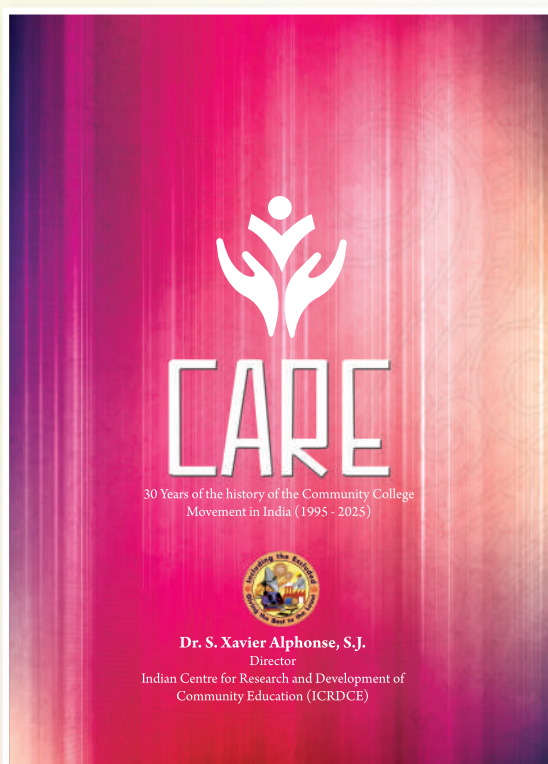


Suthandiradas, Jemmy, "Transforming Education in Sri Lanka through Community Colleges" Horizons, p 11-13, January, 2024.

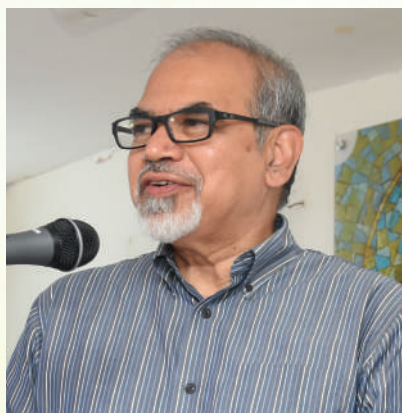


Alphonse, Xavier, "Community College System: In-depth Analysis" University News, 64 (13), March 30 - April 05, 2026.

14.2. Books :



15. “The enduring relevance of Community College”,. Speech by Mr. David Appasamy, Chairman, Roofs for the Roofless, Chennai, during the 30th Anniversary Celebration – September 2025



Good morning, everyone!

It's an honour to address you today on this truly special occasion – the celebration of **30 years of community colleges in India**. Three decades of hope. Three decades of opportunity. And three decades of transforming lives in ways that numbers alone can never capture.

I'd like to begin with a simple truth that captures the very heart of why we are here:

“Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not – unless we create it. Community colleges are where opportunity meets potential.”

That, in essence, is what we are celebrating today. This is more than an anniversary. It's a celebration of a powerful idea – an idea that education should not be a privilege for a few, but a pathway for everyone. That every individual, regardless of where they come from or what circumstances they were born into, deserves a chance to learn, to grow, and to build a better life for themselves and their families.

Today, as we reflect on how far we've come, let's also look ahead – to the even greater possibilities that lie before us.

1. The Origin of the Community College Concept

The idea of the community college was born over a century ago – and it started with a simple but radical belief: that education must serve people, not the other way around.

In the early 1900s, many young people in the United States found higher education out of reach. Universities were expensive and often distant from everyday realities. So a new kind of institution emerged – local, affordable, practical, and deeply connected to the lives and livelihoods of ordinary people.

They called them *community colleges* – because they belonged to the community. They weren't just buildings with classrooms. They were places of second chances. Places where dreams could be reignited. Where people could learn skills that put food on the table, dignity in their hearts, and purpose in their lives.

From those humble beginnings, the idea spread around the world – to Canada, Australia, the UK, and across Asia and Africa. And everywhere, the story was the same: when education meets people where they are, extraordinary things happen.

2. The Global Success Story

Today, community colleges are among the most dynamic and impactful parts of education systems worldwide.

In the United States alone, more than **12 million students** walk through the doors of community colleges every year. Many of them are the first in their families to go to college. Many work part-time or support families while they study. And yet, through these institutions, they find their way into good jobs, fulfilling careers, and brighter futures.

In **Canada**, community colleges are the backbone of a skilled workforce that keeps the economy innovative and competitive.

In **Australia**, they bridge the gap between classrooms and industries, ensuring students are job-ready from day one.

And across the **developing world**, they are powerful tools of social change — giving the poor, women, rural youth, and underserved communities access to opportunities they were once denied.

The lesson is clear: when education becomes relevant, accessible, and responsive, it changes not only individual lives — it changes the destiny of nations.

3. Unlocking Human Potential and Economic Power

Community colleges are more than places of learning — they are launchpads for potential.

Every person who walks through their doors carries within them a spark — talent waiting to be discovered, a dream waiting to be realized. Community colleges fan that spark into a flame. They give people the tools to turn ability into achievement and aspiration into action.

And the ripple effect is immense.

Think of the countless nurses, technicians, entrepreneurs, tailors and designers, beauticians, and IT enabled services personnel whose journeys began in a community college classroom. Each one contributes not only to their own success but to the success of their families, their communities, and their country.

The economic power unleashed is staggering. Skilled graduates fuel local industries, boost small businesses, attract investment, and create jobs. Communities thrive when their people thrive — and community colleges make that possible.

But their impact goes beyond economics. They build confidence. They nurture dignity and enable a better quality of life. They prove that talent is everywhere — in every village, every neighbourhood, every home — if only we give it a chance to shine.

4. The Indian Story: 30 Years of Hope and Change

Here in India, the community college journey began in 1995 with that same belief — that education should be a ladder, not a wall.

Thirty years ago, Father Xavier and a few other pioneers, looked around and saw millions of young people eager

to learn but unable to access traditional higher education. They saw employers desperate for skilled talent but struggling to find it. And they saw a nation full of untapped potential.

Their answer was the community college model — flexible, practical, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the realities of local communities.

And what a difference it has made! Over these three decades, community colleges in India have opened doors for countless learners — many of them from rural areas, many the first in their families to pursue higher education. They have offered training in everything from healthcare and hospitality to IT, logistics, retail, and technical support.

They have turned job seekers into job creators. They have transformed lives — not just for students, but for their families and entire communities. And we have all seen those transformations—from hopeless to skilled, a spirational to in-demand, employed to entrepreneurs, industry experience to returning to teach at a community college!

And today, as India positions itself as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, the role of community colleges has never been more vital. Our National Education Policy recognises their importance — embedding flexibility, multiple entry and exit points, and employability as core principles of the future of education.

5. Building the Nation, One Learner at a Time

At its heart, the story of community colleges is the story of nation building.

Because nation building isn't just about skyscrapers or highways — it's about people. It's about giving every citizen the chance to learn, to work, to contribute, and to dream.

Community colleges do exactly that. They reduce inequality. They break the cycle of poverty. They give people the means to stand

on their own feet. And they strengthen the fabric of our society by empowering people from the ground up.

A nation is only as strong as the opportunities it provides its people. And when opportunity is shared widely – when it reaches the last mile, the last village, the last learner – we build a future that is not just prosperous, but just and inclusive as well.

Conclusion: Looking to the Future

As we celebrate 30 years of community colleges in India, let us pause to honour visionaries like Father Xavier who dreamed big, the educators like all of you who built and nurtured these institutions, the policymakers and partners who believed in their potential – and most importantly, the students whose courage, hard work, and determination give this movement its heart and soul.

But let us also recognise this truth: the story is far from over. In fact, it is just beginning.

The next 30 years will be even more important. They will require us to scale bigger, innovate faster, and collaborate more deeply – with communities, industry, and government. We must ensure that every young person in India – no matter where they are born or what challenges they face – has a pathway to skills, to livelihoods, and to a life of dignity and purpose.

Because in the end, it all comes back to that simple idea:

*“Talent is everywhere, but opportunity is not – unless we create it.
Community colleges are where opportunity meets potential.”*

And when we create that opportunity – for one learner, one family, one community at a time – we build not just careers, but a stronger, more equitable, and more prosperous India.

Thank you.



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