

CBCI NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION 2025

Theme: “Educating for Hope and Transformation:

Catholic Education in a Changing India”

17–19 November 2025 | Don Bosco, New Delhi

Organized by CBCI Office of Education and Culture

Concept Note

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement, cultural shifts, and growing emotional and social challenges among youth, education must evolve from mere instruction to profound inspiration. The CBCI National Consultation on Education 2025 aims to renew the transformative mission of Catholic education—forming compassionate, creative, and critically aware individuals who embody faith, service, and a commitment to justice in a changing India.

This Consultation draws inspiration from Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education, aligning Indian Catholic education with global movements that emphasize dialogue, inclusion, ecological responsibility, and digital competence—while remaining rooted in Gospel values and the lived realities of Indian society.

Objectives

The Consultation seeks to:

- ² **Reaffirm** the vital role of Catholic education in shaping India's moral, cultural, and human landscape.
- ² **Integrate** emerging educational innovations—particularly Artificial Intelligence and formative assessment—within an ethical and value-based framework.
- ² **Address** the emotional and social well-being of students, responding to rising mental health concerns and addictions with empathy and care.
- ² **Strengthen** global linkages and competencies to prepare students for a connected, compassionate, and collaborative world.

Programme Highlights

1. **Educating for Hope and Transformation** – Renewing the vision of Catholic education as a prophetic mission that nurtures conscience, community, and creativity in the service of humanity.
2. **AI-Embedded Education** – Integrating Artificial Intelligence meaningfully into learning ecosystems; equipping teachers with digital confidence and embedding AI literacy and ethics in classroom practice.
3. **Formative Assessment: Opening Doors to Thinking Classrooms** – Reimagining assessment as a pathway to reflection, understanding, and

growth, empowering both students and teachers.

4. **Social and Emotional Learning: Nurturing Minds, Healing Hearts** – Responding to the mental health crisis among youth through emotional resilience, moral formation, and pastoral accompaniment.
5. **Taking Forward Catholic Education in a Changing India** – Regional discussions and collaborative planning for teacher formation, student empowerment, and institutional renewal.
6. **Global Perspectives in Education: Building Bridges of Learning and Collaboration** – International insights on global competencies, intercultural collaboration, and innovation; opening new opportunities for partnership and exchange in Catholic education.

Expected Outcomes

- **Renewed Vision** A shared articulation of Catholic education's transformative mission in contemporary India.
- **Empowered Educators** Practical strategies for integrating AI, emotional learning, and formative assessment into classroom practice.
- **Well-being Framework** A national call to strengthen mental health and pastoral care systems in Catholic schools.
- **Global Engagement** Enhanced participation in international collaborations, partnerships, and educational innovations.
- **Collective Commitment** Unified national priorities aligned with the Global Compact on Education and CBCI's educational vision.

The CBCI National Consultation on Education 2025 is not merely an event—it is a movement to rekindle the soul of education. By uniting innovation with compassion, and excellence with inclusion, Catholic educators are called to form a generation that learns not only to know, but to love, serve, and transform the world.

Participants: Regional and Diocesan Secretaries of Education, National and Provincial Coordinators, Principals of distinguished institutions, and educational thought leaders. Join us in this transformative journey—be a renewed, empowered, and hope-filled educator.

Education remains our greatest act of hope, and our deepest response to the call of humanity.

Fr. Dr. Maria Charles SDB

National Secretary,
CBCI Office for Education and Culture

Synopsis of all the Sessions

Session I

“Educating for Hope and Transformation: Catholic Education in a Changing India”

Reviving the Global Pact for Hope: The Educational and Cultural Commitment of Catholic Schools and Universities- Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Archbishop of Nagpur and Chairperson of the CBCI Office for Education and Culture

Synopsis:

This address, “Reviving the Pact with Hope: The Educational and Cultural Commitment of Catholic Schools and Universities,” presents my reflection on the renewed mission of Catholic education in today's complex world. Drawing from Pope Francis' Global Compact on Education, it highlights education as an act of hope that forms individuals of conscience, compassion, and creativity. The talk traces the rich legacy of Catholic institutions in India and Asia, emphasizing our commitment to integral human formation, dialogue, inclusion, and nation-building. It further outlines key pathways for renewal—placing the human person at the centre, listening to youth, empowering women, strengthening families, welcoming the marginalized, promoting ecological responsibility, and fostering critical consciousness. By integrating Education 5.0, strengthening teacher formation, and encouraging research and innovation, the address reaffirms Catholic education as a transformative force. It concludes with a call to walk together—educators, families, and the Church—as bearers of hope for a more just and humane future.

Revisioning Catholic Education in a Changing India- Dr. John Alexander SDB, Vice Provincial, Salesian Province of Chennai

Synopsis:

Catholic education in India stands at a decisive moment of transformation and upheaval. It is challenged to translate its Gospel vision into a living force for justice, inclusion, and hope. Widening social and economic inequalities, the commercialisation of learning, the communalisation of knowledge, and the erosion of attention and interior life in an AI-driven digital culture compel us to rethink our mission. Catholic institutions must move beyond being mere “service providers” to becoming “architects of culture”—builders of a humane society grounded in dialogue, inclusion, and compassion. This is the time to renew our prophetic calling: to form persons of conscience and creativity,

nurturing resilient hearts and hopeful minds capable of healing divisions and renewing the moral fabric of our nation.

As we stand at this crossroads, the question remains: what kind of culture will Catholic education choose to create for the India of tomorrow?

Session II

“AI Embedded Education”

The Real Divide: Schools that Change vs. Schools that Don't- Mr. Naga Prasad, CEO and Co-Founder, COSCHOOL

Synopsis:

In an age where technology evolves faster than ever, the real divide in education isn't about access to AI — or what it can or can't do — it's about the willingness to change.

In this keynote session, Naga Tummala, one of the most progressive education thinkers, takes participants through why some schools thrive amidst disruption while others remain trapped in legacy thinking. In this thought-provoking talk, he explores how transformation begins not with new tools, but with new mindsets — of leaders, teachers, and systems.

He challenges school heads to see AI not as a threat, but as an ally in re-humanising education — freeing time for creativity, empathy, and deeper learning. Through stories, reflections, and insights, the session invites educators to rethink what it means to stay relevant in a rapidly changing world. Because ultimately, the greatest gap today isn't technological — it's human: the courage to adapt, the openness to learn, and the empathy to lead change.

Building teacher competency and confidence in using AI tools- Mr. Aditya Venkata, Vice President, Teachmint

Synopsis:

As classrooms evolve in the age of AI, empowering teachers to adapt with confidence is essential. This session explores how artificial intelligence can simplify teaching, save time, and enhance engagement across pre-class, in-class, and post-class activities. Through real-world examples, it will highlight how AI can assist educators in lesson planning, assessments, and personalised learning experiences. The talk will also outline frameworks for institutional adoption, continuous upskilling, and creating supportive environments that nurture teacher confidence and innovation. Concluding with a peek into the future of AI-enabled education, the session reimagines how schools can transform their classrooms into spaces of intelligent, inspired, and joyful learning.

Session III

“Reflective Evaluation of Pedagogical Practice and Student Progress”

Why do Questions Matter in your Classrooms?- Aneesh Bangia, Co-Founder, Open Door Education

Synopsis:

In a world where every piece of information is just a click away, *what is the one skill that schools must focus on?* It is the ability to **think - deeply and critically**.

And what better way to make students think than by asking questions? A **good question** can shift focus from memorisation to thinking in a classroom.

Examples of questions that make students question their assumptions and think from a new perspective -

- *What would happen if light didn't travel in a straight line?*
- *Why does air move from one place to another?*
- *Why can a dog not say “Hello”?*

ignite wonder and make students think beyond memorized answers.

But when should teachers ask questions? The good news is - we don't need a separate period to make students think. Every subject we teach - Science, Math, Geography, or even Language — offers countless opportunities to ask thought-provoking questions. The best teachers don't just explain; **they lead students to 'figure out' on their own.**

In this session titled “**Why Do Questions Matter in Your Classrooms?**”, **Aneesh Bangia**, Co-founder of *Open Door*, will explore:

- Is thinking important?
- How can teachers make students think?
- When do we make students think?

Practical suggestions of making a Thinking Classroom.

Assessing to Empower: Continuous Feedback for Teachers and Students- Mr Sanjay Radhakrishnan, School Excellence Expert

Synopsis:

Empowerment in education thrives when assessment becomes a dialogue, not a judgment. Assessing to Empower highlights how continuous feedback builds reflective teachers and self-aware learners. Through ongoing cycles of observation, discussion and goal setting, teachers refine pedagogy while students understand their learning pathways.

Aligned with NEP 2020 and SDG 4, this approach promotes equity, inclusion and lifelong learning skills. The Learner's Pit philosophy reminds us that growth arises from challenge and feedback helps both teacher and learner climb out stronger, equipped with the 21st century skills. By blending diagnostic, formative and summative tools, schools shift from testing to transforming.

Authentic tasks and Open-Book Assessments encourage reasoning and application over rote recall. Why questions now take a precedence over what questions. For instance, “Why do occupations differ between desert and plain regions?” invites explanation and reflection. Through such feedback-driven assessments, teachers become facilitators of thought and students evolve into creative, self-driven learners empowered to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Session IV

“The Soul of Learning: Nurturing Minds, Healing Hearts”

Building Emotional Resilience and Mental Health in Students- Dr. Hemlata Suri, Counselling Psychologist, Advisor, Project CACA

Synopsis:

The session examines the pivotal role of emotional resilience and mental health in shaping students' overall development. It underscores that education must nurture not only intellectual abilities but also emotional strength, empathy, and self-awareness — capacities essential for learning, relationships, and well-being. Drawing on insights from contemporary psychology and school practices, the discussion will focus on preventive and promotive approaches that enable children to manage stress, adapt positively to challenges, and thrive in dynamic learning environments. It aligns with the NEP 2020 vision of holistic and inclusive education — one that integrates mental health into the heart of the learning process, fostering schools as nurturing spaces that heal, inspire, and empower.

Guiding Students Away from Addictions: Towards Wholeness and Hope- Prof. N.K. Goyal, Founder and President of Cyber Security Association of India

Synopsis:

Prof. N. K. Goyal, President of the Cyber Security Association of India, underscores the urgent need to guide students away from emerging digital addictions and towards holistic well-being and hope. He highlights India's massive digital penetration—over 90 crore internet users—and the alarming rise of Internet and social media addiction among adolescents. Prof. Goyal

explains how excessive screen use, cyber-fraud, online exploitation, and algorithm-driven behavioural manipulation pose profound threats to students' mental health, relationships, and academic performance. He presents a balanced framework of “wholeness and hope,” urging students and institutions to cultivate self-awareness, disciplined digital habits, cyber-safety literacy, and supportive environments. Rooted in scriptural wisdom, his message affirms that transformation is possible through renewed mindsets, ethical digital behaviour, and conscious engagement with technology. He concludes with a call to embrace Christian digital ethics that foster responsibility, integrity, and protection of the vulnerable.

Session V

“Charting the Future: Catholic Education in a Transforming India”

Reimagining Catholic Education in the Face of Emerging Challenges- Fr. P.D. Johny SDB, Executive Secretary, All India Don Bosco Education Society (AIDBES)

Synopsis:

Catholic education stands at a pivotal moment in history. The world around us is changing rapidly—technologically, culturally, and morally—and our schools are called not merely to adapt, but to prophetically reimagine their mission in light of the Gospel. The challenges are many: declining enrolments in some regions, shifting parental expectations, digital disruptions, ideological confusion, economic pressures, and the erosion of moral and spiritual values. Yet, within every challenge lies a call to renewal.

Reimagining Catholic education begins by returning to its core identity - forming the whole person in truth, faith, and love. As Pope Francis reminds us, education is “an act of hope,” one that builds bridges and nurtures fraternity. Our schools must therefore become communities of faith and encounter, where students experience the harmony of faith and reason, and learn to integrate knowledge with values.

To reimagine Catholic education is to rekindle its prophetic mission - to form men and women of conscience, compassion, and competence who can transform society through the power of faith and reason. In this sacred task, Catholic principals are not just administrators - they are shepherds of hope, entrusted with shaping hearts that see the world through the eyes of Christ.

Forming the Next Generation: Pedagogical Innovation and Pastoral Accompaniment- Fr. John Ravi SJ, South Asian Coordinator for Jesuit Schools

Synopsis:

In a rapidly transforming India, Catholic education must move beyond information delivery to holistic formation — shaping minds, hearts, and consciences. Pedagogical innovation calls for re-imagining learning through the Integrated Pedagogical Paradigm, integrating technology with human values, fostering critical thinking, inclusion, and ecological awareness. Pastoral accompaniment invites educators to walk with students in empathy and faith — nurturing their emotional, moral, and spiritual growth through presence, mentoring, and community care. Both must go hand in hand: innovation grounded in compassion, and compassion guided by creativity. By forming reflective, responsible, and faith-rooted young people, Catholic schools can truly chart the future — educating not just for success, but for service, not just for competence, but for conscience.

Mission with Courage: Leadership, Community, and Witness- Br. Robert, Principal, St. Columba's School, New Delhi

Synopsis:

Education within the Christian tradition calls us to lead with faith, conviction, and a spirit of compassionate service. True leadership in our schools is not about exercising authority, but about reflecting Jesus' love, truth, and humility in all that we do. By fostering a sense of community, we strive to build an atmosphere where faith, respect, and cooperation can flourish. Courage empowers us to uphold Gospel values amid challenges, ensuring that our educational mission remains a beacon of hope and justice. Through prayer, presence, and dedicated service, we witness to the Church's mission of forming hearts, shaping minds, and inspiring future generations to walk boldly in faith and love, serving both society and the world.
