



St. Vincent College
(Affiliated to Savitribai Phule Pune University)
Pune -411037

Title of the Event	The Social Transformation Initiative in Nagaland and Assam					
Date of the Event	October 19–31, 2025	Place of the event	Nagaland and select districts of Assam			
Objectives of the Event	The initiative aimed to advance social transformation in Nagaland and parts of Assam by promoting financial literacy, ethical leadership, and civic empowerment among youth, women's groups, and tribal communities. It sought to foster collaborative, context-sensitive engagement rooted in values-based education through the partnership of AICUF and the Kohima Jesuits.					
Name/s of the Resource Persons	Resource persons from AICUF and Kohima Jesuits					
A short narration of the program						
<p>The Social Transformation Initiative in Nagaland and Assam</p> <p>From October 19 to 31, 2025, a dedicated social transformation initiative was jointly undertaken by the All India Catholic University Federation (AICUF) Pune Unit and the Kohima Jesuits, with active participation from Dr. Gilbi John, AICUF Coordinator and Vice Principal of St. Vincent College, Pune. Building upon the foundational ethos of previous outreach programs—particularly the September 2025 AICUF-FAST initiative in Assam—this expanded mission extended its impact into Nagaland and bordering regions of Assam, engaging diverse communities including tribal youth, educators, women's collectives, and local church networks.</p> <p>The program was anchored in three interwoven themes: financial literacy as a pathway to dignity, leadership rooted in service and ethical discernment, and civic empowerment through contextual education. Recognizing the unique socio-cultural fabric of Northeast India, the team adopted a dialogical and participatory approach, ensuring that all sessions were co-created with community input and respectful of indigenous knowledge systems.</p> <p>Dr. Gilbi John played a pivotal coordinating role throughout the two-week immersion, facilitating workshops on budgeting, savings, cooperative economics, and responsible financial decision-making tailored to the realities of rural and semi-urban households. In Nagaland, sessions were held in collaboration with Jesuit social centers in Kohima, Dimapur, and Chiumoukedima, where youth groups and self-help</p>						



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collectives explored how financial independence could strengthen gender equity and reduce migration-driven family fragmentation.

In Assam's border districts—particularly Dhemaji, Tinsukia, and Dibrugarh—the team revisited communities previously engaged in September, deepening conversations on career guidance, emotional intelligence, and values-based leadership. Special emphasis was placed on mentoring young women in hostels and village schools, encouraging them to envision futures beyond traditional constraints while grounding aspirations in realistic planning and self-worth.

A distinctive feature of this initiative was the integration of interfaith and inter-ethnic dialogue, facilitated by the Kohima Jesuits' longstanding grassroots presence. Cultural exchanges with the Ao, Angami, and Bodo communities fostered mutual respect and highlighted the role of local wisdom in sustainable development. Participants donned traditional attire, shared folk narratives, and jointly reflected on how ancestral values of stewardship and community care could inform modern economic choices.

The program also included capacity-building sessions for teachers and catechists, equipping them as “multipliers” of financial and civic literacy within their institutions. Dr. John, drawing on his academic background and field experience, emphasized pedagogical strategies that blend classroom learning with real-life application—such as school-based savings clubs and student-led community audits.

Throughout the initiative, the team maintained a reflective practice, holding nightly debriefs to adapt content, honor feedback, and ensure cultural sensitivity. The journey culminated in a Community Pledge Ceremony in Kohima on October 31, where participants committed to launching micro-initiatives—from youth-led financial literacy circles to women's artisan cooperatives—thereby ensuring continuity beyond the program's formal conclusion.

This October 2025 initiative exemplifies how education, when grounded in empathy, reciprocity, and collaboration across institutions like AICUF and the Jesuit network, becomes a transformative force. By bridging Pune's academic energy with Northeast India's rich communal resilience, Dr. Gilbi John and the AICUF team reaffirmed their commitment to social transformation that is not imposed, but co-imagined—and not temporary, but generative.



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The success of this mission underscores St. Vincent College's evolving role as a catalyst for nationwide, values-driven engagement, extending its mission far beyond the campus into the heartlands of India's most vibrant and vulnerable communities.

Name of the Collaborating Agency	Kohima Jesuits
Learning Outcomes of the Event for the Participants	Participants gained practical skills in financial planning, cooperative economics, and leadership, while deepening their understanding of economic agency as a means to achieve gender equity, community resilience, and self-determined development. They were also inspired to initiate local projects that integrate traditional wisdom with modern tools for sustainable change.
Learning Outcomes for the Organizing team	The organizing team, led by Dr. Gilbi John, enhanced their intercultural communication skills and ability to design adaptive, participatory programs in diverse Northeastern contexts. The immersion reinforced their commitment to reciprocal learning, ethical outreach, and the role of education as a catalyst for dignified, community-led transformation.
No. of Participants	Students of different educational institutions
Faculty in Charge	Dr. Gilbi John
Documents Attached	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Attendance Sheet2. Geotag photographs3. Resume of resource persons if any4. Copy of remuneration paid if any5. Notice of the event6. Thank you letter to the resource persons