

CONCLUDING STATEMENT OF THE THIRD NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE OF DON BOSCO SCHOOLS

We, the 200 delegates of the 4th National Educational Conference of Don Bosco Schools (NECDBS) India 2016 - organised by the Don Bosco Schools India in collaboration with the Salesian Province of Guwahati, met from 04 to 06 November 2016, at Don Bosco, Pan Bazar Guwahati Assam .

Guided by the theme: “Don Bosco; Transforming India through Education”, we were led to consider how we would face the aspirations of the youth of emerging India, who are more aware of reality than the teachers.

We reflected on other current realities like the demographic dividend, rapidly changing technology, the challenges of leadership; the continuous need for learning, unlearning and relearning; all of which need to be confronted while we embark on the long journey of education. Surrounded by a group that would be led into radical thinking we would have to have revolutionary and long lasting methods for teaching-learning. We need to consider ways of empowering teachers and confront realities such as nationwide corruption at all levels. We were reminded that as principals there is need for a continuous exercise in listening.

We have come to be aware that Salesian Education is immersing ourselves in our heritage, studying the paradigms of the day, and bringing out the best in our youth as a community with a common and well defined plan. It takes extraordinary efforts to build a relationship as the heart of education, by being present with our pupils as friends rather than as managers and administrators. We have become aware that true education would be ensuring the benefit of all.

Realising that market has taken off as a new form of religion, we must protect our students to recognize their mistakes and reorganize their priorities. They must be also made aware, that we cannot be fully human without being ethical. There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.

We had a look at the new education policy proposals which were put forward so that in course of time they may be formulated into another Policy of Education.

With the help of our own past pupils, experienced teachers and senior members of the civil society, we were able to formulate the profiles of a Don Bosco Teacher; of a Don Bosco School; of a Don Bosco Principal and Student.

We discussed the possibility of educating our young people towards national integration and promotion of cultures. There is an urgent need to help young people, unify their activities by developing concentration through and Classical music and Mathematics.

Realizing that failure could be a stepping stone to success, we have unanimously adopted child friendly methods, and promote education in an atmosphere of freedom. We were

exposed to the world of leadership through music by which our students will not only be fascinated but also guided to better and more holistic ways of living.

Going further into our desire to transform India through Education, we resolve:

- To follow Don Bosco in his passionate style of loving kindness as the heart of education;
- to ensure that the youth grow confident of us, Salesians just as in a family;
- to confront the difficulties we experience in education by being faithful to our heritage of the preventive system of Don Bosco;
- to engage everyone in all our educational ventures;
- to share our educational experience with others and involve them in our vision;
- to share our Salesian educational heritage with others, and thereby influence the national educational environment and policies.

As enthusiastic and ardent Salesian Educators, inspired by Don Bosco and emboldened by the ideals of this Conference, we pledge to prepare our students to be global citizens in the Don Bosco Way, to prepare young minds to be protagonists of a corruption-free society, to educate our youth towards national integration by promotion of cultures; and to enable youth to be leaders of a new society by being the change that they want to see in the world.

Guwahati, 06 November 2016.