

## INDIA - HYDERABAD PROVINCE

Official Languages: **Telugu, Tamil and English**

### Vision Statement

*Sharing intercultural life and the mission of Jesus Christ towards integral human development.*

### Mission Statement

*Called to holiness and life giving relationships, we are committed to building intercultural communities in the footsteps of St. Arnold Janssen; namely, to nurture faith, to share the Word of God with all, to educate and empower the marginalized and to promote dialogue with religions and cultures and enhance integrity of creation.*

### 1. Societal Setting

The first decade of the twenty-first century has been influenced by movements like globalization, religious nationalism and increasing marginalization. India is evolving year by year as a global power in information technology. India is more connected than ever before, yet the present situation is still volatile with demonetization, the Goods and Services Tax scheme and religious fundamentalism. Discrimination is increasing with right wing politicians. On the other side, a large proportion of its people still remain functionally illiterate – about 26%. The population of India



is around 1.3 billion people; Hindus represent 80.5%, Muslims 13.4%, Christians 2.3% and the rest others. INH province consists of three states of India, namely, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. In Telangana, the population is 39.12 million and Hindus are 85.1%, Muslims 12.7%, and Christians 1.3%. Andhra Pradesh has 53.1 million in which Hindus are 90.9%, Muslims 8.5%, and Christians 1.2%. In Tamil Nadu, Hindus are 88.0%, Muslims 5.9%, and Christians 6.1% in the total population of 79 million. India has more than 50% of its population below the age of 25. About 22% of India's inhabitants are poor, hungry and lacking basic medical care and education. It is in this context that we seek to offer our missionary service.

## 2. Ecclesial Setting

Our province has been building the local Church in terms of spirituality, personnel, vocations and finances. We collaborate with the local ordinary and diocesan clergy in all the missionary activities to make the local Church viable. We are doing our missionary activities in four dioceses in Telangana, one in Andhra Pradesh and seven dioceses in Tamil Nadu. In all the dioceses of our province, we find people of different religions, castes, languages, cultures and tribes. The Church is rendering its service to all people through various ministries such as pastoral, educational, health, and social. We are invited to reach out to those who are underprivileged, marginalized, downtrodden and poor and where the Word of God is preached least. In the last two decades, after building up the parishes with good faith formation, we have handed over a good number of parishes to the dioceses, especially in Telangana. By keeping in mind the signs of the time and the needs of the local Church and the people, we trust that God will guide us in our missionary service.

The Divine Word Missionaries first began working in the united Andhra Pradesh in 1972. At present, 100 confreres are serving in 25 parishes, 14 high schools and primary schools, 3 hostels for the school going students, 2 centers for the drop out students, 3 retreat centers, and 5 socio-health centers. We also have 3 initial formation houses and one for the college going students.

## 3. Intercultural Mission – *Ad Extra*

### Those in Final Vows

IN ACTIVE MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
<b>Parish</b>	32	31.4	29.9	28.1
<b>Education</b>	18	17.7	22.8	22.0
Schools	18	-		
Universities	0	-		
<b>Formation/ SVD Vocation</b>	11	10.8	14.3	16.9
<b>Administration/ Support</b>	3	2.9	5.5	8.1
<b>Other Apostolates</b>	25	24.5	19.0	14.4
JPIC	10	-		
Bible	5	-		
Communication	1	-		
Mission Animation	1	-		
Others	8	-		

### Those in Final Vows

NOT IN MINISTRY	Personnel	2018 (%)	2012 (%)	2005 (%)
Studies/ Orientation	5	4.9	7.1	6.2
Retired/Sick	6	5.9	0	0
Others	2	1.9	1.5	6.2

Our preferential dialogue partners are the poor, marginalized, women, street children, lepers, HIV/AIDS patients, rag-pickers, youth, migrants, etc. The following ministries help us to live out our characteristic dimensions.

**Parish Apostolate:** Our option for the pastoral ministry impels us to address the social, economic and political problems as well as the human, cultural and spiritual richness. Our pastoral work, sharing the Word, administering the sacraments and celebration of Eucharist have become a genuine dialogue with the people of different castes, languages and religions. Divine Word Center, Muthangi serves the people with spiritual activities such as charismatic preaching, prayers, retreats and healing services, and so on. The action plan for the parishes insists on:

- Holding a renewal program for the parishioners every year and renewing catechetical works with the help of catechists.
- Sharing the WORD in Basic Christian Communities and encouraging more small Christian communities (BCC).
- Organizing Bible seminars.
- Empowering lay leaders and local women's groups.
- Introducing scholarships for poor children.

**Social Apostolate:** Asha Jyothi at Pragnapur is an HIV/AIDS care center for all. One of the main activities of this center is to rehabilitate and educate the infected and affected children. The Prevention

of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT) project aims to prevent the children from getting infected from HIV/AIDS, which is transmitted through the infected parent. This enables newborn children to be free from HIV infection. Jeevodaya is a center for social works. This center mainly concentrates on helping out physically challenged children in their studies. Through social funds we help out children coming from backward classes and poor families to educate them through different schools. One of the activities of the center at Muthangi is to serve the rag-pickers (street children). It is mainly for the girl children to get them educated. St. Antony Leprosy Health Centre, Jogipet conducts rehabilitation programs for lepers, conducting medical camps and clinical facilities for the poor people in different villages.

The Services undertaken by these centers are:

- Providing education by getting them admitted in the nearby schools.
- Providing boarding and lodging.
- Giving them the best health care possible.
- Making the centers a real home of theirs with all amenities a child would require.

### Characteristic Dimensions

**Biblical Apostolate:** The province is actively engaged in retreat preaching and renewal ministry. Proclamation ministry is undertaken in our established centers to fulfill the hunger and thirst of the people for the Word of God. We are proclaiming the Word of God through TV pro-

grams and print media. The biblical coordinator is finding ways and means to reach out to our parishes to be more effective. Every weekend, thousands of people of different faith assemble at Divine Word Centre, Muthangi and Arockia Annai Shrine, Vadipatti to hear the Word of God and to be touched and healed.

**Mission Animation:** Our missionary endeavors are concentrated among various tribal and marginalized groups, religious and caste-based communities. Religious

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fundamentalism calls us to have new approaches and methods to evangelize and to carry out our missionary tasks. We are challenged by more than forty Christian denominations in the province. We are also looking forward to more ecumenical and interreligious dialogue and greater collaboration in our missions.

**JPIC:** We are challenged in the present socio-economic, religious and cultural context of India. As prophets and Divine Word Missionaries, we are called to do justice, leading the people towards integral human development and social transformation. The province is making efforts to give value based education to all the children of our missions belonging to all the religions and very especially to the poor children. We have ample opportunities to serve the people who are socially rejected due to caste, illness, religious minority status or migrant situations.

**Communication:** The communication ministry is a challenging call for integrity as we engage in dialogue. We are actively doing our proclamation ministry through print media with *Yesuvin Arul Mozhi* in Tamil and *Living Word* in English. The different proclamation centers produce devotional audio CDs and prayer booklets for the people of God and they help us to reach out to many faith seekers.

### **Priorities among Congregational Directions**

INH province has chosen the following priorities among the Congregational Directions: a) Primary and New Evangelization, b) Family and Youth, c) Migration, d) Social Justice and Poverty Eradication, e) Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue, and f) Education and Research.

Some of our centers, like Divine Word Centre, Muthangi, Vadipatti Shrine, and Lambada Mission at Madhapuram, Nizampet and Pinapaka missions, are places of primary evangelization besides the many parishes in which our confreres are working. We also have appointed a confrere to reach out to migrants in Hyderabad area to start with. He visits the families of the migrants and helps out to some extent to get admissions in the schools for the children, organizing health care camps with the help of JPIC, and gathering them once a year for a seminar for their well-being.

**Education and Research:** Education ministry is one of the important ministries of our province. This is one of the ways to have dialogue with the people of all religions. We have 14 primary and high schools through which we encounter people

from all faiths. These help us to reach out to the poor and the marginalized. The education ministry is another way of reaching out to have our dialogue with all faith seekers. Through our schools we have been reaching out to about 10,000 families hailing from different castes, creeds and cultures. All our schools are situated in rural or semi-urban set-ups. Our education ministry seeks to serve the people for the transformation of self and society. We also cater to the drop out children and child laborers through our residential remedial schools at Pinapaka and Nizampet. Taking the cue from the 17<sup>th</sup> General Chapter the province established *Sanskriti*, a cultural research center for intercultural dialogue and research. Five annual All-India seminars have been conducted with representation from the social activists, academics and scholars from various cultures and religions. The papers which were presented have been published after every seminar. This brings many people of good will, from different religions and cultures, for dialogue and intercultural experience in the land of diversity and religious fundamentalism. We actualize this through an action plan in the educational ministry:

- To give priority to religious and moral value education.
- To have a common prayer room.
- To organize interfaith prayer sessions with children and parents.
- To arrange programs for teachers, students and parents to reach out to the marginalized children of the society.
- To give importance to education as mission.

**Youth and Family:** The youth ministry is another challenging mission. The youth coordinators in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are active in bringing the energetic youth together for seminars, annual gatherings and parish level meetings. As the world is moving faster, youth in our parishes are helped to walk along in the world having complete faith and trust in God. Every year, an annual retreat and a seminar are organized to motivate and to lead them to be good human beings on this earth. We have also started Arnold's guidance and counselling center for the family apostolate. Our challenges are to give more and more importance and concentration to school adolescent boys and girls and to give them proper guidance.

### Collaboration with SSPs

We and the Holy Spirit sisters are collaborating in Patancheru mission, where they help out in the parish activities. Of course, we have a cordial relationship with the sisters though they are working at different places in Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. We do come together for celebration of our common feasts.

### SVD Lay Partners

Collaboration with the laity has been one of the effective expressions of our missionary endeavor for the past six years. The province has two lay associations in the province, namely, Arnold Association in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and SVD Fraternity in Tamil Nadu with the vision: "To be co-responsible to build up the Kingdom

values of Jesus along with SVDs”. The chief objective has been to collaborate with the Society in its JPIC concerns. In the endeavor these two associations render material, technical and spiritual support to the SVD seminarians and missionaries in need. These lay partners come together on a regular basis for mutual sharing and to build up a bond of love and friendship with the SVDs. They also participate in our province chapters.

#### 4. Intercultural Life – *Ad Intra*

MEMBERSHIP	2018	2012	2005
Clerics	96	90	74
Brothers (final vows)	6	5	6
Brothers (temporal vows)	0	1	0
Scholastics	1	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>80</b>

AGE AND COUNTRY	2018	2012	2005
Average age	52.0	50.4	47.9
Nationalities	1	1	1

**Spirituality:** All our communities come together for common prayers, Eucharistic celebrations, annual retreats and Bible sharing. Rooted in our missionary spirituality, confreres come together in their communities and at the district level for sharing the Word of God.

**Community:** Common prayer, sharing life and working together sustain us in our common purpose to reach out in sharing our intercultural

life and mission. The Eucharist and the Bible inspire, strengthen and energize us. What each one is enjoying is that we remain open to accepting and coping with differences. Regular district level meetings and missionary meeting at the province level help us to grow in our community spirit and missionary spirit.

**Leadership:** Every confrere in the province exercises leadership at different levels. All confreres in schools, parishes and other institutions provide inspiring, motivating and supportive leadership. They help build communities that foster life – nurturing relationships by being faith-filled and fraternal, inclusive, open to cultural diversity, and always in the service of our mission.

**Financial self-sufficiency:** The province makes efforts to develop a wider financial *transparency* in the different communities, fostering their cooperation with the province. It is heartening to see that some institutions of the province give financial contributions to the province and some confreres who are engaged in non-SVD institutions are also contributing their salaries to the province. Accountability helps translate good will into effectiveness. On the other hand, as it is a mission province working mostly among the poor and the marginalized, the province still depends on the generalate and the funding agencies for its development activities. However, we are looking forward to consolidate all the missionary works that we have begun and efforts to make the province self-sufficient. We are making efforts to raise local funds for our seminaries and other social projects.

**Formation:** The motto of formation is “*Following the footsteps of our Divine Master, we strive to prepare the seminarians, fit for the challenges of the time with spiritual and human development, spiritual growth and academic excellence, to respond to the demands of our time as Divine Word Missionaries.*” Keeping this motto in mind, we have 13 confreres rendering their valuable services to about 130 young men in the formation houses. A common action plan is formulated by the formators for all the formation houses. Our challenges are:

- To get qualified and experienced formators.
- To have quality and quantity in religious vocations.
- To look for local benefactors to support our formation houses.

**Ongoing Formation:** The province has been regularly organizing renewal programs for the confreres of different age groups. A psycho-spiritual renewal seminar was organized for the younger confreres with the help of professionals. Impelled by the Word of God, a Bible Seminar was conducted for all the confreres to update them with the current missiological trends in a world challenged by religious fundamentalism. After the general visitation, keeping the inter-cultural issue as the backdrop, the province organized an animation program in all the districts for all the age groups in the province. Fr. Ittoop Pannikulam, SVD guided this micro and macro level program. Reading the signs of the times, two national seminars based on tribal and caste issues were conducted in which many confreres participated along with the SSpS. Thus, the human, spiritual, and intellectual aspects of formation have helped the confreres to enrich themselves.