Report on the Seminar for Students on
Youth & Love

Date: September 13th 2013, Time: 12.20 to 01.20 pm
Venue: J.D. Hall

LISSTAR
LOYOLA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE TRAINING AND RESEARCH
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Brief Summary of the Seminar

A Seminar was organized for the students on “Youth and Love” by LISSTAR- Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research on September 13th 2013 from 12:20 to 01.20 pm in J.D. Hall. The hall was jam packed with 120 students from various departments participating in the seminar. The Seminar began with a Prayer. Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Rector and Director of LISSTAR welcomed the Resource person and the participants of the seminar. He also inaugurated the seminar series for the students of Loyola College. The Resource Person for the Seminar was Prof. Alan John, Retired Associate Professor from the Department of Social Work, Sacred Heart’s College, Thiraputhur. Prof. Brownie Amudha introduced the speaker Prof. Alan John to the Participants. The Seminar concluded with the vote of thanks offered by Prof. M. Gautaman.

Inauguration of Seminar Series for the Students

Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Rector and Director of LISSTAR inaugurating the Seminar Series for the Students of Social Science & Humanities stressed the importance for the students to be aware of the relevant current social issues that are not necessarily in the text and encouraged the students to discuss these issues and connect it with their lives. Speaking about the topic of “Youth and Love”, Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, Rector and Director of LISSTAR remembered the book “Four Loves” by the famous author C.S. Lewis who talks about the four types of love and human relationships. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy briefed about how young people of today are exposed to various problems and difficulties due to early romantic relationships.

About the Resource Person

Prof. Alan John is a Retired Associate Professor & Head of P.G Department of Social Work, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. He is a visiting professor for a number of colleges like Regional Institute of Correctional Administration, Vellore, Sacred Heart Seminary, Chennai, Christian Medical College, Vellore for M.Phil program in Health Care Services in association with BITS Pilani and University of Tulane USA. Prof. Alan John is
also the Resource Person of Xavier Board of Higher Education in India and an Accredited Guide at Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD). Prof. Alan has served as a trainer for various groups such as Schools, Colleges, Industries, Service organizations and Clubs) in Chennai, Mumbai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Ajmer, Kerala, Nagaland and Bhutan. Prof. Alan John has conducted many training programs for the corporate and NGO’s. He is the chairman for Board of Studies in Social Work, Tiruvalluvar University, Vellore and serves as a member for many reputed Universities and Colleges in India. He has actively involved in many community activities and has been the President and the Secretary for Rotary Club of Vellore and served as an advisor for Reach out projects. Prof Alan is a Research Guide for Post Graduate Students specializing in Human Resource Management and Organizational Behavior and has guided more than 150 projects in the past 31 years. He also serves as the Accredited Guide for M.Phil and MBA programs in many Universities and Colleges.

**Purpose of the Seminar**

The younger generations of today are exposed to growing negative influences of media and internet on the idea of romantic relationships. An outcome of this is the increasing rates of suicide, stress, fear, teenage pregnancies, rape, crime and young people involving in violence as a punishment for rejection.

The purpose of the seminar is to create awareness among the younger generations about early romantic relationships and the various challenges and problems associated with it. The seminar was designed to help the younger generations to become better individuals and citizens.

**Outline of the Seminar**

The outline of the Seminar is as follows:

1. Youth- A Time of Exuberance and Joy
2. Youth- A Condition of Mind
3. Youth- The Most Challenging Period in the Life Span
4. The Shortness of Time
5. Love- The Highest form of communication
6. Love- Speaks of Maximum possibilities not Minimum Obligations
7. Love- The 'I' Taking a Responsibility for the 'Thou'
8. Love- is a Decision
9. Stages in Love
11. Choice of a Life Partner

Focus of the Seminar

The Resource person Prof. Alan John began his speech by briefing about the wonderful period of the youth and mentioned that how the society has a great hope in the younger generation especially the “Generation Next” who are supposed to be theoretically, technologically and creatively much better than the previous generations but at the same time pointed out from a latest Research finding which suggests that how they the “Generation Next” are also emotionally week than the previous generations. Speaking about the shortness of time, Prof. Alan John encouraged the students to make use of the right opportunities at this young age to come up in life so that after a few years when they look back at their life they will look their past with joy and not with regret.

The Resource Person explained in detail about the stages of love and shared the importance of relationship principles such as trust, responsibility, commitment and communication. He also explained that how painful it was for him to see young people falling in love and then later fallen out of love and stated that if at all they make a decision to fall in love, they must make sure that it is a permanent relationship. He stressed the need for the youth to be conscious of falling in love and falling out of love and urged them to “Think with their Heads and not with their Hearts” because Love is a decision which affects two people.
The Resource person explained about the “Triangular theory of Love” by the famous Psychologist Robert Sternberg which describes types of love based on three different scales: intimacy, passion, and commitment. He explained that how a relationship based on a single element is less likely to survive than one based on two or more. The seminar ended with an appeal by the resource person that life is too short and it is in the hands of young people to make it meaningful and happy.

**Target Participants**

- Students
- Research Scholars

**Feedback from the students**

“*Thank you so much for introducing the Seminar Series for the students. The Seminar on “Youth and Love” was an excellent seminar. The seminar was well presented and the content was very useful.*”

- N.D. David Livingston, B.A. Sociology

“*Thanks to LISSTAR for organizing this wonderful seminar on “Youth and Love”. The seminar was very useful as we learned a lot about the subject. The speaker presented the seminar with lots of useful information and with nice humor.*”

- Dhilip. P, Student, B.Sc Physics

“*This seminar on Youth & Love by Prof. Alan John was an amazing seminar. It has created a lot of awareness in my mind. I thank LISSTAR for organizing this seminar.*”

- A. Kamlesh Prasad, Student B.A. Dept of History
Rev. Fr. A.M. Francis Jayapathy, S.J., Director of LISSTAR introducing the seminar series for the Students of Loyola College

Prof. Brownie Amudha from the Department of Sociology introducing the speaker Prof. Alan John to the audience
Prof. Alan John delivering his speech

Dr. M. Gautaman from the Department of Sociology proposing vote of thanks