



# **Faculty Development Programme**

**On**

**"Jesuit Pedagogy in Action: Leading  
With Vision for Environmental Justice,  
Democracy and Student Well-Being"**

**28<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

**Report**

Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)

Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 34



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24/07/2025

### CIRCULAR ON FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FDP)

Dear Professors,

The Jesuit Higher Education Commission, Chennai Province, in collaboration with Loyola College, Chennai, is organizing a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for all Academic Staff, Shift I & Shift II on **“Jesuit Pedagogy in Action: Leading with Vision for Environmental Justice, Democracy and Student Well-Being”** on **28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 11:00 a.m. in Bertram Hall.**

Refreshments will be served from 10:30 a.m. onwards.

All faculty members are requested to attend the FDP without fail.

Your active participation is highly valued as we collectively reflect on our vision & mission and renew our commitment to transformative education.

#### Class Timings:

Shift I – Classes will be held for the first three hours; IV and V hours are cancelled.

Shift II – Classes will commence from the II hour; the V hour stands cancelled.

  
Rev. Dr A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J.  
Principal  
Principal  
LOYOLA COLLEGE  
CHENNAI - 600 034

  
Rev. Dr D. Thomas Alexander, S.J.  
Secretary & Correspondent  
Rev. Dr. D. Thomas Alexander SJ  
Secretary & Correspondent  
LOYOLA COLLEGE  
CHENNAI - 600 034.

*“Let Your Light Shine”*

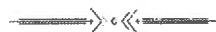


**Jesuit Higher Education Commission, Chennai Province**

and

**Loyola College (Autonomous), Chennai - 34**

(Coordinated by IQAC)



jointly organize

### **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

for all Academic Staff on

**“Jesuit Pedagogy in Action: Leading with Vision for  
Environmental Justice, Democracy and Student Well-Being”**

**28 July 2025 at 11:00 a.m.**

**Bertram Hall, Loyola College, Chennai - 34**

**Report on the IAJU Faculty Development Programme (FDP)**  
**Jointly Organised by Jesuit Higher Education, Chennai Province & Loyola**  
**College (Autonomous), Chennai – 34**  
**Date: 28th July 2025**  
**Venue: Bertram Hall, Loyola College**  
**Total No. of Participants: 412**

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### **Introduction**

A Faculty Development Programme (FDP) was jointly organised by Jesuit Higher Education, Chennai Province and Loyola College, coordinated by IQAC, on **“Jesuit Pedagogy in Action: Leading with Vision for Environmental Justice, Democracy and Student Well-Being”**.

The objectives of the FDP were:

- To reflect on the mission of Jesuit higher education in the present context.
- To strengthen faculty leadership in areas of **environmental justice, democracy, student well-being, and dialogical perspectives**.
- To provide space for collaborative departmental discussions and action planning.
- To reaffirm the commitment of faculty and staff towards the Jesuit mission in education.

The Faculty Development Programme began with a **Prayer Song**, which was followed by a **Welcome and Introduction** delivered by *Mr. KD Francis Xavier, IQAC Coordinator*.



### **SESSIONS:**

**Rev. Dr. Louie Albert, S.J.**, Coordinator of JHEC, Chennai Province and Convener of the FDP offered **reflective comments on the General's Address** titled “**The Jesuit University: Witness to Hope, Creative and Dialogical Presence**”, emphasizing the core mission of Jesuit higher education. He stressed on the need for strong intellectual leaders and a committed faculty and staff who embody Jesuit identity and mission. He highlighted the growth of formation programs that deepen Ignatian values among trustees, leaders, faculty, and staff, encouraging wider participation and global collaboration. Looking ahead, he urged institutions to embrace the *magis*, respond to present challenges with discernment and innovation, and walk together as witnesses of hope—grounded in identity, strengthened by unity, and committed to Jesuit educational values.



**Rev. Dr. Thomas Alexander, S.J.**, Secretary & Correspondent of Loyola College, delivered a session on “**Best Practices for Jesuit University Leadership in Environmental Justice.**” He first reflected on the Society of Jesus’ accomplishments over the past decade in responding to the ‘**Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor**’, supported by a survey presentation. He then discussed how Jesuit universities can emerge as **global leaders in implementing *Laudato Si'***, particularly by addressing urgent challenges such as toxic pollutants affecting children’s health, rising food and water insecurity, climate change, and related environmental hazards.

**Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj, S.J.**, Principal of Loyola College, presented on the topic, “**Promoting Student Well-being: Strategic Priorities for Jesuit Universities**”, emphasizing the importance of promoting student well-being in Jesuit universities by supporting their holistic development—emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. He highlighted the growing mental health crisis among students, including anxiety, depression, substance-use disorders, loneliness, and digital overexposure, noting that most conditions begin before age 25 and affect about one in five students. He stressed the need for preventive measures, such as dismantling stigma and investing in staff training, and advocated applying Ignatian values to address student struggles: discernment for choice paralysis, *cura personalis* for lack of leisure, and detachment for loneliness, fostering resilience, purpose, and authentic relationships.



**Rev. Dr. MS Jacob, S.J.**, Vice Principal and LOHO Director, addressed “**Democracy in Crisis: Jesuit Higher Education Responds to Global Democratic Erosion**,” highlighting the critical role of higher education in safeguarding democratic values. He reflected on the Task Force on the Promotion of Democracy (TPD), an initiative by the Jesuits under the Secretariat for Social Justice and Ecology, formed in response to global threats such as authoritarianism, populism, and weakening democratic

institutions. The task force emphasizes the lived realities of democratic erosion, particularly its impact on human dignity, participation, and justice for marginalized communities, and seeks to engage universities in addressing these urgent concerns.



The participants were briefed about a **Group Discussion on Global Priorities and Regional Action** at department level for formulating action plans to integrate themes such as environmental justice, democracy, student well-being, and dialogical perspectives into academic practices. Each department was asked to propose either a **new initiative** or **expand an existing one**, outlining the **objective, timeline, and expected outcomes** to be achieved by the end of the academic year.

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#### **Instructions for Group Discussion:**

As a department, reflect on the four key themes below. For each theme:

- Identify *one new initiative* your department can begin this academic year **OR** identify *one existing initiative* that can be strengthened or expanded.

Create a simple action plan with:

- Objective, Timeline, Expected outcome (by end of academic year)

The programme concluded with a **Vote of Thanks** by *Dr. Dorothy Pushparani, Assistant IQAC Coordinator*, at 1.10 p.m., expressing gratitude to the speakers, faculty, and organizers.

#### **Conclusion**

The FDP provided a meaningful platform for faculty members to integrate Jesuit pedagogy into academic practice. By aligning global concerns with regional action, the programme reaffirmed the institution's commitment to forming students who are socially conscious, democratically engaged, and environmentally responsible.

Global Priorities	Identified New / Existing Initiative	Objective	Timeline	Expected outcome
<b>1. Environmental Justice</b>  How can our department integrate environmental awareness and responsibility into curriculum, research, or student-led academic activities?				
<b>2. Democracy</b>  What activities (debates, seminars, classroom discussions, projects, etc.) can we initiate or strengthen to help students engage critically with democratic values, civic responsibility, and ethical leadership?				
<b>3. Student Well-Being</b>  What academic or co-curricular strategies (flexible assessment, inclusive curriculum, mentorship, etc., can we adopt to better support the mental, emotional, and intellectual well-being of our students?				
<b>4. Dialogical Perspectives</b>  How can we facilitate respectful academic dialogue across differences in background, belief, or opinion—especially through classroom practices, interdisciplinary learning, or collaborative student projects?				
<b>5. Committed Staff</b>  What specific steps can we take as a department to strengthen the commitment and formation of our faculty in the Jesuit mission?				

### Outcome of the FDP

The Faculty Development Programme (FDP) led to a fruitful group discussion that provided a platform for departments to engage in reflective and goal-oriented dialogue. As a result, each department was able to:

- Identify **one new initiative** to be launched in the current academic year, **or**
- Identify **one existing initiative** that can be strengthened or expanded,

across the following five thematic areas:

1. **Environmental Justice**
2. **Democracy**
3. **Student Well-Being**
4. **Dialogical Perspectives**
5. **Strengthening the Commitment and Formation of Faculty**

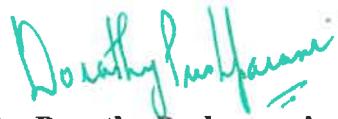
This outcome will result in the beginning of a focused and strategic approach within departments. By aligning with these five core areas, departments are encouraged to work collaboratively and proactively towards implementing their chosen initiatives.

The FDP is as a catalyst for continuous improvement and impactful change during the academic year. This goal-driven approach ensures that this FDP translates into meaningful action and contributes to the holistic development of the institution, its faculty, and students.



**Prof. D. Francis Xavier**  
IQAC Coordinator

Prof. D. Francis Xavier  
IQAC Coordinator  
Loyola College, Chennai-34



**Dr. Dorothy Pushparani**  
Asst. IQAC Coordinator

Dr. Dorothy Pushparani  
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