

The Final Statement of the 9th IYCS SOUTH ASIAN SESSION
KOLKATA INDIA

Attracting the 43 delegates across the 5 South Asian countries from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka the ninth South Asian Session (SAS) has been AT Nitika/ Don Bosco centre, Kolakata, India from 4th – 10 December 2007. Abiding by the theme 'With Faith Students crossing borders to fight poverty and build peace' the participants were to study the reality of South Asia and see what we as catholic students could contribute for the betterment of our student milieu in our countries. The main focus of the Session was on Peace, poverty alleviation and HIV-AIDS.

Concluding the analysis of the situations and prevailing conditions of the 5 developing countries, we recognized the similarities of unstable political conditions, high poverty incidences, occurrences of human rights violations and the rapid spread of HIV-AIDS.

We realized:

1. The importance of laying emphasis on means rather than Results – way we achieve our goals is more important than what we actually achieve.
2. To fight poverty, we need to promote SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
3. To resolve conflicts, we need to develop an ATTITUDE OF LISTENING
4. to build Peace, we must respect Human Rights of the People.
5. The need to combat rapid spread of HIV- AIDS by means of proper awareness and also to bring about a right perception of the disease in society.

We as Christian students in the light of our faith realized the need to evangelize and humanize of our school environment by empowering our students to overcome poverty in all aspects. We as followers of Christ are obliged to promote peace within ourselves, among others and in the society where we live. For this we as YCS members put into practice the Review of Life' which is the methodology our growth in spirituality.

We the students commit ourselves enthusiastically to:

1. Share the experiences and learning capable of nurturing potential.
2. Build a culture of peace through peace education,
3. alleviate poverty by focusing on its causes,
4. Developing the awareness programs and publications on HIV – AIDS.

By our actions, we hope to lend a hand for the achievement of the millennium development goals make the world a better place a world free from atrocities against the marginalised, a world free from violations of human rights, a world proud of the presence of minimal poverty and adorned with peace.