

## SHARPENING THE MIND AND SEASONING THE HEART DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN INDIA

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The above words were given as a message by Rev. Dr. Anto SJ, Former Principal of Loyola College at the conclusion of the International Conference Organized by U.S. Consulate Chennai and ICRDCE in March 2016. It is a giant leap in the growth of ICRDCE and the Community College Movement in India. It was organized by ICRDCE team led by Dr. Jacob. S.J., with the help of the U.S. Consulate

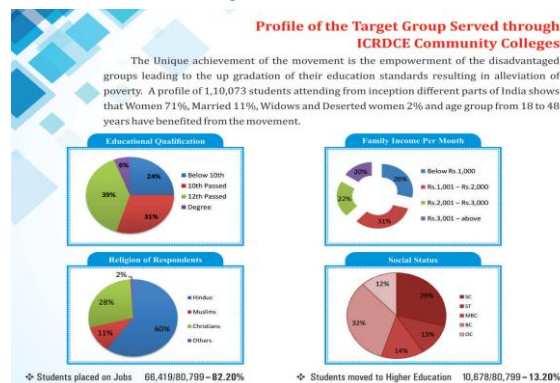
### 1. Pan Indian Movement

### Pan - Indian Movement

The Community College Movement has become a **National Phenomenon** spreading its wings to many states of India. We have 564 Community Colleges in 28 states of India. Out of which 177 Community Colleges are run by the Arts and Science Colleges that are selected and funded by the University Grants Commission (UGC), New Delhi. There are 336 Community Colleges that are run by NGOs, actively Collaborating with ICRDCE in reaching out to the dropouts thus making the Vision and Mission of ICRDCE a viable concrete reality.

- ❖ 21 Community Colleges started in 14 States of India till March, 2016
- ❖ ICRDCE has helped in the functioning of 44 UGC Community Colleges and 18 B.Voc Centres in the states of Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

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## 2. Profile of the Target Group

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## 3. Alignment with NSDC

### Alignment of Community College Curriculum with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

The '*Skilling India*' Programme was announced by our Honourable Prime Minister Modi by the establishment of Ministry Department of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. ICRDCE is undertaking aligning of all our curriculum, such as Life Skills, Work Skills, Internship, preparation for employment with NSDC, so that we can participate fully in the entire process of empowering the poor and skilling them to take up gainful employment. **The purpose of doing this alignment is to get national Certification** for different kinds of job roles prescribed by Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). This is

absolutely necessary to update and upgrade the students since various skills will be recognized by various Sector Skill Councils of NSDC.

#### 3. The following are the Aligned Quality Packs (QPs) Submitted for NSDC Approval

S.N.	Course Name	QP's Name	QP's Code	SECTOR
1	Diploma in Health Assistant	1. Frontline Health Worker	HSS / Q 8601	Health
		2. Home Health Aide	HSS / Q 5202	Health
		3. General Duty Assistant	HSS / Q5102	Health
2	Diploma in Air Conditioning and Refrigeration	4. Field Technician: Air Conditioner	ELE / Q 3102	Electronics
		5. Field Technician: Refrigeration	ELE / Q 3103	Electronics
3	Diploma in Domestic IT Support & Business Related Customer Service	6. Domestic Data Entry Operator	SSC / Q 2212	IT-ITeS
		7. Domestic IT Helpdesk Attendant	SSC / Q 0110	IT-ITeS
		8. Collections Executive	SSC / Q2214	IT-ITeS
4	Diploma in Medical Lab Technology	9. Medical Lab Technology	HSS/Q 0301	Health
		10. Phlebotomy Technician	HSS/Q0501	Health
5	Diploma in Geriatric Nursing	11. Blood Bank Technician	HSS/Q5102	Health
		12. Home Health Aide	HSS / Q 5202	Health
6	Diploma in Computer Hardware	13. Assistant Physiotherapist	HSS / Q 7701	Health
		14. Field Technician - Computing and Peripherals	ELE /Q4601	Electronics
7	Diploma in Computer Applications	15. Field Technician - Networking and Storage	ELE/Q4606	Electronics
		16. Domestic Data Entry Operator	SSC / Q 2212	IT-ITeS
8	Diploma in Animation	17. Junior Software Development	SSC/Q 0508	IT-ITeS
		18. Animator	MES/Q0701	Media and Entertainment
		19. Modeller	MES/Q2501	Media and Entertainment
9	Diploma in Multimedia	20. Rigging Artist	MES/Q2502	Media and Entertainment
		21. Media Developer	SSC/Q6703	IT-ITeS
10	Diploma in DTP Operator	22. Web Developer	SSC/Q0503	IT-ITeS
		23. Domestic Data entry Operator	SSC/Q2212	IT-ITeS
11	Diploma in House Electrician	24. DTP Operator	SSC/Q2702	IT-ITeS
		25. Electrical Technician	ELE/Q6301	Electronics
12	Diploma in Welding And Fabrication	26. Assistance Electrician	CON/Q0602	Construction
		27. Helper Electrician	CON/Q0601	Construction
13	Diploma in Office Management	28. Welding Assistant	ASC/Q3101	Automotive
		29. Welding Technician Level 3	ASC/Q3102	Automotive
14	Diploma in Automobile - Four Wheeler	30. Documentation Assistant	LSC/Q1122	Logistics
		31. Inventory Clerk	LSC/Q2108	Logistics
		32. Account Executives Receivables and Payable	BSC/Q0901	Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI)
15	Diploma in Fashion Design and Garment Making	33. Auto Service Technician Level -4	ASC/Q1402	Automotive
		34. Auto Service Technician Level -3	ASC/Q1401	Automotive
		35. Tractor Operator	AGR/Q1001	Agriculture
15	Diploma in Fashion Design and Garment Making	36. Sewing Machine Operator	AMH/Q0301	Apparel, Made-Up's and Home Furnishing
		37. Sampling Tailor	AMH/Q0701	Apparel, Made-Up's and Home Furnishing
		38. Fashion Designer	AMH/Q1201	Apparel, Made-Up's and Home Furnishing

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#### 4. International Conference with Montgomery Community College

The U.S. Community College System is more than hundred years old. The Community Colleges have developed their curriculum according to the needs of the industries and employers. They have achieved considerable success in opening education and Skill Development to all sections of the people. Repeated requests have been made in various meetings for the U.S. Community College experts to come to India and to have an interaction with our Indian Community College teachers in order to perfect and fine tune our curriculum with their expertise and our positive inputs. The International Conference on Curriculum Development fulfills this purpose and gives all of us an international exposure.

The Indian Center for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE) Chennai, in collaboration with Montgomery College, Maryland, USA organized on International Conference on Curriculum Development for the Indian Community Colleges on 3, 4th, & 5th March 2016. The conference is sponsored by US Consulate General, Chennai. During the Three days of Workshop, the Indian and American experts fine tuned to finalize the curriculum, which then is to be presented to the National Skill Development Corporation for its final approval and Implementation in the next academic year. There were 11 experts from Montgomery college Washington DC .More than 100 experts from Indian Community Colleges participated in this conference. The conference enabled the experts to fine tune the curriculum of Health sciences, Applied Technology and Information Technology.

ICRDCE in collaboration with Montgomery college, USA has also invited the significant administrators of Non-profit organizations from all over India. They have helped ICRDCE in shaping the community College Movement in India .They were invited for an Interface meeting with US community college experts on 6th of march 2016 to mutually understand and learn practices that are available for further growth and development of community college system in India

#### Curriculum Details

##### 1. Health Science

- Health Assistant
- Geriatric Nursing
- Multipurpose Health Worker
- Medical Lab Technology

##### 2. Applied Technology

- Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration
- House Electrician
- Home-Appliance and Services
- Multi-Mechanic Skills

### 3. Information Technology

- DTP Operator
  - Computer Hardware
  - IT Enabled Services
  - Computer Applications
  - Cyber Security
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### 5. Response from Dr. Chandra Devanesan Community College Dr. Chandran Devanesen Rural Community College, (CDRCC)

The Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), Chennai in collaboration with Montgomery Community college, Maryland, USA, organized an “International Conference on Curriculum Development for the Indian Community Colleges” on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016. There was a special meeting for Administrators of community colleges in India on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The conference was sponsored by the US Consulate General, Chennai. During the first three days workshop, the Indian and American experts endeavored to fine tune and finalize the curriculum, which would then be presented to the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) for their final approval and implementation in the next academic year. The NSDC is a government organization set up to increase the skill training capacity in India through private sector initiatives. Ten staff from Montgomery Community College, Maryland USA and hundred staff from Indian Community Colleges participated in this conference. The conference enabled the staff to fine tune the curriculum of Health Sciences, Applied Technology and Information Technology. Mrs. Regini Sekar, the Nursing Tutor, Mr.P.Muralidharan, the AC Technician Instructor, and Mr. Jayakumar, the Web & Graphic Design Instructor from CDRCC actively participated in their relevant disciplines.

After inauguration of the International conference, the sessions started on the first day with definitions of program objective and course outcome giving many illustrations and examples. The participants (teachers and experts from community colleges in India) were provided with study materials which enabled them to understand the concept more clearly. The US staff shared with the participants how they are leveling student outcomes in the learning process by applying the Blooms’ Taxonomy of Cognitive Abilities. It has five learning domains- Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, Analysis, Synthesis and Evaluation. Obviously it was a new experience for the teachers of community colleges in India. The students in Indian community colleges are of quite heterogeneous group as everyone differs in terms of sex, age, caste, religion, custom, social norms and values, educational qualification, economic background and geographical locations etc. In addition most of them are school and college dropouts. However, the excellent interactive sessions allowed for learning and practical application for both the Americans and the Indians.

The second day sessions were focused on helping the participants understand and

apply the concepts presented to them on the previous day with good number of examples using the white board extensively. The sessions on the third day were application oriented as well as evaluating the outcomes on the application of the concepts and knowledge. Some of the learning tools and strategies such as simulation, video presentation, debate and role play methods were used to facilitate a simple learning process. The US staff also touched on the important topic of evaluation of student's learning outcomes by using formative and summative methods. The formative method focuses on the process of identifying student's strength, weakness and the area needs to be improved. The summative method focuses on evaluating the outcomes of student's learning level at the end of completion of each unit of the course. Of special interest to us was talks by the Professors of Information Technology and Applied Technology of Montgomery Community College, who shared with our community college teachers about the cyber crimes and ways to overcome that kind of menace. They also showed various circuit diagrams of refrigeration and air- conditioning system that have been used in their country.

On the last day of the conference, on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016, all the staff from the Montgomery Community College, USA had a special meeting with the Administrators of community colleges in India. The main points discussed about were funding, governance, accreditation of the courses and sustainability of the community college system. This session was attended by the Dr. Dayalan Devanesen, Director, Mr Emmanuel Jeganathan, Financial & Executive Manager, Roofs for the Roofless and myself.

The highlight of the International Conference entertainment program was a series of dances presented by the CDRCC students. They were trained by Mrs. Regini Sekar and given a pep talk by our Director before going on stage. Their lively and joyful performance rocked and delighted the enthusiastic audience.

**S.Sekar,**  
Coordinator, CDRCC

#### **Response on Curriculum Development**

This Conference as a whole was highly educative and interactive in a way that bridged the cultural gap between the USA and India. This was brought about by the well planned program and motivational leadership from Dr. M.S. Jacob, Director, Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), Dr. Xavier Alphonse, SJ, (the Father of the Community College movement in India) Dr. DeRionne Pollard, President, Montgomery College along with the excellent moderation by Mr. Anto Vincent former VP Ford, India.

**The US Experience-** We can learn a lot from the Community Colleges in the USA.

- Community Colleges also known as Junior Colleges have been in existence for over 100 years in the US. Montgomery Community College was started in 1946! In 2013, 7.7 Million people attended US Community Colleges !!
- \*In the 1920's and 1930's the purpose of Community Colleges was to develop the

workforce to implement the decisions of the theoreticians produced by the traditional 4 year University degrees.

- \*After the war many veterans joined Community Colleges to gain civilian working skills. They had left their studies and could not get admitted to traditional Universities.
- \*Community Colleges are Government funded through a variety of ways. They still maintain and develop strong support from local Industrial Partners in their community. The Industrial Partners may be involved in funding buildings and programs as well. The Industrial Partners play an important role during the Needs Analysis and determining the curriculum. The Industrial Partners are part of the Advisory Boards and view the Community Colleges as a resource that helps to meet their developmental needs.
- \*There is excellent vertical mobility for students to move from Community Colleges which are mainly 2 year courses to regular Universities and are given credit for the work completed at the Community College. This is a great advantage to many students because they are able to enter Community Colleges with minimum academic requirements and academic performance.
- \*The Community Colleges have an emphasis on remediation. They re teach core skills and such things as ‘learning how to learn’.
- \*In 2015 President Barak Obama proposed to make Community College education free to many. His Plan is called ‘America’s College Promise’. Admission to College education is considered a RIGHT not a PRIVILEGE

### **The Indian Experience**

- ICRDCE currently has 564 Community Colleges in 28 States of India. In addition there are University Grants Commission (UGC) and Vocational Training Centres. But the total number of students in Indian Community Colleges is only fifty thousands.
- \*The US Colleges can learn a lot from the Indian ‘Life Skills ‘ courses.
- \*The major goals, objectives and core values of the US and Indian Community Colleges are very similar such as teaching ‘lifelong learning’, empowering students, enriching the local community, seeking excellence through continuous improvement, innovation, integrity and stewardship.
- \*There is a greater emphasis in India on serving the underprivileged sections of society than in the US. However, in the US also many students are taken from poorer sections of the community, multicultural backgrounds and may have poor spoken English. The US colleges also believe and experience ‘that one student gaining employment can break the chain of poverty in the family’.
- Community College courses in both India and US shift from teacher centered to learner centered courses. The Learning Pyramid demonstrated that average retention rates after 24 hours were as follows: Teach others 90%; Practise by Doing 75%; Discussion

Group 50%; Demonstration 30%; Audio visual 20%; Reading 10%; Lecture 5%!!

- The words of the Principal of Loyola College, Rev Joseph Antonysamy (an alumnus of Madras Christian College) struck a chord that we must share. He said Community Colleges bring LOVE, HOPE, & SKILLS. He went onto say that Community Colleges should be small in size and maintain a good relationship with the local community, parents of the students and the local industrial sector.
- Finally an interesting comment came from Dr.Sanjay Ray, Vice President, Montgomery Community College. He said, “Dr. Chandran Devanesen was the first to dream about establishing Community Colleges in India in the 1960’s and Dr. Xavier Alphonse has made the dream a reality”. This was very exciting for the three of us from the Dr.Chandran Devanesen Rural Community College (CDRCC), Karanai village, Tamil Nadu.

Dr. Dayalan Devanesen AM, is the Director of Roofs for the Roofless the NGO that runs  
CDRCC

Mr. Emmanuel Jeganathan is the Finacial and Administrative Manager of Roofs for the  
Roofless

Mr.Sekar is the Coordinator of CDRCC

## 6. Testimonies: Exposure to Community College



I consider myself privileged to serve in the community college and thank God for the opportunity.

I believe in the Community College concept which has a tremendous capacity to change the lives of many hopeless downtrodden and side lined women and girls of our society who have a great potential in them but are not given the opportunity to exhibit their talents and skills.

I learnt about the U.S. community college governance, finance, student affairs, leadership, workforce development, community engagement, private sector partnership and many other things regarding administration. We visited many community colleges in and around Florida State. In fact we were allowed to closely observe their teaching methodology by attending their different classes. We were taken to the best colleges and were orientated with their working system. We were given a chance to observe and experience their system. In many colleges I was asked to give a PPT presentation on the NGO based Community college system. I am proud of the ICRDCE training, which empowered

and moulded me to work with real passion, zeal and commitment for community colleges.

After returning, as a NGO based community college team we took the initiative and form an NGO Association of Community Colleges in our respective states, systemize and upgrade the administration system to new technologies, create a strong collaboration with the industry partners, to provide strong student support to the present students and the alumni and finally strive towards the accreditation of all the NGO based community colleges. This program has enabled me to rise to the leadership challenge, to design effective teams and create high talent performance to achieve the community college objectives. We will strive towards designing, developing, enhancing and standardizing the quality of the community college and equip the students with right skills and knowledge. I know that the task ahead is tough and challenging but God being my helper and with all your prayers, we will definitely be able to make it.

**E. J. Sangeetha Maben**

Co-ordinator,  
Concerns Community College, Bangalore



### Administrator - Experience

My Experience as an Administrator and my role as leadership in M.S. Panwar Community & Technical College, Solan (H.P)

I had heard about the Community Colleges in USA, but, my exposure about Community College Movement in India was through Dr. Xavier Alphonse whom I met in a workshop on Community Colleges in Bhopal in 2002. Inspired by the concept, I gave up my Government job to start a Community College in Solan, Himachal Pradesh in 2005. It was a difficult job because nobody had heard about Community Colleges in the region. Initially, we started in a rented building with a course in DTP,

enrolling only three students. In 2006, we shifted in our own building on the outskirts of Solan town and the strength of the students was ten. We got to know more about Community Colleges by attending workshops organised by MCRDCE (now ICRDCE) in Chennai. In 2008, we got affiliated to Tamil Naidu Open University (TNOU) along with other community colleges in South India. With the change of Vice Chancellor of TNOU, the affiliation of Community Colleges outside Tamil Nadu were withdrawn. In 2010, Indra Gandhi Open University (IGNOU) started a Community College Scheme and our Community College got associated with IGNOU. The new Vice Chancellor scrapped the scheme and we were again at square one.

The real game changer came when I got an opportunity to visit the USA as a Fulbright Scholar in September-October,

2014. This experience of visiting nine Community Colleges in different parts of USA gave me an idea about the real concept of Community Colleges and the purpose they serve. Again, in July-August, 2015, I along with my wife Ms. Lalita visited five Community Colleges in Michigan and six Community Colleges in Texas. It was a wonderful experience of meeting committed and warm hearted people working for the cause of providing quality and affordable education to the underprivileged sections of the society. I was fascinated to observe that each and every building in the magnificent campuses was named after a person who donated money to build it. The Federal and State governments in USA also give funding to the Community Colleges. After coming back from the trip, I organised a two-day National Workshop on October 3-4, 2016 to share my experiences with the professionals interested in starting Community Colleges, academicians and policy makers.

To conclude, We have to practically demonstrate the need and importance of Community Colleges and forge unity

I am thankful to ICRDCE for this great opportunity to study on American community college system. Especially from Florida State University. Right from day one, I was thinking if I were eligible for this course. Is it possible to make the programme successful? I doubt what I may bring to India to strengthen the system. How am I going to learn? So many questions arose in me.

The confidence that my boss, M. David Mansingh, had on me and the encouragements I received from him and the way he prepared me without fear, and the send off he gave on 16<sup>th</sup> September<sup>15</sup> associating with the staff of SHWET and AACCC gave me confidence. I determined to do well and bring some good things on my learning.

All the logistics arrangements, travels and sightseeing were wonderful.

There are a few important things that I have observed in the Community college Administrators programme.

#### 1. The Team:

A fourteen member Indian delegates from different sectors were involved comprising. Central Govt, State Government, University representatives Fr. Mervin, Mrs. Sangeetha and Sister Mayammal Thomas. From Tamilnadu Dr. Vishalatchi, Joint Director of AITEC (All India Technical Education Council) also participated in the programme.

#### 2. Executive Dialogue: This was in the first week of September from 21<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> October. We stayed at Thalssshi. From there we visited Thallassi community college, Florida state University and Gulf coast college. Dr. Hanna made a presentation on

for the cause of Community Colleges. We are visiting rural schools and colleges of Himachal Pradesh to make the students and parents understand the role of Community Colleges in providing quality, affordable vocational and technical education which would provide them a means of livelihood. Another important issue is of affiliation of the courses. There is no permanent and long term pattern of affiliation. However, we are hopeful that the second decade of the Community College would be a milestone and the dream is to leave behind a viable and serving Community College.

### Dr. Brijender Singh Panwar,

President,

M.S. Panwar Community & Technical College, Solan, H.P

history and evolution of community colleges. The main points that made impact were:

- a. 1600 community colleges in U.S. offering Associate Arts, Associate Science degrees to post secondary and high school students.
  - b. The federal Government in U.S. supports community colleges both promotion and funding. The federal Government provides aids for work force programmes.
  - c. The issues faced by community colleges in U.S. are career readiness, retention and completion, placement rates and cost of higher education.
  - d. The state control over curriculum framing, policy decisions by board of trustees on each community colleges separately.
  - e. The governance of the community colleges. The board of trustees are appointed by the Governor of the state and the membership is confirmed by the state senate.
  - f. This board makes all decisions and give approval for all proposals submitted by Community colleges to get funds.
3. In some community colleges (TCC) national certification tested by employer for specific skills. It was recommended by the board that the need of an





industry is important. Here, focus is on emerging skills as per changing environment.

4. The employment for students either in the industry itself or from job fare. The individual student can post their CV (curriculum vita) in the website.
5. The student's data base is maintained by the career centre. The students are given counselling to get job.
6. Here more attention given on internship which is considered as very important.
7. The career centre in the community colleges offers: A. Career counselling ( to choose right academic course) B. Resume Development, C. Internship , D. Mock Interview and E. Job Search assistance (to teach techniques to get job). During the job search assistance the consultation is done to overcome the behaviour students facing, career management database where students and employees connect and effective hiring technique are concentrated.
8. Highly appealing were 30% of internship courses grade is based on employee's evaluation.
9. The conditions influence students development:-
  - A. Challenges and Support, B. Involvement: The amount of energy that the students devote to the community college experience. C. Marginality and Mattering: marginality is the sense of not fitting in (temporary or permanent), Mattering is one important and needed.

#### II. My observation:

1. This programme is organised with great concern and the concepts to be disseminated globally.
2. The U.S. methodology is unique in terms of facilities, law, financial support, different mode of learning ( Face to face, online etc.,).

3. Florida state community college especially the overseas learning system institute takes efforts to bring the concept to the participants and support the system.

4. Among the Participants except from ICRDCE no one has the knowledge of this system.

5. Participants from Govt department defend that something is progressing like skill development centre, ITI, Polytechnique, B.Voc, etc., (THEY IDENTIFIED AS the above mentioned SYSTEM ITSELF IS THE SYSTEM LIKE COMMUNITY COLLEGES). We were confused on this.

6. A special initiatives need to be taken to focus on community college system in India in the major policy level.

7. In India, we practice differently but Indian community college system has no recognition either from central and state Educational Department or from both the Governments.

8. The major concern is the existing community colleges will face tough time in terms of recognition, admission, finance etc.,

9. Regular updates on the concept and regular discussion, motivation, lobbying etc are a must. Because the target community served through this system is unique and they need help/ support.

10. In my observation and evaluation, I find that, we are doing great service to the target community. The community college I am associating (Anthoniammal Community College) is taking forward this system with good vision. I want this need, recognition, support to carry out better.

**S. Uma Subramaniam**  
Principal

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for the cause of Community Colleges. We are visiting rural schools and colleges of Himachal Pradesh to make the students and parents understand the role of Community Colleges in providing quality, affordable vocational and technical education which would provide them a means of livelihood. Another important issue is of affiliation of the courses. There is no permanent and long term pattern of affiliation. However, we are hopeful that the second decade of the Community College would be a milestone and the dream is to leave behind a viable and serving Community College.

**Dr. Brijender Singh Panwar,**  
President,

M.S.Panwar Community & Technical College, Solan, H.P

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## 7. Community College to be Recognized and Promoted Us Consulate Backs Community Colleges

The US Consulate General, Chennai has pledged support to expand the reach of community colleges in the State. An international conference was organized at Loyola College on Thursday where experts from India and the US shared their views on developing curriculum for Indian Community colleges. This curriculum will soon be adopted in 336 community colleges in India, including 240 in the state, on the Center's approval.

Addressing this gathering, US Consul General Philip A Min said five Indian representatives from various sectors including education and NGOs will meet their US peers later this month for a programme on improving vocational education and skills

development. He also said that 300 economically disadvantaged students across India have attended this community college initiative sponsored by the US.

#### **Community Colleges not Inferior: US Academic**

Emphasizing the role of community colleges in educating students , a 11-member team from Montgomery College USA , is working on developing and fine tuning the existing curriculum of community colleges in India to upgrade them global standards .Currently there are an estimated 240 UGC run community colleges while 366 others are run by 366 others are run by NGOs.

Working with the Indian Center for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), faculty members of Montgomery College will be focusing on health science ,applied technology and information technology as part of curriculum during an international conference being held at Loyola college , President of Montgomery college, DeRionee Pollard said that over 50% of undergraduates in US universities have attended community colleges are considered inferior to other institutions but we reject that notion. At the end of the day, the outcomes of the colleges show that there is little to prove that they are inferior.

US consul General Philip said that the growth of community colleges has been phenomenal in the US with nearly 1200 colleges existing currently. Explaining why the concept is so popular, he said that the colleges have un technique advantages such as close community ties, partnerships with local industry, specialized Technical coursework and the opportunity to transfer credits towards bachelor degree. Many of these colleges work closely with local employer partners to design course materials that lead industry recognized certificates and degrees. Community colleges are leading the way in preparing students for fastest growing fields in the US, such as health care applied engineering and green technologies.

Director ICRDCE M S Jacob said that that India obsession with evaluation of marks is not going to uplift the youth in the country; we need assessment and evaluation of skills too and not just mark. The credit transfer system, if implemented in the country can help those studied in community colleges to get equivalent degrees in regular institutions as well. Jacob demanded that community colleges be made a separate entity

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