

The Historical Analysis of the First Arrival of De La Salle Brothers and their Educational Impact in India.

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Abstract

Lasallian teaching and education is a gift, a passion, a mission, a calling, a vocation. This paper contends that a Lasallian Educational pedagogy and the Lasallian Brothers were in greater demand to bring serious concerns of uplifting the poor and marginalized in few States in India through its enthralled Pedagogy. It explores how Lasallian Brothers have buried themselves completely to establish Lasallian centres in few parts of India and what caused them to quit and brought them back to the Indian soil with a great vigor, that became the torch bearers to dispel the darkness of Ignorance and illiteracy. This paper was made after the careful analytical reading and research of the letters, circulars, inscriptions, souvenirs, Reports of the Major superiors of the Brothers of the Christian school and Church Authorities during both arrivals of the Brothers in India. This brings enormous details for the cause of strengthening the implementation of Lasallian pedagogy in Lasallian mission centres.

Key Words : Lasallian Pedagogy, Brothers, Mission, Children

INTRODUCTION

Lasallian pedagogy was unique in the particular combination of teaching strategies. Lasallian pedagogy is practical, meets students where they are, sets the academic bar high, provides scaffolding to help students rise to the level of excellence, incorporates zeal, and it teaches minds, touches hearts and transforms the lives of the children¹. Started by John Baptist De La Salle in Rheims, France in 1679, the educational system fostered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The Congregation of the Brothers of the Christian schools, founded by St. John Baptist De La Salle in 1680, flourished in France and Europe for over a century. The French Revolution in 1789, took its toll on this congregation of religious Brothers to propagate the Lasallian pedagogy to the other parts of the world. In 1859, the request of Pope Gregory XVI as well as the Grant-in-Aid policy of the British Government, prompted the Brothers from Malaysia to open schools in India and Burma. Br. Liefroy as well as many other pioneers of Malaysia moved over to India to open schools. Due to many reasons